

Avon Lake Presbyterian Church

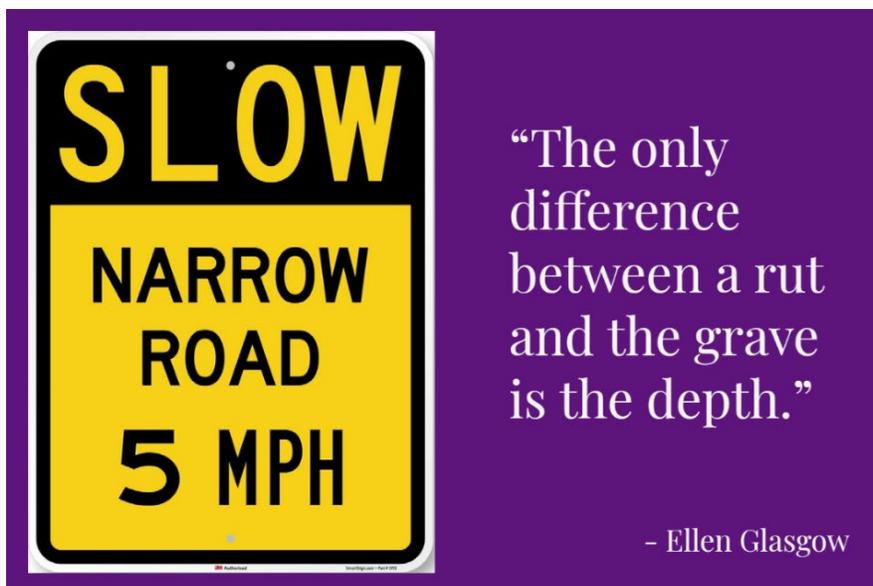
www.avonlakechurch.com

“Friends in Christ, Serving Together with Love”

Second Sunday in Lent

10:00 am

March 5, 2023



PRELUDE

Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear (ERHALT UNS, HERR)

Setting by
Thomas Gieschen

The Holy City

Stephen Adams
Arr. Noble Cain

Gail Carter, flute; Ed Carter, piano

CHORAL INTROIT

And the Father Will Dance

Mark Hayes

“Awake my soul and sing... my spirit rejoice in God!”

WELCOME

THRESHOLD MOMENT

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus (ASSAM)

Folk Melody from India
Arr. Eugene Thomas

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The same God who said, “Let light shine out of the darkness,” has shown in our hearts to give us knowledge.

All: When a creative word or vision is rare, God speaks nonetheless.

One: When words become law, yet fail to feed and heal, the word made flesh risks action.

All: May word and words empower us this hour.

One: Let us worship God.

OPENING PRAYER

All: Mold us today, O God, we pray. Sculpt us as your jars of clay. Brimming with Spirit, alive and new: Visible bearers of life, of you. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*please take a moment of silence for personal reflection*)

All: Creator God, we find comfort in your eternal greatness, a greatness so vast we cannot imagine it. We find solace in your presence with us, even when we ask you for it. Despite our comfort, and despite our best intentions, we are sometimes captive to a narrowness of spirit - a narrowness that harms or excludes those you call us to love. Knowing that you know this, we stretch out our hands to you healing. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God has formed, searched and known us. God is with us wherever we go. God holds us fast in a love so vast we can never outrun it. Let us live in the confidence of this healing love.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: Scripture suggests that the life of Jesus is visible in us, even in our very bodies. Let us see the face of Jesus now in the faces around us as we share signs of God's peace. The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM

God So Loved the World

John Stainer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Create in Me a Clean Heart, Oh God*

Keith Green

All: Create in me a clean heart, oh God
And renew a right spirit within me,
Create in me a clean heart, oh God
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, oh Lord
And take not Thy holy spirit from me,
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation
And renew a right spirit within me. (2x)

And renew a right spirit within me.

