

Sow Good News

"Faith comes by listening." (Romans 10:17)



INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN
THE OLD STONE CHURCH OF INDEPENDENCE

DEDICATION SUNDAY

25th Sunday after Pentecost ~ November 19, 2023



C.J. Briggs, Music Director
Julie Lehmann, Church Secretary

Wendy Lavey, Liturgist
Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor

Listening to God and to others is the foundation of incarnational mission. Only by taking the time to hear each other's stories—beginning in our pews, then fanning out to the community around us—will we clear the way for God to do something new and exciting.

~ Neighborhood Church

~ GATHERING ~

GATHERING MUSIC

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Mark 4:2 & Romans 10:17)*

Jesus began to teach them many things, and he said to them: Listen!
For faith comes by listening.

***GATHERING** LISTEN, GOD IS CALLING GTG #456
Kenyan (NENO LAKE MUNGU) *Refrain x2*

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(based on Isaiah 52)*

For thus says the Lord our God,
my people shall know that it is I who speak:

How beautiful upon the hills are the feet of the messenger:
**who proclaims peace,
who spreads good news,
who preaches love,
who says: "Your God lives!"**

Listen! The sentries lift their voices:

Together we sing out for joy

Depart! Depart, go out from here,
all those who carry the light of God.

You shall not go out in haste,
for the Holy One will go before those who bring good news.

Come, let us worship God.

***HYMN** HERE, O LORD, YOUR SERVANTS GATHER GTG #311
by Tukuō Yamaguchi TOKYO

CHILDREN OF GOD. SIDEWALK FLOWERS by JonArno Lawson
Illustrated by Sydney Smith

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

All: May God be with you there. Kids: May God be with you here.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(based on Matthew 13)*

O God, we have not tended the soil of our lives. We let it stay shallow and rocky by not listening to the experience of others. We let it be riddled with thorns by succumbing to our fears. Life-giving God, help us to tend our soil. Open us to being challenged, enable us to listen, so that your word will take root and bear good fruit in our lives and your world. Amen. [*Silent Confession*]

***RESPONSE**

LORD, HAVE MERCY
American folk melody

GTG #551
LAND OF REST

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *(based on Romans 5)*

God has forgiven us that we might live according to the Spirit.
The Spirit of God dwells within us.
Thanks be to God!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE** *(Isaiah 52:7)*

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

~ LISTENING TO THE WORD ~

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

EPISTLE READING

FAITH COMES BY LISTENING

ROMANS 10:8-17

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God's people.
For faith comes by listening.

WORD

I WILL CALL UPON THE LORD
by Michael O'Shields

GTG #621

GOSPEL LESSON

PARABLE OF THE SOWER

MARK 4:1-9

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God's people.
For faith comes by listening.

SERMON

A SOWER WENT OUT TO SOW

~ **RESPONDING TO THE WORD** ~

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*from Confession of Belhar*)

We believe... that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ;

We believe... that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells;

We believe... that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

***INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

***RESPONSE**

DOXOLOGY

GTG #606

***DEDICATION OF OUR SOWING**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

~ **GOING FORTH** ~

***HYMN**

GREAT GOD OF EVERY BLESSING

GTG #694

by David Gambrell

AURELIA

***BENEDICTION**

How are we to proclaim unless we are sent:

How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News!

POSTLUDE

Know that you are loved by God and go forth to sow the Good News of God's love and peace.

Next Week: Reign of Christ Sunday & Hanging of the Greens

Pieces of today's liturgy are from: *Book of Common Worship* (PCUSA); *Call to Worship*, *Lectionary Aids*; *Presbyterian Outlook*, Teri Ott. Cover Image: *The Sower*, Van Gogh

6624 Public Square; Independence, Ohio 44131
ipcusa.org ~ (216) 524-6307 ~ office@ipcusa.org