



Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024
10:00 a.m.

The Rev. Stephen Cramer

Mrs. Melody Chabue, Pianist

Dr. Ray Wagner, Music Director

In the Sanctuary, On Facebook Live, Parking Lot Broadcast at 88:3 FM
Soundboard/Broadcast: Mark Frost & Chris Eisenbraun
Projectionist: Jolane Day

*Indicates an invitation to stand. If you are more comfortable being seated, please do so.

Please sign the attendance pad found in each pew. If you are new to Grace, and would like information about Grace, or a visit from Pastor Steve, please include your address.

The People Gather

Prelude

The Ringing of the Bell (The bell has been used by Grace Church for many years as a means of calling all God's people to worship.)

Welcome and Announcements

We Worship the Lord in Spirit and in Truth

* **Introit**

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.

*Opening Hymn: #801

This is the Day

*Prayer of Confession and Lord's Prayer

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.

We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.

**We have not loved you with a pure heart,
nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves.**

**We have not done justice, loved kindness,
or walked humbly with you, our God.**

Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness.

**In your great compassion,
cleanse us from our sin. Amen**

Hear us as we pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

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.

* Assurance of Pardon

Minister: *Hear this gospel word: "The Lord gathers the outcasts, heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds" (Psalm 147:2b,3).*

Friends, believe the good news.

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

*Gloria Patri #807

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

We Join Our Hearts in Prayer

Prayer Hymn: #441

Softly and Tenderly

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Bell Choir:

The Gift of Love

Alleluia, Sing to Jesus

Honoring God with Our Giving

Call to Giving

Offertory

*Doxology: #808

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Hearing of the Word

Children's Sermon

Old Testament Lesson:

Psalm 22:25-31

Choral Anthem

*Gospel Reading:

Acts 8:26-40

Sermon:

Welcoming the Stranger

We Are Sent Out to Do God's Will

*Hymn: #563

Lord, I Want to be a Christian

*Benediction

*Postlude

Announcements

If you would like to reach Pastor Steve, his phone number is 330-921-1115, and e-mail is rev.stevecramer@yahoo.com.

Connie will be in the dining room after the worship service today, to accept reservations for the *Women's and Girls Spring Fling, which is next Sunday, May 5, 6:00 p.m.* You can also come into the church office and place your reservation with Marcy. Come see what all the "buzz" is about.

Do you want to go to church camp? Anyone 11 years old, or entering the 6th grade through 12th grade, is eligible to go. It is called Pilgrim Fellowship Camp at Ewing Woods, and is sponsored by the Ohio Association of Congregational Christian Churches. Camp dates are Sunday, July 7 through Saturday, July 13. Grace Church's Endowment Fund has the funds that will cover your cost of camp. If you are interested, please contact Sharon Frost at 330-719-5144.

On Tuesday, April 30 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m., the *Inaugural Columbiana Pizza Challenge* will be held at the Columbiana High School Commons Cafeteria. This challenge is presented by the Historical Society of Columbiana and Fairfield Township and the Columbiana Ministerial Association. This pizza challenge is to benefit the Historical Society's Project "Fix the Sticks" – the restoration of the historical wooden chapel in the Columbiana Cemetery. Come, taste, vote for your favorite. Tickets are available at the door.

In partnership with the Columbiana County Retired Teachers Association, we will be collecting supplies for the *Christina House*, a women and children's shelter in Lisbon. Items needed are: plastic cups and bowls for kids, 9 volt and AA batteries, toilet bowl cleaner, Windex, Mr. Clean, Comet, garbage bags (tall kitchen and trash can), hand soap (pump) and one gallon freezer bags. Please place your items in the designated box in the dining hall by *May 12*. Thanks for your kindness!

Our last *Drive-Thru Rigatoni Dinner* of the spring will be Tuesday, May 21, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. We will need a morning prep crew, afternoon serving crew, cake bakers and customers, or course. We had a great turn out last month. Let's make this one even better! As always, thank you!

A Pizza Party is planned for Pastor Charles Sagay, of the Mission School of Hope, on Sunday, May 26, 6:00 p.m. If you plan on attending, there is a sign-up sheet in the dining hall. This will give us an idea of how much pizza to buy. Come and enjoy some fellowship with Pastor Sagay.