

There seems to be such a distance between God in heaven and us on earth! But from the Pentateuch to the Psalms to the Prophets to the Gospels to the Epistles, we see that that distance is nothing at all.



He came, and took her by the hand, and lifted her up. Then the fever left her.
Mark 1:31

Service for the Lord's Day

February 4, 2024
The Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Gathering Around the Word

Gathering Music

Ruth Brown

Striking of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Come to the Table of Grace
Beth Pope, piano

TABLE OF GRACE/Barbara Hamm

This part of Isaiah records the longing of God's people for home and signs of God's love for them as they adapted to the destruction of Israel and their exile in Babylon.

Call to Worship

from Isaiah 40

O people, where is your God?

Our God sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; our God stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in.

Is your God too far to notice you?

Do not say, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"! For our God is tireless in his provision for creation.

Are you too small for your God to provide for you?

No! For our God gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless! The young and strong will tire in time, but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength.

Hymn 35

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

Call to Confession

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Gracious and almighty God, you made everything by your Word and sustain it each moment by your love; yet we imagine that we have gotten what we have by our own power. You gave life to a creation with plenty for all in exquisite balance, yet we extract, use, and hoard as though resources were both too endless to devour and too rare to share. You gave us to each other, yet we prefer domination and isolation to connection and mutual need. Forgive us our selfishness and arrogance. You who spoke light into being, as you shone in the life of Jesus, so shine in us and through us, that we may become beacons of truth and compassion, enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy.

A Silence is observed for Personal Confession

Response Hymn 415

Come Ye Sinners Poor and Needy

RESTORATION

First verse

Declaration of Good News

Passing the Peace of Christ

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Hearing the Word

Prayer for Illumination

The Psalterly

Psalm 147:1-11

Praise the LORD! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

The LORD lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground.

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.

He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills.

He gives to the animals their food, and to the young ravens when they cry.

His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;

but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

Praise the LORD!

Anthem

There Is a Balm in Gilead

African American Spiritual/arr. William L. Dawson

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that

The Psalmist describes God's power and might not in terms of military victory or competition, but by describing God's care and attention for every part of creation.

Paul is in the middle of an extended argument about placing the needs and situations of others above our own for the sake of the gospel, which has lots of consequences!

I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The healing of Simon Peter's mother-in-law is Jesus' first healing miracle in Mark, and so in all the gospels (as Mark is first).

Jesus is the model for ruling without lording over, and the perfect image of the invisible God among us.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:29-39

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

All Sit

Sermon

Ready or Not, Here I Come

Bailey Pickens

Responding to the Word

All Stand

Response Hymn 465

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

CONVERSE

Affirmation of Faith

Declaration of Faith (4.3)

Jesus Christ overthrew evil powers that enslaved and degraded people, yet he made no use of power to protect himself. He healed those who were sick in body and mind, yet he did not avoid pain and suffering for himself. He commanded his followers to place loyalty to him above loyalty to family and country, yet he lived among them as a servant. Jesus taught with authority, challenging many time-honored customs and ideas, yet he submitted to humiliation and death without a word on his own behalf. He forgave sinners, yet he was counted among sinners.

We recognize the work of God in Jesus' power and authority. He did what only God can do. We also recognize the work of God in Jesus' lowliness. When he lived as a servant and went humbly to his death, the greatness that belongs only to God was manifest. In both his majesty and lowliness Jesus is the eternal Son of God, God himself with us.

All Sit

Offering

Offertory

Amazing Grace

Early American Melody/arr. Lawrence Grant

Doxology

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sealing the Word in the Sacrament

All Sit

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

.... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Sanctus *Sanctus* Joseph Roff
(congregation and choir)
*Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of power and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry.
Ho-san-na in the high-est.
Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est.*

You are holy, O God of majesty... ..Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Communion Anthem *Let Us Break Bread Together*
Traditional/arr. Arlen Clarke

Prayers of the People and 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

Bearing and Following the Word into the Created World

Closing Hymn 744 *Arise, Your Light Is Come!* FESTAL SONG

Benediction

Postlude *Arise, Your Light Is Come!* FESTAL SONG
Beth Pope, piano

WELCOME VISITORS!

We invite you to pick up visitor's information on your way out, either in the narthex or on the table on the Right in the downstairs entrance hall. Ushers will be standing by to help you find them. Always know that a cordial greeting is extended by ministers, officers, and congregation.

Elders: Class of 2024-Frederica Kernohan, Tim Leigh, Bobby Rabold, Debbie Trickey, Larry Warden; Class of 2025-Karol Kirby Ahmed, Buzz English, Pamela Napier, Julia Roberts, Julie Wedge; Class of 2026-Pam Bratcher, Rachel Crocker, J.B. Hines, Susan Howard, Mike Kanan **Deacons:** Class of 2024 Trudy Burkeen, Evan Goad, Linda Leigh, Catherine Reber, Susan Thomison; Class of 2025-Barbara Brindle, Craig Long, Teri Polen, Ernie Small, Dan Stelling, Fred Trickey; Class of 2026- Phil Burkeen, Kim Ferguson, Kathy Higgins, Brianna Trickey

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Debbie Trickey
Sara Parkerson
Lillian Hargesheimer

