



8005 Pfeiffer Road | Montgomery, OH 45242 | 513.791.3142

cos-umc.org

August 30, 2026 | 11:00 | Traditional Worship

ENTER INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

Assisted listening devices are available in the sound booth.

PRELUDE

Prelude in D Major

Music by William Boyce

† CALL TO WORSHIP

† Indicates the congregation should stand.

L: Come into the presence of the God of truth, who desires honesty in our inner hearts.

P: We gather to praise the One whose word is always reliable and faithful.

L: God commands us to speak truthfully, guarding the reputation and dignity of our neighbors.

P: Forgive us for the times our words have wounded, distorted, or remained silent when truth was needed.

L: Let us lay aside all gossip, deceit, and false testimony, choosing instead the path of integrity.

P: We come to worship in spirit and truth, eager to let our words bring life to the world.

† PROCESSIONAL HYMN 660

God Is Here

ABBOT'S LEIGH

† PRAYER

God of truth and grace, we come before You today with words of praise and worship. As we worship, make us aware that You can guard our lips when we may want to distort the truth, pass along gossip, or damage the reputations of Your beloved children. Purify our hearts so that everything we say in this sanctuary, in our homes, and on our devices reflects Your absolute honesty and deep love. May our worship today align our voices with Your heart so that our lives become a true testimony to Your goodness. We pray in the name of the One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.

† PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Welcome each other. Welcome the stranger. Welcome all who come. As Christ welcomes everyone, let us open our hearts and homes and lives. Let us be Christ to everyone we meet. Now greet one another as a sign of God's peace.

L: The peace of Christ is here among us.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Covenant Choir

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Music by Erik Dewar

I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world; the star of my life is Jesus. In Him there is no darkness at all; the night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God: Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus. I want to see the brightness of God; I want to look at Jesus. Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. I'm looking for the coming of Christ; I want to be with Jesus. When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.

LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

CALL TO THE WORD

The commandment not to bear false witness reaches far beyond a formal courtroom setting; it calls us to total integrity in how we handle information, perceptions, and the dignity of others. We violate this boundary whenever we pass along unverified gossip, amplify half-truths on digital media, assassinate someone's character through casual remarks, or stay silent when a lie harms our neighbor. Living out this

commandment means choosing to be safe harbors for the reputation of others and actively dismantling falsehoods in our communities. Ultimately, it challenges us to cultivate a culture of radical trust and transparency, ensuring that our words always align with God's heart of justice and love.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 20:1-4a, 7-10a, 12-16

¹Then God spoke all these words, ²"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴"You shall not make for yourself an idol... ⁷"You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸"Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work...¹²"Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. ¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵You shall not steal. ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Illusion or Reality?

Regan Smither

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF RESPONSE 399

Take My Life, and Let It Be

MESSIAH
vv. 1, 2

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

OFFERTORY

Minuet in E-Flat Major

Music by G. F. Handel

† DOXOLOGY

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 DEDICATION

Almighty God, as we come before You with our offerings, we are reminded of our constant need for You in our lives. You are our provider, our sustainer, and our strength. Without You, we are nothing. May these gifts be a symbol of our dependence on You, acknowledging that all we have comes from Your hand. Help us to rely on You more fully in every aspect of our lives, trusting in Your unfailing love and care. We ask this in the name of Christ Who taught to pray:

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. Amen.

GO FORTH WITH GOD'S BLESSING

† RECESSIONAL HYMN 402

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

† BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

Rondeau

Music by Jean Francois Dandrieu

IN WORSHIP TODAY

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are given by Sam and Susan Varghese in celebration of their daughter Tina's birthday.

A rosebud is placed on the altar to celebrate the birth of Eleanor Violet Mitchell, born on August 10, 2026, to Meagan and Johnathon Mitchell. Grandmother is Kelly Cooper.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Markus Wegenast, *Senior Pastor*

Regan Smither, *Youth Director*

Mary Stapleton, *Acolyte*

Samuel Yuhas, Leslie Bricker, *Lay Readers*

Joe Galyon, *Director of Worship and Arts*

Covenant Choir, Gayley Hautzenroeder (cello), and George Stapleton (piano), *Musicians*

David Eberhardt, *Director of Contemporary Worship*

TELL US YOU'RE HERE

Thank you for worshipping with us. Please use the yellow communication sheet or this QR code to tell us you are here and to share prayer requests. If worshipping online, use [this link](#).



See www.cos-umc.org for more information about our ministries.