

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 17, 2021

Second Sunday after Epiphany

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ"

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Joyce Fusner

(L) The one who calls you together this day yearns for each of you to hear and be blessed.

(P) Speak Lord, for your servants are listening.

(L) Blessed is the One who comes bringing trustworthy words for healing of the world.

(P) Speak Lord, for your servants are listening.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Joyce Fusner

(L) You invite us, O God, to live in your ways,
and you give us to each other to know and to love
as we journey in this life.
Show us your will for all creation.
Help us listen to your urgings with prayerful hearts
so that we may honor what you have made,
in the name of the holy Triune God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

***OPENING SONG**

Behold Our God

*Who has held the oceans in His hands? Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice. All creation rises to rejoice.
Who has given counsel to the Lord? Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things? Who can fathom all his wondrous deeds?*

CHORUS: *Behold our God, seated on His throne. Come, let us adore Him.
Behold our King, nothing can compare, come, let us adore Him!*

*Who has felt the nails upon His hands, bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave, Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign! (CHORUS)*

You will reign forever. You will reign forever. (4x) (CHORUS)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God you see into each of us and know us fully
as creatures in need of your constant care.
We confess that we have neither adhered to your Word
nor followed your will.**

**We have failed our nations, neighbors, families, friends, and ourselves.
Give us ears to hear your wisdom.**

**Lead us to honest and faith so that we may begin again
with renewed strength in Jesus' name. AMEN.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***ACT OF PRAISE #136**

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity.*

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Staci Gower

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

The Old Testament Lesson: 1 Samuel 3: 1-20

Joyce Fusner

1 Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. **2** At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; **3** the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. **4** Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" **5** and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. **6** The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." **7** Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. **8** The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. **9** Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. **10** Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

11 Then the Lord said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. **12** On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. **13** For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. **14** Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever." **15** Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. **16** But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." **17** Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." **18** So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him." **19** As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. **20** And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

***The Gloria Tibi:** *Glory be to thee, O Lord*

***The Gospel:** John 1: 43-51

43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." **44** Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. **45** Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." **46** Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

47 When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" **48** Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." **49** Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" **50** Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." **51** And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

***Laus Tibi:** *Praise be to thee, O Christ*

SERMON

"Whom do we Follow?"

The Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope

***HYMN**

Have Thine Own Way Lord

*I am Thine, O Lord; I have heard Thy voice, and it told Thy love to me.
But I long to rise in the arms of faith and be closer drawn to Thee.*

CHORUS: *Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to the cross where Thou hast died.
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to Thy precious, bleeding side.*

*Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord, by the power of grace divine.
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope, and my will be lost in Thine. (CHORUS)*

*There are depths of love that I cannot know till I cross the narrow sea;
There are heights of joy that I may not reach till I rest in peace with Thee. (CHORUS-2x)*

Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to Thy precious, bleeding side.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother, and to whose deeds we testify: God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death. God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord; God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races.

God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in passion and victory.

God promises to all who trust in the gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God. AMEN.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

*CLOSING HYMN

He Leadeth Me

*He leadeth me! O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where e'er I be, Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.*

(CHORUS) *He leadeth me, He leadeth me; By His own hand He leadeth me:
His faithful follower I would be, For by His hand He leadeth me!*

*Lord, I would clasp Thy hand in mine, Nor ever murmur nor repine,
Content, whatever lot I see, Since 'tis Thy hand that leadeth me. (CHORUS)*

*And when my task on earth is done, When, by Thy grace, the victory's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee, Since God thro' Jordan leadeth me! (CHORUS)*

He leadeth me! He leadeth me! He leadeth me!