LORD'S PRAYER (*as borrowed from Bethany Presbyterian Church*)

All: Awesome, Loving, Creator God who is always available to us.
We give thanks for your grace and many blessings.
Help us to align our will with Yours, and be open
to receive the many blessings You shower upon us.
Make us instruments of Your peace that we may
always treat others the way we desire to be treated.
Help us to reconcile our wrongs and offer
reconciliation to those who have wronged us.
Help us to relinquish our burdens and lift us up.
In times of trial, let us be aware of Your presence and support.
May we always live in ways pleasing to you. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Samuel 3:1-10; Mark 2:23-3:6

Sandee Seib

SERMON

"The Ways of God"

Pastor Rick Stein

***OFFERING/DOXOLOGY** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

No. 606

OFFERTORY PRAYER*LORD'S SUPPER**

All who profess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are welcome at the Lord's table. Today we are using sealed containers with wafers and juice. Please hold until all have been served and partake as directed by the Pastor. If you require gluten-free, please let an usher know and they will serve you separately. Please take care when opening the container to peel the bread/wafer seal first, and the juice seal 2nd. If you have questions or difficulties, please let an usher know and they will assist you.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Receiving the Body and Blood of Christ

Prayer of Communion

COMMUNION MUSIC *Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak (CANONBURY)*Setting by
Thomas R. Pearce**HYMN***I, The Lord of Sea and Sky (HERE I AM, LORD)*

No. 69

BENEDICTION

One: Each week we remind ourselves

All: to go out into the world. Return no one evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, and honor every person. Every person. And rejoice in the Lord always.

One: And now may the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with each of you, all your loved ones, and all your concerns, now and forever.
Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *And the Father Will Dance*

Mark Hayes

*"And He will joy over you in song... God rejoices over you in Song!"***POSTLUDE**

Come Just As You Are
Gail Carter, alto saxophone; Muriel Homer, piano

Richard Sabolick

**Please stand if you are able.*

Welcome to Avon Lake Presbyterian Church!

*“In awe, we Receive God’s Grace and Gospel.
In gratitude, we Respond with Worship and Servanthood.
In love, we Represent Jesus Christ as we minister to transform lives
in family, community, and the world.”*

As you join us for worship at Avon Lake Presbyterian Church, we hope that you will sense God’s presence, be caught up in joyful praise, be challenged by God’s Word and leave strengthened to live for Christ in the world.

In the event you need to step out of the Sanctuary, speaker systems are in both the foyer and the nursery so that you may listen to the worship service. When leaving the Sanctuary during the service, take care to close the door softly.

If you feel you would like a call or visit from Pastor Rick, please contact the church office (440-933-6240).

Please silence cell phones during our worship services.

British Isles Reformers: Knox and Wesley—Rev. Peter Lawson (Northfield Presbyterian Church) and Rev. Joyce Lawson (The United Methodist Church of Chagrin Falls) are hosting a trip to Scotland and England, October 10-20, 2023, through Educational Opportunities, and they would be glad to have you join them. The trip will focus on the lives of church reformers John Knox (Presbyterian) and John Wesley (Methodist). If you would like to know more about the trip, the link below will take you to the site where you can download the entire brochure or check the daily agenda by clicking on each day. Registration can be accomplished on-line or by completing and mailing the form on the back of the brochure. Please contact Peter by email at lawson766@yahoo.com if you have questions or would like to express interest.

Books by Mail is a program for Avon Lake residents who are unable to physically visit Avon Lake Public Library due to age, disability, or mobility issues, permanent or temporary. Contact Avon Lake Public Library at 440-933-8127 and ask about Books by Mail to get more information and to inquire about signing up for this service.

A note from Theda McGrew’s family: Theda McGrew's family would like to express their thanks and gratitude for the lovely cards and sentiments expressed after our mother's death on January 22, 2023. Mum found a wonderful home and her best friends at Avon Lake Presbyterian after moving to the area at age 76. Living to be 100+ years has its ups and downs—the last few years were not always easy, but the support of the church was very much appreciated.

Jim and Sharon Smucker have moved out of state. They will be missed! A card is available in the narthex for signing. We will update the congregation on their new address as soon as possible so that you may send your own farewell greetings.

A Service of Witness to the Resurrection for Joan Palisin will be held on Sunday, March 12. Visitation will be at the church 1:30-2:50pm, with the service following at 3:00pm. Cards may be sent to her beloved husband, Bob, at: 100 Community Drive, Apt. 225, Avon Lake, OH 44012.

