

***RESPONSE**

Surely the Presence of the Lord *(See screens)*
 Surely, the presence
 Of the Lord is in this place;
 I can feel His mighty power and His grace;
 I can hear the brush of angel's wings;
 I see glory on each face.
 Surely the presence
 Of the Lord is in this place.



Announcements

—Reading materials on the ledge under the bulletin board include:
 basic notes from the January 27th Governing Board meeting
 notes from the January New Initiatives meeting
 AAIC Feb. Newsletter
 AIIA Newsletter
 and copies of committee duties of our church.

—We are moving forward on several fronts such as plans for the Welcome area as people enter the church from the parking lot, the website, and facilities projects inside and outside our building.

—Take advantage of the special Ecumenical Prayer Service celebrating unity and community in prayer and song on Sunday, February 23, 3:00 p.m., at Our Lady of the Elms Chapel. Bishop Joey Johnson, from House of the Lord, will give his talk on “Why I Am A Christian.”

Pastor
Tom Ulrich

Director of Music
Marlys Hershberger

Audio-Visual
Carol Davis

Liturgist
Sue Smith

Communion
Hal and Jackie Horton

Ushers
Cathy King, Mary Norval,
Charles Rader, Clarita Rader

New Covenant Community Church	
1587 West Exchange Street Akron, OH 44313-7648 330.253.6989	
office@covenantakron.org	www.covenantakron.org

NEW COVENANT

COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
 Church Service 10:30 am *February 16, 2020*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Tom Ulrich

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Sue Smith

Leader: From all walks of life, let us gather in God's presence.
People: Let us gather in this place where God loves us and calls each of us by name.
 Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord and remember the bondage from which God has delivered us.
People: Come, let us worship the Lord, so that we may become the people God is calling us to be.
 Leader: Let us learn new ways to join in reaching toward God's vision for the world.
People: May our worship strengthen our souls, and build our lives together as God's people.

***HYMN**

When Morning Gilds the Skies #487

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Sue Smith

Leader: As soon as the morning gilds the skies, we recognize that we should praise Jesus Christ. But yet, because of our sin, we sometimes stumble and fall, and we forget who we are as disciples of Jesus Christ. So we come together to bow before the Lord, to reclaim God's promise of forgiveness for sin, and to renew our commitment to follow Jesus Christ. Therefore, let us confess our sin to God using the prayer which is found in the bulletin, and after our corporate prayer we will have an opportunity to offer our own silent confessions as well. Let us pray together:

People: Gracious and merciful God, we confess that we have often ignored your word and refused to follow where you lead us. Although you have opened the doors of truth and freedom, we have frequently chosen to remain in the prisons of false promises and selfish ambitions. Although you have blessed us with the Word of life to give us direction, and although you have sent the Holy Spirit as a source of counsel and power, we have often ignored your guidance and trusted our own wisdom and strength. Forgive us, Lord, and cleanse us of our sin, so that with a renewed commitment and devotion we may live in the world as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. (Silent)

* congregation standing (if able)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (adapted from Romans 6:22-23) Sue Smith

Leader: In Christ Jesus we who were once alienated from God have been brought near by the work of Christ.

People: For Christ is our peace, and he has broken down the dividing wall of hostility between us.

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

***GLORIA PATRI** #577

Glory be to the Father, and the Son,
and the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE** Sue Smith

Leader: The psalmist reminds us how good it is when brothers and sisters live in unity (133:1). Let us therefore, as God’s forgiven and renewed people, greet one another with the peace of Christ.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER Rev. Tom Ulrich

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.

READING FROM THE WORD OT, page 666 Isaiah 38:16-19

***HYMN** *Kum ba Yah* #338

READING FROM THE WORD NT, page 4 Matthew 5:21-26

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD “Before We Leave a Gift”

REFLECTIONS ON THE WORD
(Congregants are invited to share any thoughts and questions concerning today’s proclamation.)

***HYMN** *Seek Ye First* #333

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** adapted from the words of William Arthur Ward (1921-1994)

**I will do more than belong – I will participate.
I will do more than care – I will help.
I will do more than believe – I will practice.
I will do more than be fair – I will be kind.
I will do more than forgive – I will befriend.
I will do more than dream – I will work.
I will do more than teach – I will inspire.
I will do more than earn – I will enrich.
I will do more than give – I will serve.
I will do more than live – I will grow.**

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY** #428 (v.1)

We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate’er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution and Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

We have “open” communion, therefore all who desire a closer relationship with God and want to share in the love of Jesus Christ are invited to participate fully in the sacrament.

***HYMN** *Thy Word* (See Screens)

***BENEDICTION**