

# *Avon Lake Presbyterian Church*

*Friends in Christ, Serving Together with Love*

September 22, 2024

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparing for New Beginnings

*They are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.*

Lamentations 3:23

*Hearing assistance available: FM receivers  
and earpieces are stored near the AV room.  
See sound technician with questions.*

*Coffee House Worship: in education wing foyer.  
Enjoy a more casual environment while  
Worship is livestreamed from the sanctuary.*

**GATHERING MUSIC***Lord of All Hopefulness*  
SLANE

Setting by Henry V. Gerike

*Be Thou My Vision*  
SLANEArr. Julia Tanner  
Transcribed by Mark Vinci**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF PASTORAL CANDIDATE**

Clayton Dusek, PNC Chair

**HANDBELL PRELUDE***A Joyful Alleluia*

Cynthia Dobrinski

**CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT***Praise the Name of Jesus*  
FAMILY OF GOD

Roy Hicks, Jr.

Praise the name of Jesus, Praise the name of Jesus.  
 He's my Rock, He's my Fortress, He's my deliverer  
 In Him will I trust.  
 Praise the name of Jesus.

*All Hail the Pow'r of Jesus' Name!*  
 CORONATION

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!  
 Let angels prostrate fall;  
 Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all;  
 Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all!

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: God, you are the giver of all good gifts.

**All: Empower us to use them faithfully.**

One: God, you graciously give us all that we have.

**All: Your love for us is overwhelming.**

One: God, your faithfulness to us draws us close.

**All: Let us celebrate your love for us.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**All: God of love and grace, all that we *have* – is given by you. All that we *are* – is creatively designed by you. Everything is intentionally and lovingly made for us and your kingdom. Let us bring all of ourselves to worship this morning. Strengthen us with your Spirit, nourish us with your Word, and steady the rhythm of our lives this morning with our voices united in song, word, and fellowship. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN***Be Thou My Vision*  
SLANE

No. 450

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*Let us take a moment for personal reflection.*

**All:** God of love and forgiveness, you long for us to put you at the center of our lives. You yearn for us to connect with you and be our vision, the Lord of our heart. Yet, our lives seem to be filled with distractions that can pull us away from you. In these moments, we don't always pay attention to the way we invest the gifts you give us. Rather than turn towards you, we turn towards ourselves. Give us courage to choose you and be good stewards of your treasure.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Romans 8 tells us that, "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Absolutely nothing can take away God's love for each one of us. Hear the good news that you are loved.

**ANTHEM**

*Come Follow Me*

Jay Althouse

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: Jesus continually shares God's peace with us. As we gather today, let us be strengthened by sharing God's peace with one another. As we journey through our weeks, let us share it with others. May the peace of Christ be you all.

**All:** And also with you.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Awesome Power*

John G. Elliott

Awesome power, boundless grace;  
None can fathom all Your ways,  
Truth and love are found in Your heart alone;

Righteousness surrounds Your throne.  
Holy, holy, holy Lord most high;  
Holy, holy, holy Lord most high.

**LORD'S PRAYER****PRAYER RESPONSE**

*Thank You, Lord!*

Dennis. L. Jernigan

For all that You've done, I will thank You,  
For all that You're going to do.  
For all that You've promised, and all that  
You are  
Is all that has carried me through,  
Jesus, I thank you!

And I thank You, thank You, Lord.  
Thank You, thank You, Lord.  
Thank you for loving and setting me free,  
Thank you for giving Your life just for me.  
How I thank You, Jesus, I thank You,  
Grateful thank You. Thank You.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 25:14-30

Michele Cold

**SERMON**

“Well Done, Good and Faithful”

Rev. Dr. Kristian Bendoraitis

**\*OFFERING/DOXOLOGY***Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

No. 606

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER****\*CLOSING HYMN***Great is Thy Faithfulness*

Arr. Mark Hayes

*Please stand when the Music Director turns and join in singing:*

Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided –  
Great is Thy Faithfulness, Great is Thy Faithfulness  
Great is Thy Faithfulness, Lord, unto me

**BENEDICTION**

One: Each week we remind ourselves

**All: to go out into the world. Return no one evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, and honor every person. Every person. And rejoice in the Lord always.**

One: And now may the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with each of you, all your loved ones, and all your concerns, now and forever. Amen.

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE***Now Unto Him*

David Morris

Now unto Him who is able to keep you from falling,  
And to make you stand in His presence  
Blameless and with great joy,  
To the only God, our Savior; through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
Be the glory and the majesty, dominion and authority,  
Both now and ever; Amen!

**POSTLUDE***Praise His Holy Name!*

Keith Hampton

*Sunday Joy!*

Mark Hayes

# Welcome to Avon Lake Presbyterian Church!

*“In awe, we Receive God’s Grace and Gospel.  
In gratitude, we Respond with Worship and Servanthood.  
In love, we Represent Jesus Christ as we minister to transform lives  
in family, community, and the world.”*

*As you join us for worship at Avon Lake Presbyterian Church, we hope that you will sense God’s presence, be caught up in joyful praise, be challenged by God’s Word and leave strengthened to live for Christ in the world.*

*In the event you need to step out of the Sanctuary, speaker systems are in both the foyer and the nursery so that you may listen to the worship service. When leaving the Sanctuary during the service, take care to close the door softly.*

**Please silence cell phones** during our worship services.

**Offerings** may be given through [SimpleGive](#) and are always appreciated. Scan this code with your smartphone to easily access SimpleGive.