Calendar

Sunday, February 4

8:30 a.m. Fellowship
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
9:15 a.m. Children's Music
10:30 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Eating Out Group
5:00 p.m. Youth Group

Monday, February 5

9:00 a.m. GOD/DOG is Love

Tuesday, February 6

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
11:00 a.m. Special Care
5:00 p.m. Deacons

Wednesday, February 7

5:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
7:00 a.m. Breakfast Group (Teresa's)

Thursday, February 8

6:00 p.m. DRITI

Friday, February 9

7:30 a.m. Mens' Breakfast (Lisa's)

Donate Online: The church website accepts online donations. Just go to our website, and fill out the simple form. Donations can also be made from your smart phone. You may also scan this QR code.
<https://bgpres.org/give>



Announcements

USHERS: The Polen and Thomison families

COLLEGIATE ENSEMBLE: Wyatt Edmunds, Hailey Goodwin, Darcy Merriman, Jeremiah Simpson, Johnna Smith

LAY READER: Diane Simmons

MEDIA PERSONNEL: David Clarke, Lillian Hargesheimer

NURSERY: Alisia Simmons, Yamilet Bruno Sanchez, Hailey Gadberry

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAY February 11: 2 Kings 2:1–12; Psalm 50:1–6; 2 Corinthians 4:3–6; Mark 9:2–9.

TODAY

TODAY WE WELCOME the Rev. Bailey Pickens from Franklin, Kentucky, to preach for us. She will also be joining us on Ash Wednesday evening, February 14th, for worship in this Sanctuary at 7:00pm. We are thankful to have her with us for both of these services and extend her our warm hospitality.

DEACONS OF THE WEEK this week will be Susan Thomison and Teri Polen. Deacons assist the Pastor in caring for our congregation. You may contact them through the church office: 270-843-4707.

THE AFTER CHURCH EATING OUT GROUP will dine at The Bistro today, February 4. The Bistro is located at 1129 College Street. Join us for fun fellowship and delicious food! We presently have a reservation for 8 which is our usual number, but let Mary Evans (270-791-7205) know if you would like to join us in future outings and we can increase our head count!

BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH in February! The Deacons encourage our members to bring someone along to church on a Sunday morning in February. Everyone has a friend or two that we can invite to worship with us. Let us celebrate the month of February as a chance to share our worship service and fellowship with friends!

COMING UP:

OUR SOUPERBOWL will happen next weekend, February 11th, after worship. Please help us support our food pantry and other missions that we provide food for by either signing up to bring food, or just joining us that Sunday. We'll be in the fellowship hall after church for food and fellowship. You may sign up through this link or on the website:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4EA5A729A5F58-47332835-souperbowl#/>

THE FLOCK (Prayer Shawl Ministry) will meet at the home of Margaret Stein (936 Covington Street) on Saturday, February 10 from 1-3 pm. We will enjoy nibbles and fellowship. Bring your current project. Questions? Reach out to Margaret at 270-779-2579 or margaret_f_stein@hotmail.com.

SAVE THESE DATES Lenten Dinners and Program - Ash Wednesday is February 14, which begins our Lenten season. A worship service led by Bailey Pickens (from Franklin, KY) will take place in our Sanctuary at 7:00pm that evening. Our program for each following Wednesday of Lent will be based on the book, *Draw the Circle - Taking the 40-Day Prayer Challenge* by Mark Batterson. Call the office to reserve your copy. Wednesday Dinners will begin at 6:05pm on February 21, followed by the program in Fellowship Hall. Also - **Vacation Bible School** dates are set : June 9-12.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES begin at 9:15am.

- Preschool taught by Jimmy and Betsy Tyrie
- Godly Play taught by Mary Evans – Kindergarten through 5th grade
- Middle and high school taught by David Clarke
- The Coffee and Conversation Class offers book study for adults with rotating leadership
- A Bible study class that is currently focusing on God's Big Picture and coordinated by Julia Roberts

OTHER NEWS:

VISITORS TO OUR CHURCH OFFICE may see a new face in the coming days. We will welcome Robin Watkins-Tolbert to the office staff in February. Robin will be working with us in future and training on all of Cheryl's church office duties, with the plan of being ready to step up when Cheryl retires at the end of 2024. Look for more information and a full introduction to Robin coming soon!

NEWEST ART EXHIBIT Our own Bob Love, professional artist, has hung a sample of his artwork in the fellowship hall. You will enjoy browsing this exhibit, which will hang for until February 29th. Be sure to check it out!

OUR PRESCHOOL LEARNING CENTER has put out a request for assistance with some small items to help care for the children during classes. Jugs of water, baby wipes, Kleenex boxes, disinfectant spray and/or wipes will all be put to good use in the coming weeks. And remember that **the PLC registration** for next year's classes begins very soon! Consider mentioning our PLC to any folks you know with children ages 2-4 for next season! Thank you!

ATTENDANCE REGISTERS Tell us you're here, please! There are **navy blue notebooks** at the inside aisle end of every pew. Please write your name and any other information you'd like the church to have so we can better communicate with you. Then pass the notebook to your neighbors in the pew so they can sign in, too. After everyone has signed, please pass the notebook back to the inside aisle, so others in the pew can learn your name.



We express sympathy to Jean and Jim Harris in the recent death of their son-in-law.