

First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

April 6, 2025

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE *Adagio for Strings* Samuel Barber, arr. Wm. Strickland
Eric J. Gastier, organ

WELCOME Reverend David Rice

MINISTRY FOCUS Earth Care Team Nicholette Rogers

CHORAL INTROIT *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* ROCKINGHAM

*CALL TO WORSHIP + Diana Rice

One: We come to worship because we long for mercy.

All: We long for community. We long for God.

One: We come to worship because we need a good word.

All: We need connection. We need moral reminders.

One: We come to worship because we are in between:

All: Hope and Grief, Faith and Doubt, Joy and Longing, Curiosity, and Conviction.

One: So, we come to worship and God meets us here. Surely, we are not alone.

All: Thanks be to God for meeting us in the middle! Amen

*PRAYER

Loving God, as people called to seek justice in our time and place, sometimes we forget that call also includes practicing care and humility. In our efforts to live better and do right by one another, we all have the right to start somewhere . . . Change and transformation can happen anywhere and at any time. May we be reminded that your Spirit nudges us to become learners and grow, rather than become hardened and bitter. Help us dwell in the space between accountability and compassion, justice and grace, righteousness and mercy. Humbly we pray.
Amen

*HYMN 31 *Let Us with a Gladsome Mind* MONKLAND

PRAYER OF CONFESSION +

One: Friends, our faith calls us to live with both mercy and righteousness. Somewhere along the way, however, we have forgotten that truth. Somewhere along the way, we began arguing about who deserves mercy and whether or not they had acted with enough righteousness to receive it. Fortunately, God does not act that way. No matter what mistakes we have made or wrong turns we've taken, God consistently meets us with mercy and invites us to try again.

So let us lean into that good news, and go to God in prayer:

**All: Merciful God, when we fail to be righteous, show us mercy.
When we fail to be merciful, show us what is right.
Again and again, bring us closer to you.
Again and again, show us the way.**

Here each worshipper may offer personal, silent prayer.

Gracious God, hear our prayers. **Amen**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

Family of faith, hear and believe this good news:
When we fail to be righteous, God is merciful.
When we fail to be merciful, God invites us to try again.
Again and again, God moves closer to us.
Again and again, God shows us the way.
Thanks be to God for this unending love. **Amen**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you . . . **And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Amy Baxstrom

ANTHEM

Jesu, the Very Thought of Thee
(text: St. Bernard of Clairvaux, 12th Century)

SCRIPTURE

Luke 19:1-10

Pew Bible page 77

SERMON

Reverend Erin Guzmán, Henry J. Copeland Interfaith Chaplain, College of Wooster

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

Through our monetary gifts, we offer something of our work and ourselves to God.

OFFERTORY *Andante un poco Adagio*, from 'Clarinet Sonata I in f-moll' Johannes Brahms
Paul Zito, clarinet and Eric Gastier, piano

*DOXOLOGY 607

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen**

MINISTRY FOCUS

One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering

Diana Rice

*HYMN 515

I Come with Joy

DOVE OF PEACE

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Allegro, from 'Organ Concerto in d-moll'

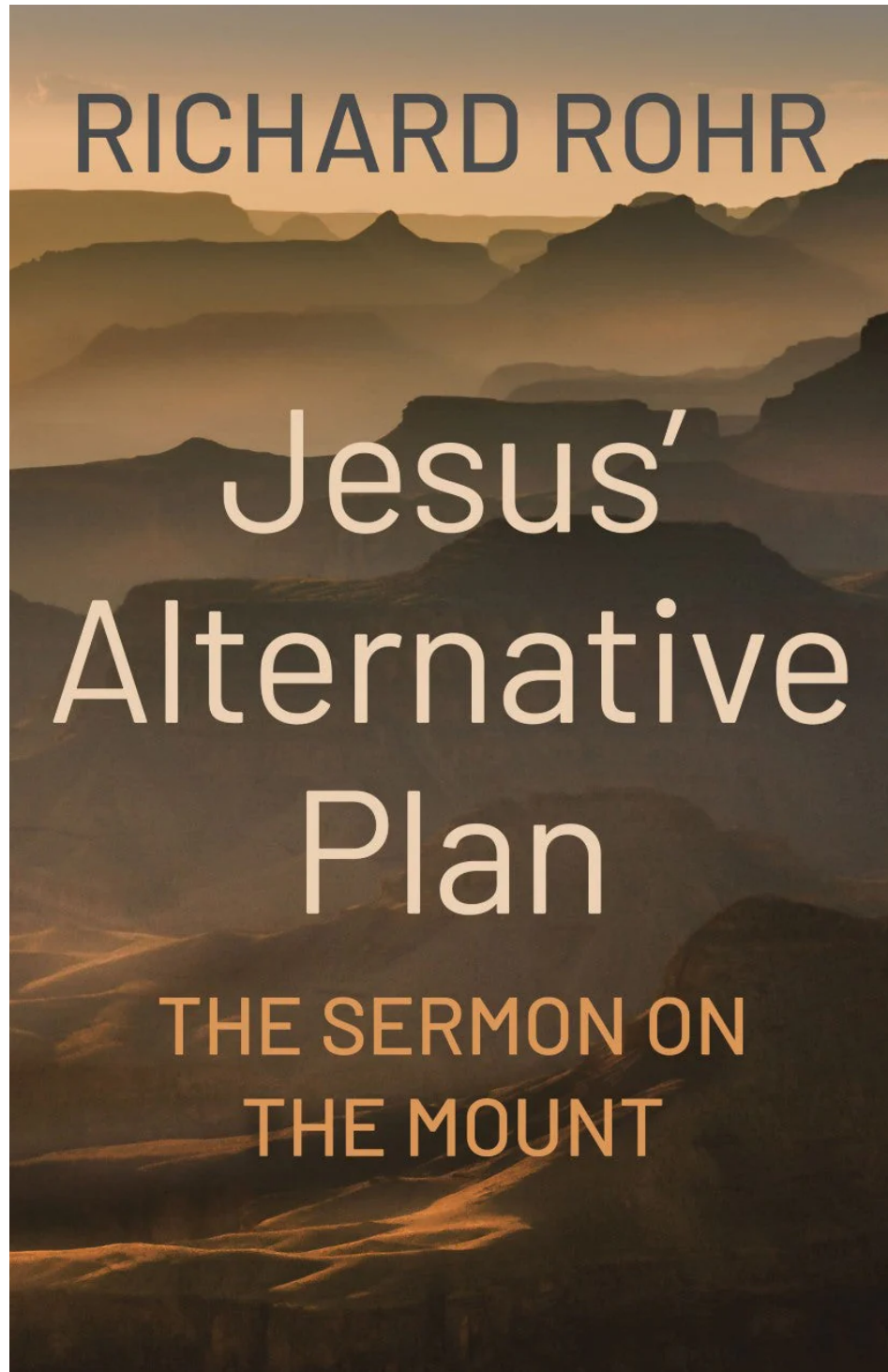
G. F. Handel

* Asterisk indicates places in the service to stand. ~ Opening Prayer written by Rev. Erin Guzmán.

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Chancel Flowers are given today by Mimi Lewellen in gratefulness for the beauty of the earth.

**Final Great Decisions Lecture in Gault Recital Hall, College of Wooster,
at 7:30 pm on Thursday, April 10:
*The Geopolitics of the Energy Transition.***



The Adult Education class will begin a study on the Sermon on the Mount through the book titled “Jesus’ Alternative Plan” by Richard Rohr. Copies can be purchased online but are not necessary.