



## 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 "If You But Trust In God to Guide You"

Gerald Peterson

**OPENING WORDS** (Liturgist) Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

from Psalm 51

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Liturgist: Holy One, your ability to renew us is unmatched.*

**People: You renew us from within and without.**

*Liturgist: Ancient of Days, you held us in the beginning, and you are holding us now.*

**People: We reach out to you and draw as close as we can.**

#### \*PRAYER OF INVOCATION: (In Unison)

**Divine One, we are thankful for the restoration that can be found in you. Your presence is welcomed here. We delight in knowing that you want to be wherever we are. Because you are love, you show up for us. In this space, may we delight in your assurance that all you made is good. Amen.**

### What Black History Month Means to Me

When Pastor Don asked me to write a little something on this topic, I thought "piece of cake". In reality, harder to articulate than I thought. I grew up in a very poor environment in Indianapolis. I've been discriminated against many, many times in my lifetime based solely on the color of my skin. One of the worst injustices were school teachers that told me I was not college material. As such, they believed they needed to prepare me for a life of manual labor. Now, there's nothing wrong with manual labor. I made a very good living that way for many years. But, that should be my choice, not an assumption made based on my skin color. And I don't think it was necessarily the fault of the teachers for thinking that way. There's an adage that says "you can't be it if you can't see it". I think that is so, so true. The teachers didn't see my potential because they didn't know to look for it. I want all children, of all races, all ethnicity, all religions, all economic backgrounds, to know what their options are. I want them to know that blacks can be doctors and lawyers, that Asians can be judges and politicians, that Muslims can be inventors and scientists. And for children (and the adults that mold them) to know that, they have to see it. You can't be it if you can't see it. I was fortunate to retire at the age of 62. And while I'm no longer employed in a paid position, I've certainly not stopped trying to be a role model for youth and adults through my volunteer efforts. I've been a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) for about 12 years. I was on the Board of Lincoln Center for longer than that. I've been on the Miami County United Way Board for about a decade. All of these organizations are primarily focused on youth. I want the children served, and the adults who serve them, to know that everyday black men, such as myself, can be successful and useful – even in a primarily white community. You can't be it if you can't see it. And, getting back to the topic, that's the real value of Black History Month. It's a chance to highlight the accomplishments of black Americans and to realize the contributions they've made to our country. But, I stress that it's not just important for black Americans to know this history. It's important for ALL Americans to know it because we all have a hand in teaching, raising, and leading our youth. You can't be it if you can't see it. Let them see.

Humbly Submitted,

Earl S. Reives

## Adult Sunday School

Sunday school will be at 9:30am next Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> in the café. Next week's topic will be "Memory Work – The Value of Memorization" with Mike Beamish leading.



## Special Music by Jorian Johnson

Mark your calendar and plan to be in attendance for worship next Sunday, March 5 here at St. John's. Our own Jorian Johnson will be our guest musician that day, along with four of his friends from the W. Crimm Singers AKA Wakanda Chorale. This group sang back-up on "Aristocrat of Bands: The Urban Hymnal," this year's Grammy winner in the "Roots Gospel Album" category. After worship, Jorian and his friends will be our guests for a St. John's Carry-In Dinner. Since we'll have company, it would be great if you could bring a couple dishes to share, along with your own table service. AND THEN, to enjoy more of Jorian's music, come back to St. John's sanctuary at 3:00 p.m. for a not-to-be-missed concert. Bring your family. Bring your friends. Bring your neighbors. You will have an incredible musical experience!

## Barefoot in the Park

Don't miss your chance to see one of St. John's own thespians as *Barefoot in the Park* takes to the Troy Civic Theatre stage February 24, 25, 26 and March 3, 4, 5. Our own Mike Beamish has a cameo role, but you must be in your seat as Act I begins in order not to miss him. See the Troy Civic Theatre website or call 937-339-7700 for ticket information.

## Lenten Bible Study

Plans are underway for a Lenten Bible Study on the five Thursdays of March. We will gather in Fellowship Hall for soup and extras about 11:30. Then we'll spend some time discussing a few of the ideas presented by Jill J. Duffield in her book, *Lent in Plain Sight*. Finally, we will create a hands-on crafty souvenir of our discussion. A sign-up sheet for providing soup and extras (salad, sandwiches, artisanal bread) is available in the narthex.

**\*HYMN: #156** "Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart" (Red Hymnal)

**SCRIPTURE READING** (Liturgist) Matthew 5:1-8, 22:34-40

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** "Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me"

Mary Kay Parrish

**A TIME FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES:** Ginny will be leading us in song. All under 5 are invited to gather together in the Sunday School area at the conclusion of this time.

## MORNING PRAYER

Don Crist

## THE LORD'S PRAYER: (In Unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 Don shares the morning message.

## SERMON

"The Pure in Heart"

Don Crist

## \*HYMN: #188

"Give Me a Clean Heart"

(Black Hymnal)

## OFFERTORY INVITATION (Liturgist)

God gives good things to us, so let us give good things to God. Let us bring gifts that can be like water in dry places. May these resources be used to testify to the goodness of God.

**OFFERTORY**

“Dedication”

Richard Alan Martens

**\*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)**

**Divine One, receive our gifts from the open hearts from which we give them. Thank you for blessing us with gifts to share, so that good works can abound. We offer our gifts gladly. May what we give be used to meet the needs of all. Amen.**

**HYMN: #188**

“Give Me a Clean Heart”

(Black Hymnal)

**BENEDICTION**

Don Crist

**POSTLUDE**

“Bagatelle”

Ludwig van Beethoven

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**PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS**

Pam Nolin: Joyce Hefflefinger’s niece is in critical condition with a number of health conditions. She is hospitalized in Kentucky. Please keep her and her family in your prayers. Wayne Cunningham: Please pray for Stephanie Strope's father who continues to battle bone and liver cancer. Em Finney: Ginny's sister, Em, has been on our prayer list for a very long time and needs our prayers now more than ever as her illness progresses, and her health deteriorates. Michael Ham: Despite his life-long health issues, Michael has accomplished a great deal in his life and is very active in the Troy community. As his health issues mount, Michael could certainly use all the prayers that we at St. John's can offer. 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: Lakeview Wing #213, 1567 Garbry Road, Piqua, OH 45356

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 or Joyce Reives at 937-477-8268. Thank you.

