

ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am

Prelude “America the Beautiful” *FSJ Bell Choir*
Cheri Sergent, director

Ringing of the Bell

Opening Hymn “What Wondrous Love Is This” No. 666

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Just as God’s work of creation never ends, so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day. Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism.

(The water is poured into the baptismal fount.)

P: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life: for water to bathe in, water to drink, for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder, for water that gives life to our planet.

C: We give thanks, O God, for the waters of life.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place: for water from the faucet, for rain and snow, for the Maumee River, Lake Erie, and all the smaller creeks and streams.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.

P: We give you thanks for your salvation through water: for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters, for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom, for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought, for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land, for quenching the Samaritan woman’s thirst with living water.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for your salvation through water.

P: We give your thanks for the life of the baptized, for all who worship in your name, for godparents and baptismal sponsors, for children and grandchildren, for our brothers and sisters in Christ whom we have never seen but to whom we are bound.

C: We give you thanks, O God for the life of all baptized.

P: We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit: for our entry into Jesus’ death through these waters; for our new birth into a life of forgiveness of sin, redemption and service; for our calling to be your people, and for being sent out as the body of Christ for the life of the world.

C: We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity (+) now and forever. Amen.

Hymn “We are Baptized in Christ Jesus” v. 1-2 No. 451
(printed below)

We are baptized in Christ Jesus, we are baptized in his death; that as Christ is raised victorious, we might live a brand new life. And if we have been united in a dreadful death like his, we will all be reunited, for he lives.

In the water and the witness, in the breaking of the bread, in the waiting arms of Jesus who is risen from the dead, God has made a new beginning from the ashes of our past; in the losing and the winning we hold fast.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share the peace of the Lord.

The congregation may greet one another by shaking hands, fist bumping, or any other form of greeting with the words, “Peace be with you.” We conclude the sharing of the peace by singing:

Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son, glory to the Holy Spirit, ever three and ever one; as it was in the beginning, glory now resounds again in a song that has no ending. Amen

The Greeting and Prayer

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us Pray. O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Announcements

Special Music “The Battle Hymn of the Republic”
FSJ Bell Choir
Cheri Sergent, director

Introduction

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of

holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

FIRST READING: Revelation 21:1-6

John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 148 - Congregation responds in **BOLD**.

¹ Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;

praise him in the heights!

² **Praise him, all his angels;**

praise him, all his host!

³ Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴ **Praise him, you highest heavens,**

and you waters above the heavens!

⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for he commanded and they were created.

⁶ **He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,

⁸ **fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

⁹ Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰ **Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!**

¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹² **Young men and women alike,
old and young together!**

¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;

his glory is above earth and heaven.

¹⁴ **He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,**

for the people of Israel who are close to him.

Praise the LORD!

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation *(sung by the congregation)*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Announcement

P: The Gospel according to St. John Chapter 13.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 13:31-35

After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Pastor Rayl

Sermon Hymn *"Where Charity and Love Prevail"* No. 359

(Please stand)

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Please be seated)

The Offering

Musical Offertory

Dr. Anthony Pattin

Offering Prayer

P: Merciful God, our ordinary gifts seem small, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world.

C: Amen.

Pastoral Prayer *(Each petition concludes with this response)*

P: Hear us, O Lord,

C: your mercy is great.

The Lord's Prayer *(prayed by all)*

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 trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

P: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, (+) Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn *"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"* No. 367

Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Dr. Anthony Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Bob Haar
Sherrie Haar

READER

Bob Haar

SOUND BOARD

Mark Ackerman

A NEW WAY TO GIVE AT FSJ!

We now offer an even easier way to tithe or give to First St. John. You can now scan the QR code below or go to:
<https://secure.myvanco.com/YKCE/home>
To setup one-time, or regularly scheduled offerings and designate your gifts to specific funds.

You can also download the FREE Vanco Mobile App available for Apple and Android phones. Follow the instructions in the app to set-up your offering with First St. John.

Don't worry! We still will continue to accept offerings in forms of cash or check in the offering plate or mailed to the church office: 2471 Seaman St., Toledo, Ohio 43605.



ONLINE GIVING

Scan the QR code
or
go to



www.firststjohn.com
Navigate to the 'Donate' Tab

**GRADUATE RECOGNITION
SUNDAY**

June 15, 2025



We will publicly acknowledge all our graduates from high school and college at our worship service on Sunday, June 15th. Please plan on having your graduate attend this service as all graduates will be recognized. If you know of a graduate, please complete this form and drop it in the offering plate, mail it to the church office, or fax this page to 419-691-7220 by Monday, June 2nd.

NAME OF GRADUATE

GRADUATED FROM

DEGREE EARNED

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

FUTURE PLANS (SCHOOL, WORK, ETC.):

YES, WE PLAN TO BE AT THE SERVICE: _____

May 18, 2025

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

All God's All One

The first Christians, like Jesus and his closest followers, were Jewish. Many of them believed that if non-Jews were to be baptized, they would have to agree to live according to the basics of Jewish law. Peter's vision converted him to a radically new way of thinking about this. It is not that the formerly unclean must take on the characteristics of the clean; it's that "clean" and "unclean" have lost their distinctions in the full splendor of God's creation.

There was a popular creation account in ancient Israel in which God was said to have defeated and destroyed the great sea monster, a symbol of chaos, to make way for the order of creation (see Psalm 74:12-17). In Psalm 148, however, every last created thing joins in a common chorus of praise: the domestic animals and the wild ones, the clean and the unclean, all the different peoples of the world, even the sea monsters. As Peter discovered, God does not play favorites; God is equally concerned for all creation.

If the Holy Spirit dwells in those we consider "other" as well as in us, then we don't have to rely only on the power of our own love. Instead, we discover, as Peter and Cornelius did, that we are already connected by the Spirit who lives in each of us, making us one as Jesus and the Father are one. This is the grace that undergirds Jesus' new commandment. We are not asked to love one another by our own heroic efforts; we are invited to discover the Love that already connects us more deeply than common culture or genes. Since we, like the early Christians, find ourselves to be connected in the Spirit to truly different people, we can join them in praising God for this wide embrace.