

Serving Us Today

Disciples: All Members

Organist: Ginny Beamish

Minister: Don Crist

Altar Decoration: Becky Pierce

Liturgist: Kathy Holt

Head User: Mike Beamish

Choir Director: Becky Pierce

SPECIAL MUSIC

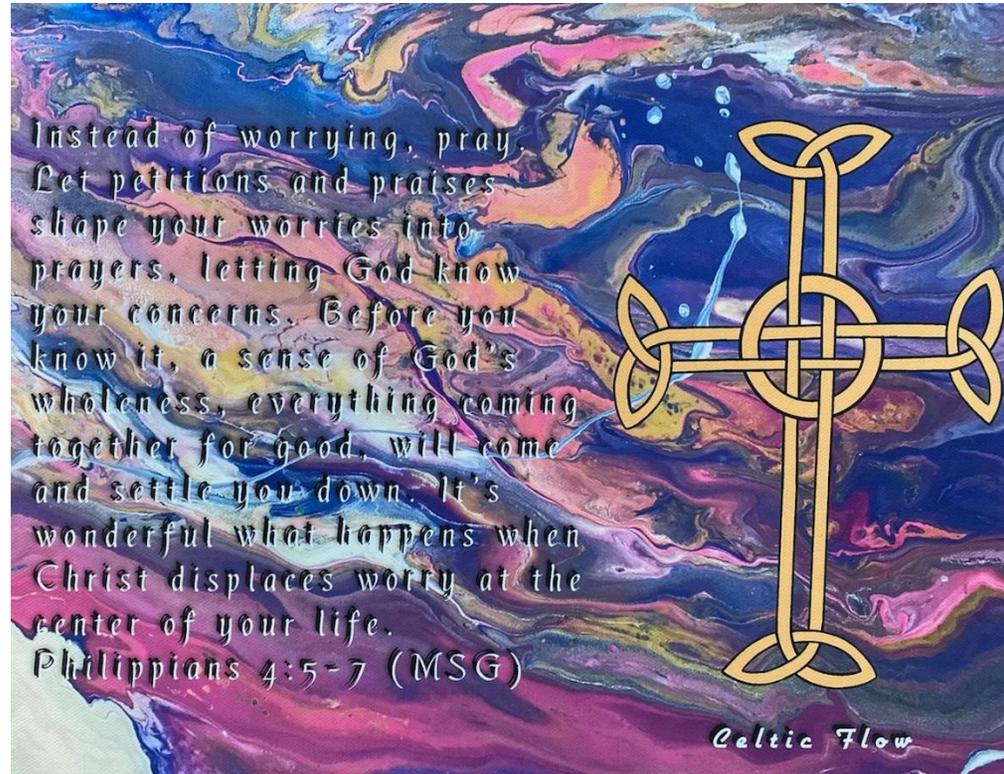
WELCOME! We welcome Mark Condy among us again! Mark has been a friend of Don and Mary Ann for several years and led them and 9 others on a pilgrimage to Scotland. He works as a librarian for United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio and also loves his other calling to do art with a Celtic theme. The image on the front of the bulletin today is one of his works. We welcome you here today, Mark.

THANK YOU

Once again, we are blessed to participate in Ginny and Mike Beamish's talents in writing the Opening Words, the Call to Worship, and the Prayer of Invocation for today's service. Notice how these all tie into the scripture reading from Philippians. Ginny and Mike, Becky, and Mark all helped plan today's service.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

Today, Sunday, August 28 th	9:30am	Worship
Wednesday, August 31 st	10:00am	History Team



August 28, 2022

“Covenant Life IV”

St. John's United Church of Christ

130 S Walnut St

Troy, OH 45373

(937) 335-2028

Pastor Don Crist

INTROIT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Liturgist)

A friendly welcome to all! No matter who you are or where you are on your life's journey, you are welcome here.

BELLS TO WELCOME THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

"Love Lifted Me"

Paul Drennen

OPENING WORDS (Liturgist)

This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Hebrews 8:10

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Rejoice in the Lord!

People: We rejoice together!

Liturgist: God promises us that we need not be anxious about anything.

Women: We rejoice in God's assurance.

Liturgist: God promises to all of us peace which passes all understanding.

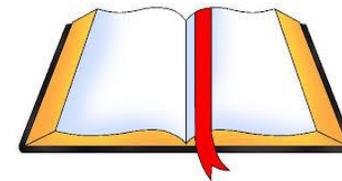
Men: We rejoice in the peace that is ours.

Liturgist: God promises to be near us in all that we do.

People: We rejoice that God is with us always.

BIBLE CHAT

Eight of us came together Wednesday evening to enjoy eating together and looking once again at the "Lost" stories of Luke 15. It was a lively group that didn't mind offering their opinions and we came away seeing this text in a new light. You all made this experience quite a success. Thanks for being so open. We have not decided the future of these Bible Chats but are happy to get your input. Whatever we do long term, we will not meet during September because of Pastor Don's vacation time.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Picnic

St. John's Annual Church Picnic will be held at the Troy Community Park on September 24th beginning at 3:00pm. If you want to play in the cornhole tournament, please arrive at 2:30pm. Please bring lawn chairs, your own table service, and a covered dish to share. St. John's will provide chicken, chips and water. If you want a beverage other than water, please bring that with you. Come and enjoy a fun filled afternoon with our church family!

