

# Nurture Good News

"For all of you share in God's grace." (Philippians 1:7)



## INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN THE OLD STONE CHURCH OF INDEPENDENCE

### RALLY DAY

*Sunday, September 8, 2024*



*Wild meadow sweetgrass grows long and fragrant when it is looked after by humans.*

*Weeding and care for the habitat and neighboring plants strengthens its growth.*

*~ Robin Wall Kimmerer, BRAIDING SWEETGRASS*

# PROGRAM YEAR KICKOFF SUNDAY

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

Bob Scott, Liturgist  
Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor

*\*You are invited to rise in body or spirit, for the liturgy marked with asterisks.  
Congregation is invited to read the liturgy in bold.*

## ~ GATHERING TOGETHER ~

**PRELUDE** LISTEN, GOD IS CALLING Kenyan (arr. Lovelace)

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *(from Philippians 1:6-7)*

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you  
will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

**For all of us share in God's grace.**

**\*GATHERING** CALLED AS PARTNERS GTG #761 *(Verse 1)*  
by Jane Parker Huber NETTLETON *(See #475)*

### **\*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 messengers:  
**who proclaim peace,  
who preach love,  
who spread good news.**

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** CALLED AS PARTNERS IN CHRIST'S SERVICE GTG #761  
by Jane Parker Huber NETTLETON *(See #475)*



## CHILDREN OF GOD

## THE BOY, THE MOLE, THE FOX AND THE HORSE

by Charlie Mackesy

I hope this book encourages you, perhaps, to live courageously with more kindness for yourself and for others. And to ask for help when you need it - which is always a brave thing to do.

## POURING THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

*It is a ritual here at IPC for our children to help pour the Baptismal waters, as a reminder before we offer our confession that God has claimed us and loves us.*

## LITANY OF SENDING

One: Let us send our kids with God's love.

All: **May God be with you there.**

Kids: May God be with you here.

*At this time, children may go with the teachers to Sunday School. Their grown-ups are welcome to go with them or stay in the sanctuary.*

*Children are always welcome to remain in worship.*



**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(based on Matthew 14)*

Lord of abundance and compassion, we confess that when we see the overwhelming needs of your beloved world, we want to turn away, seek our own security and retreat from the chaos all around us. Forgive



us for failing to heed Jesus' command to provide for the crowds.

Forgive us for hoarding what we have instead of willingly offering it to you that it might be blessed, multiplied and used to sustain everyone. God of life, help us to tend our soil. Open us to share, enable us to nurture, so that your

word will grow and bear good fruit in our lives and your world.

In your abounding, steadfast love, grant us mercy and make of us a merciful, gracious and faithful people. Amen. *[Silent Confession]*

**\*RESPONSE**

LORD, HAVE MERCY  
Russian Orthodox Chant

GTG #579  
KYRIE ELEISON (Orthodox)

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *(based on Philippians 1:6-7)*

Believe the good news:  
in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

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

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



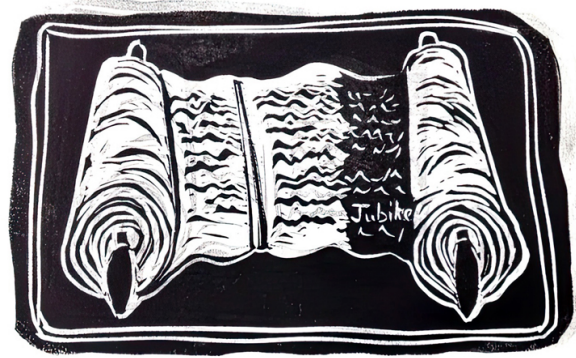
**MINUTE FOR NURTURE**

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY  
CLEVELAND FOOD BANK

**SPREAD THE WORD**

OUTREACH TEAM

~ *SHARING IN THE GOOD NEWS* ~



**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**EPISTLE READING**      **SHARE IN GOD'S GRACE**

**PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11**

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God's people.  
**For all of us share in God's grace.**

**GOSPEL LESSON**      **FEEDING THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

**MATTHEW 14:13-21**

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God's people.  
**For all of us share in God's grace.**



**SERMON**

**NURTURE GOOD NEWS**  
**SHARE IN GOD'S GRACE**

**REV. DAVID WIGGER**

~ *TENDING TO THE GOSPEL* ~



**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*from the Preface to A Brief Statement of Faith PCUSA*)

Let us affirm our faith:

**We are bound together by a common faith and a common task.**

**The faith we confess unites us with the one, universal church.**

**The Spirit of Truth gives new light to the churches when they are willing to become pupils together of the Word of God.**

**From the first, the Reformed churches have insisted that the renewal of the church must become visible in the transformation of human lives and societies.**

**A sound confession, therefore, proves itself as it nurtures commitment to the church's mission, and as the confessing church itself becomes the body by which Christ continues the blessing of his earthly ministry.**

**\*INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

*Offering plates are located at the back of the sanctuary,  
and will be brought forward during the Doxology.*

**\*RESPONSE**

DOXOLOGY  
by Thomas Ken

GTG #675 (*Verse 4*)  
TALLIS' CANON

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## ~ COMMUNION ~

*When instructed, you are invited to come forward down the center aisle to receive the elements from the pastor and an elder.*

*If you prefer to remain in your seat, an elder will bring the elements to you.*

*You may partake of the elements when you receive them.*

### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

*All of God's children are invited to share in the bread broken by the Lord.*

### HYMN

### YOU SATISFY THE HUNGRY HEART

GTG #523

by Omer Westendorf

BICENTENNIAL

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



### SANCTUS

Therefore, with all creation we sing your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### COMMUNION

The gifts of God, for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

~ *GOING FORTH TO NURTURE* ~



**\*HYMN**

WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT

GTG #300

by Peter Scholtes, Tune: THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

**\*BENEDICTION** (*from Philippians 1:7, 9, MSG*)

For all of you share in God's grace with me.

So this is my prayer: **may our love may flourish more and more.**

**POSTLUDE**

***Program Year Schedule:***

*Adult Ed – 9:00am*

*Choir Rehearsal – 9:45am*

*Worship – 10:30am*

*Children's Sunday School – 10:45am*

---

Pieces of today's liturgy are from: *Book of Common Worship* (PCUSA)

Cover Image by Cara B. Hochhalter

**INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**6624 Public Square; Independence, Ohio 44131**

**ipcusa.org ~ (216) 524-6307 ~ [office@ipcusa.org](mailto:office@ipcusa.org)**

**Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor ~ [pastor@ipcusa.org](mailto:pastor@ipcusa.org)**