



Follow Me

Written by Donna Schaper

"After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up, left everything, and followed him." - Luke 5:27-32

The W-2 forms are filling up the mailboxes. The IRS is on its way to its annual collection – and we are on our way to our annual grumpy submission. I happen to love paying taxes, as I think they are the best way to redistribute wealth. I know I am weird.

Before I explain why I love taxes, let me explain my problem with people who hate them. When we hate taxes, we move deep into the land of individualism. That land is dry and dull – but much of our cultural economy likes the neighborhood. The next stop on the train to the land of individualism is loneliness. Again, many like to live there. Some move back to the human race when their loneliness turns to that bitter complaint, "It is all up to me." That cry of anguish comes straight from the decision to hate taxes.

We are watching an unprecedented unraveling of the social safety net. Security is no longer social; it is individual. It is all up to you, when the social safety net unravels. For those of you who can make it on your own, hoorah. For those of us who can't – the lame, the blind, the unlucky, the weak, the 200's on the SAT – hoorah as well. At least we aren't lonely. At least we are weird enough to like taxes and help each other.

Prayer

O God, when we are like Levi and invited by you to let go of our individual security on behalf of something more beautiful and fun, help us to say yes. Amen.

Mission Statement:

***God calls us to live our faith as disciples
Sharing the love of God revealed through Christ
In the community and the world.***

Pilgrim United Church of Christ Staff

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Acolyte: *Thank You!*
Altar Flowers: x

Greeters: *Everyone present today!*
Ushers: *Thank You!*
PowerPoint: *Thank You!*

Liturgist: *Dan Gerstenberger*
Fellowship: *Team #3*
Steeple Lighting: *"In memory of June & Gene Harmon." - Elise Harmon & Kim Ray*

Pilgrim United Church of Christ

A Caring Church for Thinking People

130 Broad Blvd † Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221 † 330.928.4847
www.pilgrimcf.org †



Sunday, January 21, 2018



The Time Has Come

Rev. Kirk Bruce

Pilgrim United Church of Christ
A Caring Church for Thinking People
Sunday, January 21, 2018 † The Baptism of Christ

THE PRELUDE *Jesus I Will Ponder Now* Johann Gottfried

*HYMN (Red Hymnal) *He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought* No. 370

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 62)

One: In You alone, O Lord, we find our divine rest.

All: You are our rock, our salvation, our fortress.

One: In You we trust, in You we put our hope.

All: For You are loving and guiding. Speak to us and lead us on this journey called life.

*THE INVOCATION, OUR LORD'S PRAYER (Unison) Dan Gerstenberger

O Lord, we come to you this day seeking your touch, your blessing, your loving guidance. For all who come with questions, give them answers. For all who come with doubts, assure them. For all who come with praises, celebrate together. With your loving touch, lead us today and everyday. Hear us now as we pray together the prayer your Son taught us, "Our Father . . . "[debt, debtors]

*THE GLORIA PATRI (Red Hymnal) No. 513

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD AND EACH OTHER

*GREETING EACH OTHER IN CHRIST

OUR LIFE TOGETHER Rev. Kirk W. Bruce

CHILDREN'S SERMON Rev. Kirk W. Bruce
Faith Focus *Easter: Jesus Calls His Disciples* Marilyn Freeman

ANTHEM: *Be Still and Know* Steven Curtis Chapman
Pilgrim Choir

***all who are able may stand**

WE GIVE TO GOD

AN OFFERTORY INVITATION

THE OFFERTORY *Turn Thee to Me* Antonin Dvorak

*THE DOXOLOGY (Red Hymnal) No. 515

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CALL TO PRAYER

(Black Hymnal) *What A Friend We Have in Jesus (verse 1)* No. 506

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

THE MORNING PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE

*HYMN (Black Hymnal) *Blessed Assurance* No. 473

GOD GIVES TO US

SCRIPTURES Jonah 3:1 - 10 (page 814) Dan Gerstenberger
I Corinthians 7:29 - 31 (page 149); Mark 1:14 - 20 (page 30)

SERMON *The Time Has Come* Rev. Kirk W. Bruce

WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH SERVICE

*HYMN (Red Hymnal) *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* No. 348

*THE BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Spirit Song* John Wimber
(*We invite you to join hands as we sing*)

Oh, let the Son of God enfold you with His spirit and His love. Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul. Oh, let Him have the things that hold you, and His Spirit like a dove Will descend upon your life and make you whole. He'll descend upon you life and make you whole.

POSTLUDE *Andente Con Muto* Johann Erasmus Kindermann

SIGN-IN

There are worship pads on each pew in the sanctuary.
 We joyfully welcome all visitors! Please join us again!
 Please sign in to let us know you are worshipping with us today.
 We are so glad You are Worshiping with Pilgrim United Church of Christ!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pray for:

A couple with financial issues.
 Don's health.
 Carl's healing from cancer.
 A member trying to adjust to additional health issues & not give up on life.
 Peace of the world and the calming of those who threaten God's people and all people.
 Calm the politics of the day with your peace.
 The world and all its people. May we all trust God and do his will. Grant us peace and love.
 Our public servants, first responders and medical personnel.
 Those with weaken immune systems during this flu season.
 The homeless.
 People dealing with depression.
 Everyone to have the ability to forgive and learn to trust again.



2018 Sign-up Sheets are in the Social Hall on Clip Boards.

Pilgrim United Church of Christ's Annual Meeting takes place . . .

TODAY Sunday, January 21st at 11:30 am

A light lunch will be served after the worship service in the Social Hall.
 Many important changes to be made aware of.



Save the Date: February 11, 2018 after Church

Pancake Lunch and Mardi Gras Celebration

Ministry Opportunity – Don't you just love all those cute little ones that come up for the Children's Sermons? Wouldn't you just LOVE to get to know them better?

Well - Faith Focus can provide that wonderful experience! From time to time we just need an extra hand or two to fill in on any given Sunday. Lessons are all planned out & all the necessary pieces/parts are ready to go. The plans can be sent to you ahead of time. If you would like to sit in on a session or two to get familiar with the kids and the process, please feel free to join us.

See Marilyn Freeman if you are interested.

CALENDAR

Sunday, January 21, 2018

9:00 a.m. Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal, Heritage Room
 10:30 a.m. Worship Service - Rev. Kirk Bruce, Sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Light Lunch & Annual Meeting, Social Hall

Monday, January 22, 2018

5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Summit County Teen Institute, Social Hall
 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #840, A.T.T.I.C.

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

10:30 a.m. Bible Study, Adult Library
 6:30 - 8:15 p.m. Knit & Crochet, Rev. Greene Room
 8:00 p.m. Fellowship of the Spirit Alcoholics Anonymous (FOTS AA), Heritage Room

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

2:15 - 9:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Violin & Cello Lessons,
 Adult Library, Children's Library, & Nursery
 6:00 p.m. Hand Bell Rehearsal, Music Room
 7:00 p.m. Bible Study, Heritage Room

Thursday, January 25, 2018

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack #3186 Meeting, Social Hall
 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Emotions Anonymous, Adult Library

Friday, January 26, 2018

Saturday, January 27, 2018

11:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Cello Lessons,
 Children's Library
 8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Social Hall

Sunday, January 28, 2018

9:00 a.m. Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal, Heritage Room
 10:30 a.m. Worship Service - Rev. Kirk Bruce, Sanctuary
 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour—Team #4, Social Hall

Monday, January 29, 2018

Please Turn Electronic Devices To Silent
Thank You!