Kroger Community Rewards

Last week we received \$27.75 from Kroger Community Rewards. It's a good time to remind everyone that you can link your Kroger card to our church and a percentage you spend will be donated to us once a quarter. Our organization number is ML259. If you need any help on how to link them Melissa is happy to help.

Animals, Human and Otherwise

by Quinn Caldwell | published on Nov 25, 2017

*Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark."
– Genesis 9:8-17*

Did you catch that? In today's story, which comes near the end of the whole ark episode, God makes a covenant not just with Noah and his descendants, but with every living animal, everywhere.

How does one make a covenant with an animal? A covenant is an agreement between two parties that spells out how they will behave with one another. "If you give me X, I will give you Y." "If I do this, you will do that."

So what is the birds' quid to God's quo? What is it that God needs, or even wants, enough to make a covenant with zebras? What could dinosaurs or dolphins possibly do that's enough to pay for God's offer of a future?

It turns out that what your cat can offer God for her salvation is just what you can offer: exactly nothing. It turns out that covenants with God aren't quite the same as covenants with everyone else. It turns out that with God, it's not so much a quid pro quo as a quid pro nil. The promise, the salvation, the future on offer to every living thing is free, and there's nothing you or your cat can do to earn it, or to lose it.

So why don't you go find an animal you know, and celebrate?

Prayer

God, I thank you that in you, through you, and with you, the world, the animals, and I have a future. Amen.

About the Author

Quinn G. Caldwell is the Pastor of Plymouth Congregational Church, Syracuse, New York. His most recent book is a series of daily reflections for Advent and Christmas called All I Really Want: Readings for a Modern Christmas. Learn more about it and find him on Facebook at Quinn G. Caldwell.

* PRAYER OF INVOCATION: (In Unison)

God, we rejoice that you have chosen us to be your people. We know that we are all different: we have different gifts, different personalities, and different roles to play. Help us, despite our differences, to be of the same mind in the Lord and to think about what is true, what is noble, what is right, what is pure, what is lovely, and what is admirable. May our worship and fellowship today be reflective of our covenant with you. Amen.

*HYMN:#397 "Thank Our God for Sister, Brothers" (Black)

SCRIPTURE READING (Liturgist) Philippians 4:1-9

A TIME FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES: Ginny and Mark will be leading us all in the singing of some children's songs. Children age 5 and under are invited to gather together in the Sunday School area at the conclusion of this time.

SPECIAL MUSIC Surprise offering from Mark

PASTORAL PRAYER Pastor Don Crist

THE LORD'S PRAYER: (In Unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SILENT PREPARATION FOR LISTENING

We invite you to use these few moments of silence to welcome the Inner Teacher to speak to you as Pastor Don shares the morning message.

HYMN: "Bind Us Together" (Insert)

SERMON "Covenant Life IV"

OFFERTORY INVITATION (Liturgist)

We are invited to offer our resources, our time, our abilities, our compassion, on days when our lives are full and days when our lives feel empty. We are invited to offer what we have and accept what we need. Our practice is a profound "yes" to the invitation of God.

OFFERTORY "Come Unto Me" *Bertha Frick*

***DOXOLOGY: (In Unison)**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, Ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***DEDICATION PRAYER: (In Unison)**

God, we bring these gifts, our response to your invitation. In this giving, we find ourselves not lessened, but newly joyful, truly honored, and deeply fed by your blessing. Amen.

***HYMN:# 539** "Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?" (Black)

BENEDICTION *Pastor Don Crist*

POSTLUDE "God of Glory" *Gertrude Richolson*

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PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS

Jeff Shaw: Please keep Joyce Swank and her family in prayers as they grieve her cousin.

McKenzie Gibbons (age 5) daughter of David and Kirsten Gibbons, granddaughter of Barb and John Gibbons had extensive throat and palate reconstruction surgery August 19th. Prayers are needed throughout her long recovery.

Dot Thompson: Please pray for Earl Reives' sister who home from the hospital and continuing to gain strength.

James Roessler: Melissa Stanley's grandfather passed away this week. Please pray for her family, especially her grandmother, Barbara, as they grieve.

Brent Adkins: Please continue to pray for Brent's improvement.

Em Finney: Please continue to pray for Ginny Beamish's sister, Em, as she continues to battle health issues.

Michael Ham: Please pray for Michael as he continues to struggle with serious health issues.

Joe Valentine: Please pray for Barb Bartel's son, Joe, as he continues to struggle with family issues.

Erika, Logan and Brianna Wilson: Please pray for Sharon's grandchildren that they may know the love, peace and grace of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Remember our homebound in your thoughts and prayers. Cards are welcome:

Barb Bartel: 4675 Orbison Rd., Troy, OH. 45373

Beulah Bowers: 1220 N. Dorset, Troy, OH 45373

Carletta Gritzmaker: 2896 West Main Street, Troy, OH 45373

Joan Meredith: Garbry Ridge Room #103, 1567 Garbry Road, Piqua, OH 45356

Janet Walpole: c/o The Lindley Inn, 9000 Hocking Hills Dr, Room#144, The Plains, OH 45780

Please note: Updates and/or amendments to the prayer list are appreciated. Typically, prayer requests will be removed after 4 weeks. If you or a loved one needs to remain on the list, please contact Betty Schaffner at 937-335-6713. Thank you.

God is Still Speaking,