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE#231

*Arise your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.*

*POSTLUDE

*(*Please stand in body or spirit.)*

St. Matthews United Church of Christ

102 Church St, Kunkletown, PA 18058

610-381-2442, stmatts@ptd.net

Pastor: The Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope

Music Director: Mr. Daniel Smale

Office Manager: Mrs. Rose Arace

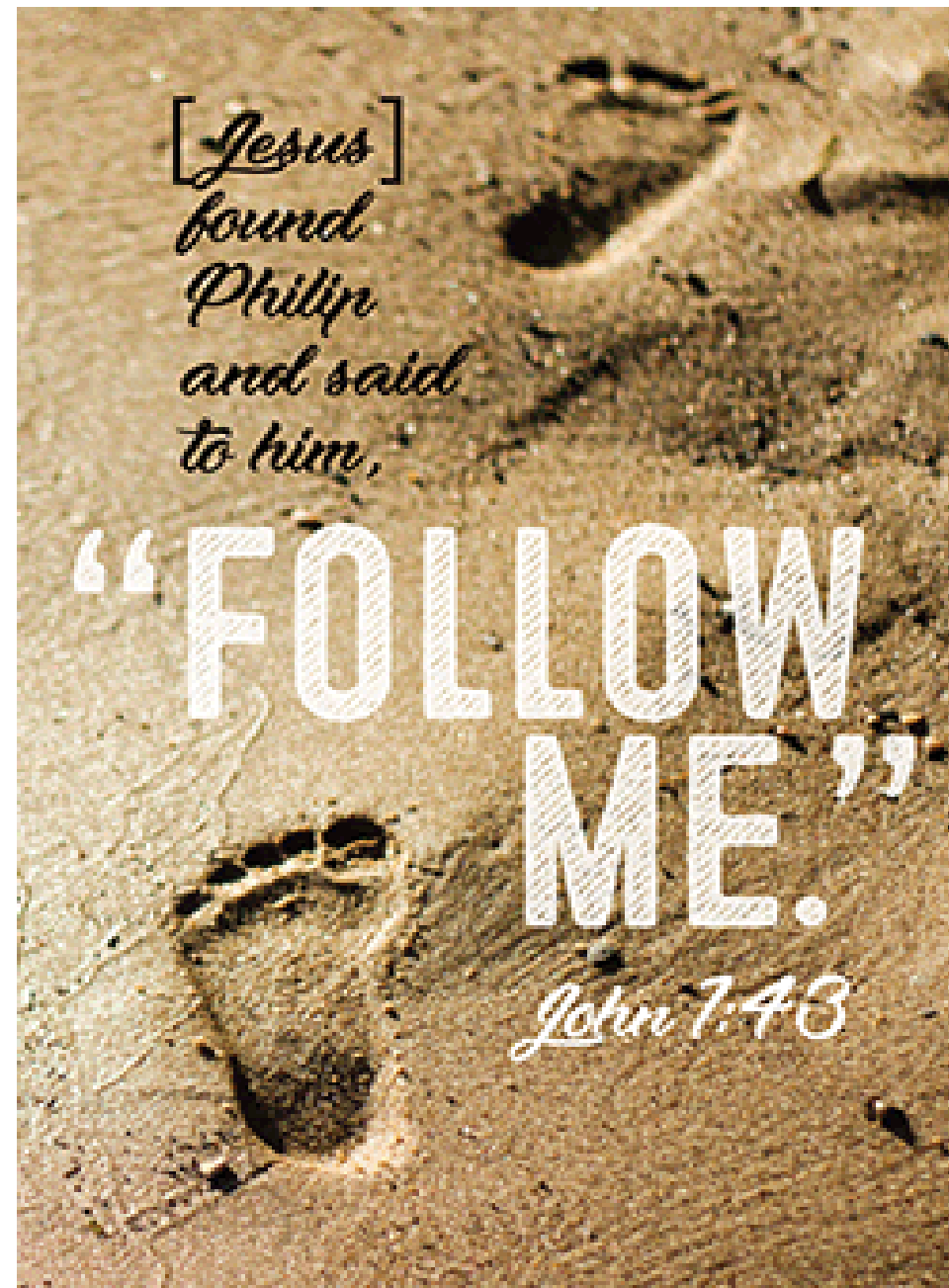
Coordinator of Spiritual Formation: Mrs. Staci Gower

Council President: Ms. Cheryl Dorshimer

Sunday Worship, 9 AM, Adult Sunday School 10:30 am

Children's Sunday School is Virtual at

www.stmattsucckunkletown.com





As I prepare my heart for worship today, I pray like young Samuel: "Speak, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:10).

This Week Ahead

Table with 3 columns: Day, Activity, Location/Time. Rows include Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday with various activities like Worship, Prayer Service, and Exercise Group.

Prayer Concerns

Joyce Smith, Shirley Borger, McCoy Rapa, Doug Hawk, Dale and Gladys Meixsell, Eliza Dymond, Lorraine Borger, Janet Gower, Grace Everett, Alton and Lila Kleintop, Gladys Lindenmoyer, Jesse Ziegenfus, Erica Pozza, George Keller, Rosemarie Stranahan, Shirley Smith, Andrea Holec, Chapman Buskirk, Brayden Wunder, Kelly George, Kim Cope, Josh & Kevin Engler, Mae Borger, and the Families of Marlena Gilboy (C. Andrew's daughter) and Bill Clausen

Today's Ushers:

Cheryl Dorshimer and Jennie Rose Serfass

Next Week's Ushers:

R J Cramer and Harry Koehler
This Week's Acolyte: Ally Pfanckoek
Next Week's Acolyte: Jake Procita

away from others not in your household! If you are not feeling well or running a fever, please stay home.

Offering Envelopes for 2021 are available for pick up in the Gathering Room. Because of COVID19, many of our members are not worshipping in person. Please pick up the boxes for your family members and neighbors and drop them off for us. Thank You!

Thank you to all who donated to help a church member out with car repairs. The cost of the transmission will be higher than originally expected. If anyone would like to donate, gifts can be given to St. Matthews UCC and earmarked for "Grandma." If we receive more funds than we need, they will be placed in our Community Outreach fund which and will help another member in need. Thank You for your gifts.



Churches involved with PVEN will be leading a Virtual Prayer Service during the Week of Christian Unity on January 19th at 3 pm. The theme for the 2021 is "Abide in My Love...You Shall Bear Much Fruit." It was discerned by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland and finds its origins in the Gospel of John (cf. John 15:1-17). "Jesus gave his life for all out of his love for all," said Fr. James Loughran, SA, Director of Graymoor Ecumenical

& Interreligious Institute (GEII). "To abide in his love reminds us that we live in a community celebrating our gift of unity." The service will be livestreamed from Our Lady Queen of Peace and may be watched live on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/QOPChurch or Youtube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0xs2e2seGGLXIDLRYHAP3g and will be recorded so you can also watch it at a later time with a link placed on our website.

Pastor Suzanne will be starting a new Bible Study soon using Zoom. If you are interested, please email her at sbcstmts@ptd.net. She wants to get feedback about possible topics. Also, if you are interested in participating but are unable to use Zoom, let her know. She may offer a hybrid class.

Congratulations go to Cheryl Dorshimer, our new Council President, Jennie Rose Serfass, our new Council Vice President and Shirley Brotzman who was elected once again to be the Council's secretary. We thank them for their willingness to accept this commitment.

Transmission of COVID19 is on the rise in our area. Don't forget to wear a mask at all times when inside the building and to keep 6 feet



FACE MASK REQUIRED