**Confidential prayers** from the Healing Prayer Ministry are available at the back of the sanctuary after worship.

**All Saints Day** will be Sunday, November 3. If you would like to have a loved one included in the slideshow, please send a photo along with name and relationship to Kenzi at [alpresby@avonlakepc.org](mailto:alpresby@avonlakepc.org) by October 13.

**Saints Alive** articles for the October issue are due today! Please send articles to Kenzi at [alpresby@avonlakepc.org](mailto:alpresby@avonlakepc.org). If your committee will not be submitting an article, please let Kenzi know.

**The Chosen: Volume 2** with Beth Shoemaker will begin today after service in the Church library.

**Letters to John** with Lee Lohr starts September 24 at 1:30 p.m. in the Session room.

**Revival Youth Group** meets Sunday, September 29 at 6:00 p.m. Kids and teens in grades 5-12 are invited to join us at a small gathering around a fire. Food will be available as part of the Meet & Greet as we get to know one another!

**Learn how to operate our AED machine.** ALFD will be here Wednesday, September 25, at 1:30 p.m. to offer a brief lesson on proper and safe operation of the AED machine located in the church narthex.

**Welcome, Rev. Dr. Bendoraitis!** Kristian Bendoraitis has worked at John Knox Presbyterian Church, both as a volunteer and on staff, for the past thirteen years. Through his most recent position as both Director of Alternative Worship and Digital Minister, Kristian has enjoyed his pastoral responsibilities as well as creative problem solving.

## *Please keep in your prayers this week...*

**Karen Francy** who is making progress in her recovery from an aneurysm.

**Linda Kurak** as she lives through the effects of Parkinson's disease.

**Noel Peel** and **Charlie & Debbie Swartz** who need continued healing.

**Pattie Nussle** who left on a mission trip to Malawi, Africa, with the Marion Medical Mission team.

They work to provide safe drinking water by completing wells for the villagers. Otherwise, the people have only the use of the river for all their daily needs. Malawi is the poorest country in Africa.

**Jen Lombardo** who has Metastatic breast cancer.

## *This Week at the Church*

**Monday:** Walking Group meets at the church at 8:30 a.m.

**Tuesday:** Men's Lunch Group will meet at noon. Letters to John study group will meet at 1:30 p.m. in the Session room. Prayer Group will meet at 3:00 p.m. on Zoom.

**Wednesday:** Walking Group meets at the church at 8:30 a.m. AED class will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the narthex. Cornerstone Preschool will host Dogs & Dudes tailgate party 11:30-12:30 p.m. Handbell Choir will meet in the Sanctuary at 6:45 p.m., followed by Chancel Choir at 8:00 p.m.

**Thursday:** Yoga begins at 6:30 p.m.

**Friday:** Walking Group meets at the church at 8:30 a.m.

**Saturday:** The Order of St. Luke will meet at 9:00 a.m.

**Next Sunday:** Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. The Chosen study group will meet at 11:45 a.m. in the church library. Youth Group will meet at 6:00 p.m. for a bonfire in the church parking lot.

**Birthdays:** Arlene Strauch, 9/23; Muriel Homer, 9/27

## *Church Leaders and Volunteers*

### **Pulpit Fill**

**Rev. Dr. Kristian Bendoraitis**

### **Director of Music**

**Rick Fortney**

Greeters

Barbara Lehmkuhl, Ruth Ann McCarbery

Worship Assistant

Michele Cold

Soundroom

Mike Richardson, Jay Knox

Projections

Elizabeth Shoemaker, AmyLynn Kaspar

Ushers

Joe & Carol Unger

Piano/Organ Accompanists

Doug Day, Muriel Homer

Cellist

Joan Wojcicki Fortney

Guest Soprano Soloist

Sara Tyburczy

## *Chancel Choir*

Jackie Day

Sarah Waggoner

Dave Brunner

Tammy Dusek

Gail Carter

Clay Dusek

Cathy Graves

Joan Wojcicki Fortney

Jeff Hansen

Sue Mabe

Deb Gantz

Doug Day

Makayla McAfee

Barb Graves

Mike Dean

Susan Richardson

Jan Mackert

Ed Homer

Marcy Uhl

Sharon Pervo

Bob Palisin

Beth Shoemaker

## *Handbell Choir*

Doug Day

Jan Mackert

Dave Brunner

Gail Carter

Sharon Pervo

Barb Graves

Linda Swartz

Muriel Homer

Cathy Graves

Cheryl Dean

Sarah Waggoner

Joan Wojcicki Fortney

Kathy Navarro

## **Avon Lake Presbyterian Church**

32340 Electric Blvd., Avon Lake, OH 44012

440-933-6240

[alpresby@avonlakepc.org](mailto:alpresby@avonlakepc.org)

[www.avonlakechurch.com](http://www.avonlakechurch.com)