

**Emmanuel United Church of Christ**  
Valley City, OH  
*May 2, 2021 - Fifth Sunday of Eastertide*

*Rev. Brian Burke, Interim Minister*  
*Mike Moats, pianist*                      *Pam Nolan, worship leader*

- Online at [www.euccvalleycity.org](http://www.euccvalleycity.org) and [facebook.com/euccvalleycity](https://facebook.com/euccvalleycity)
- In the parking lot, you can tune your FM radio to **107.7**
- Text or email prayer requests to Pastor Brian at [euccpastor@gmail.com](mailto:euccpastor@gmail.com)
- Please remember to send in your offerings of church support.

**WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD**

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**WE GATHER IN SONG** ..... "Morning Has Broken"

*Morning has broken like the first morning,  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!*

*Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.*

*Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning  
born of the one light Eden saw play! Praise with elation!  
Praise every morning God's re-creation of the new day!*

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

Leader: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Leader: Morning has broken!

**People: We praise God for re-creating today as a new day.**

Leader: We praise God for those many saints whose faith was formed in this congregation.

**People: We praise God for those whose faith will continue to be formed by the Word proclaimed here and the mission extended from here in God's new creation of a new day.**

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made;

**People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**WE AFFIRM GOD'S PRESENCE** ..... "Alleluia"

*Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord;  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.*

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

**CENTERING PRAYER**

**As you cause the sun to rise, O God, bring the light of Christ to dawn in our souls and dispel the shadows of hatred and fear. Give us grace to reflect Christ's glory; and let his love show in our deeds, his peace shine in our words, and his healing in our touch, that all may give him praise, now and forever. Amen.**

**THE WORD FROM THE PASTORAL EPISTLES** ..... 1 John 4:7-21

**THE WORD FROM THE GOSPELS** ..... John 15:1-8

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

**THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**RESPONDING IN PRAYER**

**RESPONDING WITH OUR GIFTS**

*Please place your offerings for church operations in an envelope;  
Loose cash in the basket will support local church mission projects.  
If you mail your offering or give online at [euccvalleycity.org](http://euccvalleycity.org),  
please designate a division between operations and local mission.*

**God, as the Spirit moves within and around us we are moved in response. Part of that response is to offer these gifts of time, talent, and treasure. May the gifts and the givers be ways your love and hope is spread. Amen.**

**WE CELEBRATE AT CHRIST'S TABLE**

**PREPARING IN SONG** ..... "Let Us Break Bread Together"

*Let us break bread together on our knees. (drink wine ... praise God)  
Let us break bread together on our knees. (drink wine ... praise God)  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.*

## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*Please have appropriate communion elements ready.*

### **THE COMMUNION PRAYER**

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life. May this food strengthen us in love and help us to serve your creation. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **WE DEPART TO DO GOD'S WORK**

### **WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD WITH GOD'S BLESSING**

Leader: The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Philippi: "If there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy ... be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind."

**People: Paul continued, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit ... let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others."**

Leader: "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus," Paul wrote, "who humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross."

**People: It is God who is at work in us. We will go from here to live and work and play as humble and devoted disciples of the risen Christ.**

### **WE SING TO GOD**..... *"May the Mind of Christ My Savior"*

***May the mind of Christ my Savior live in me from day to day,  
by his love and power controlling all I do and say.***

***May the Word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour,  
so that all may see I triumph only through God's power.***

***May the peace of God the Spirit rule my life in everything,  
that I may be calm to comfort sick and sorrowing.***

***May I run the race before me, strong and brave to face the foe,  
looking only unto Jesus as I onward go.***



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Keep our Church Family in Prayer...**

Bette Benko, Grace Hammon, Bill Hunter, Bob Leibold, Betty Lewis, Ralph Lewis, Jennifer Luf, Jim Phillips, Linda Polansky, and Judy Schwartz

### **Confirmation Class**

Pastor Brian is planning to hold a Confirmation class in the near future, with the exact schedule to be determined with the participants. He has found it best that the students be of Junior High age or older. Please contact him for further information by calling the church or emailing [euccpastor@gmail.com](mailto:euccpastor@gmail.com).

### **Altar Flowers**

Altar flowers this week were provided by Betty Good in celebration of Jennifer Good's birthday.

### **Fellowship Opportunities**

- The Men's Breakfast group will meet on Thursday, May 6 @ 8:30 AM at a NEW location. Join them at 9ER'S Diner in Brunswick (63 Pearl Road just south of Boston Road).
- The Third Thursday Luncheon will return on May 20! We will meet at noon in Fellowship Hall, which will be arranged with social distancing in mind. A sign-up sheet will be available next week, or you can call the office and let us know you're coming. The menu will include meatloaf and potato – sides are TBD.

We hope you can join us!

### **Missions**

In May, the Missions offering will support Feeding Medina County. The vision of this local organization is to "be the resource to fight hunger and food insecurity across Medina County." They provide essential programs that put food on the table for children, families and seniors who are at risk of hunger.

Our April collection for the Oaks Family Care Center has ended – if you still have loose change or a baby bottle to return to the church, please do so this week.

### **UCC Mission Moment: Strengthen the Church**

The Strengthen the Church (STC) offering supports leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. Read the attached story to learn how a grant received by the *Keep & Till Congregation* was used to help stabilize and improve their community garden during the pandemic.