Lent is a time for change, both personally as we seek to renew our relationship with Jesus, and as a church as we move forward on our journey to find a permanent pastor. As you look around the narthex and sanctuary, you will see signs reminding us that change is ahead. On the main narthex table, please feel free to take a card reminding us of the change coming to our church; the cards have our Transition Team's Mission Statement on them. You will also see two glass containers. One is filled with rough rocks, while the other is filled with smooth rocks, indicating the transformational power of Jesus Christ in our lives. Feel free to take one home. Are you Ready for a Change??

Join us for a group hike! Sunday March 26th at 2:00pm. We will meet in the French Creek Nature Center parking lot for fellowship and fresh air. The address is: 4530 Colorado Ave, Sheffield.

Please keep in your prayers this week...

All those who have been affected by cancer, either personally or through loved ones. Pray for our dear friend, **Donna Bradley**. Pray for Joyce Bihary's daughter, **Brenda**, and Eddie Lou Bush's daughter, **Betsy**. Pray for Pastor Rick's brother, **Kent**, and Susan Richardson's niece, **Jeananne**.

Joan Palisin, who went home to the Lord Saturday, February 25.

This Week at the Church

- Monday:** Walking Group meets at the church at 8:30am. Property Committee will meet at 7:00pm.
- Wednesday:** Walking Group meets at the church at 8:30am. Lee Lohr presents Older Adult Spirituality at 10:30am. Handbell choir will practice in the sanctuary at 6:30pm, followed by Chancel Choir at 8:00pm.
- Thursday:** Cornerstone Preschool will hold Parent-Teacher conferences throughout the day in the CE office.
- Friday:** Walking Group meets at the church at 8:30am. OSL will be using the narthex and Hart Hall 3pm-9pm.
- Saturday:** OSL will be using the narthex and Hart Hall from 7am-7pm.
- Next Sunday:** Worship begins at 10:00am.
- Birthdays:** Jim Janis, 3/6; Rev. Jim Smucker, 3/6; Dennis Waggoner, 3/6; Jay Knox, 3/7; Larry Madson, 3/7; Gail Carter, 3/8; Tammy Dusek, 3/12; Jeff Hansen, 3/12

Chancel Choir

Dave Brunner
Ed Carter
Gail Carter
Doug Day
Jackie Day
Mike Dean
Clayton Dusek
Tammy Dusek

Joan Wojcicki Fortney
Barbara Graves
Cathy Graves
Jeff Hansen
Ed Homer
Marcia Lucietta
Sue Mabe
Jan Mackert

Bob Palisin
Sharon Pervo
Susan Richardson
Beth Shoemaker
Linda Swartz
Marcy Uhl
Sarah Waggoner

Muriel Homer, accompanist

Volunteers Today

Greeters
Worship Assistant
Projections Team
Sound Board
Ushers
Communion Servers

Jackie & Paul Butrey
Sandee Seib
Beth & Craig Shoemaker
Mike Ciarrone
Kathy Leopold, Cheryl Dean
Kathy Leopold, Cheryl Dean, Carol Nussle, Lee Lohr

Church Staff

Transitional Minister
Director of Music Ministry
Director of Preschool
Treasurer
Office Administrator
Lock Up Custodian

Rev. Rick Stein
Rick Fortney
Julie Erker
Marcy Uhl
Kenzi Roberts
Ed Homer

440-846-7343

440-933-7646

You are invited to an annual conference of
Christian Healing.

Hearing God, Healing Others

**March 11 at Avon Lake Presbyterian
Church**

32340 Electric Blvd, Avon Lake, OH 44012



We are honored to have Rev. Josh Acton, the North American Director of OSL, return to teach you on "Hearing God, Healing Others"! This hybrid event is hosted by

the West Shore Healing Community of the Order of St. Luke. Come be inspired and be equipped!

Pre-register for this exciting chance to be taught by Rev. Josh! Spirit-led, spirit-filled teaching in-person and on Zoom! Join in lifting up your praise to our glorious God through joyous song. Be inspired by Rev. Josh's teaching on hearing God and using that to become an instrument for His healing.

Please visit <https://westshoreosl.org/upcoming-events/> or email Cris at info@westshoreosl.org for more information.

**Presented by the local healing community of the
Order of St. Luke.**

Thank you for worshipping with us today!

Tithes and offerings may be given at any time through SimpleGive and are always appreciated.



The rosebud near the chancel celebrates the birth of Marilyn Anne Chase on 3/2/23 to Jimmy & Cassidy Chase. Chris & Jim Chase welcome their first grandchild!