

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Blessed is God, who hears our prayers,

ALL: whose steadfast love endures forever.

L: There is no greater love than this:

ALL: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

L: God calls us to proclaim the good news.

ALL: Let us open our hearts to hear God's word.

PRAY TOGETHER:

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all else, we may exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN: Gather Us In

#401 (GG)

CONFESSION

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Let us say together the good news of the Gospel: ALL: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

RESPONSE: Gloria Patri

IMAGINATION TIME FOR ALL CHILDREN

Children (and their parents) are invited to hear a special message at the front of the church.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION OLD TESTAMENT READING: GOSPEL READING: Reader: Anita Leonard 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 Mark 12:28-34 #579

"The Most Excellent Way" SERMON

Come Down, O Love Divine HYMN:

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" #592

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The Strife is O'er HYMN:

CHARGE

L: Now go forth in Jesus' name, remembering his new commandment to love one another, just as he has loved us.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! We hope that you will experience the love of God with us today! We welcome children to our worship service and have a special **PRAYground** to allow our little worshippers room to quietly move around and keep busy. If you and your little one need privacy to settle or for nursing, there is a rocking chair available through the doors on the left in the front of the sanctuary (in the office) and a nursery is available upstairs. Please see an usher for directions.

FREE Pot Love Dinners are for you! A hot, nutritious meal will be available Saturday, May 18th. Reservations appreciated: 724-845-1901.

Join us for a night of faith, food, and fun by the fire for our "Ignite the Night" youth bonfire! Friday, May 10th 6-9 PM at Griftlo Park (1982 Park Lane, North Apollo)

Save the date for Vacation Bible School! Monday June 17-Friday June 21, join us at the First United Methodist Church (251 Main St.) for our SCUBA themed VBS. Age 3 (potty-trained) through 5th grade are welcome! To register online: myvbs.org/Leechburg



Rev. James Arter



#119



#313