

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 27, 2020

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ."

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

(L) Praise the LORD who is our provider.

(P) The LORD is our hope. Our trust is in God.

(L) God brought us out of bondage and has made us free.

(P) The LORD is our hope. Our trust is in God.

(L) Glorious are the deeds of our God and mighty are his acts

(P) The LORD is our hope. Our trust is in God.

OPENING PRAYER

(L) Gracious God, we thank you for being present with us on this fall morning. We know that we are never alone. Your mercies have been faithful and rich. Pour out your Spirit upon us that we might do the work of your will, for your authority holds sway over us and we follow you. In the name of our Triune God we pray,
AMEN.

OPENING SONG *We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise*

*We bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord,
We bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord.
And we offer up to You the sacrifices of thanksgiving,
And we offer up to You the sacrifices of joy! (Repeat)*

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God, we have been wandering in the wilderness of sin.
We have complained in the face of your mercy.
We have been selfish and arrogant in the face of your sacrifice.
We have not done your will. Teach us humility. Teach us gratitude.
Infuse your spirit into our beings so that we might be reconciled to you.
In Jesus' name we pray. AMEN.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE #63

*Give to our God immortal praise; Mercy and truth are all his ways.
Wonders of grace to God belong; repeat his mercies in your song.*

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Madison Shelby, daughter of Kara (Frable) Salerno

Presentation

Profession of Faith

(L) Do you believe in God the Father Almighty?

**(P) I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

(L) Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**(P) 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

(L) Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**(P) I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. AMEN**

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Baptism

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Staci Gower

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

The Epistle Lesson: Philippians 2: 1-13

1 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, 2 make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. 5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,
8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death
— even death on a cross.

9 Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. **12** Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; **13** for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 21: 23-32

23 When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" **24** Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. **25** Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, "From heaven,' he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?' **26** But if we say, "Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." **27** So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

28 "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' **29** He answered, "I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. **30** The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir'; but he did not go. **31** Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. **32** For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

THE MESSAGE

"Whom do you follow?"

The Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope

HYMN

Ancient of Days

*Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto the Ancient of Days;
From every nation, all of creation, bow before the Ancient of Days.
Every tongue in heaven and earth shall declare Your glory,
Every knee shall bow at Your throne in worship.
You will be exalted, O God, and Your kingdom shall not pass away,
O Ancient of Days. (Repeat)*

*Your kingdom shall reign over all the earth, sing unto the Ancient of Days.
For none can compare to Your matchless worth, sing unto the Ancient of Days.*

*Every tongue in heaven and earth shall declare Your glory,
Every knee shall bow at Your throne in worship.
You will be exalted, O God, and Your kingdom shall not pass*

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

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 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

HYMN

Trust and Obey

*When we walk with the Lord In the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.*

CHORUS: *Trust and obey, For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey.*

*Not a burden we bear, Not a sorrow we share, But our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief nor a loss, Not a frown nor a cross, But is blest if we trust and obey.*

CHORUS

*But we never can prove The delights of His love Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favor He shows And the joy He bestows Are for them who will trust and obey.*

CHORUS

*Then in fellowship sweet We will sit at His feet, Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do, Where He sends we will go; Never fear, only trust and obey.*
CHORUS (2x)

CHARGE AND BLESSING

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Go now in peace; never be afraid, God will go with you each hour of every day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know He will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe, reach out to others, so all the world can see. God will be there, watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith and in love. Amen, Amen, Amen.

POSTLUDE

(When you leave, please practice social distancing.)

St. Matthew's United Church of Christ

Worship, 9 am Sundays in the Grove; 105.5 FM

102 Church Rd, Kunkletown, PA 18058

610-381-2442, stmatts@ptd.net

Pastor: The Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope sbcstmmts@ptd.net

Music Director: Mr. Daniel Smale

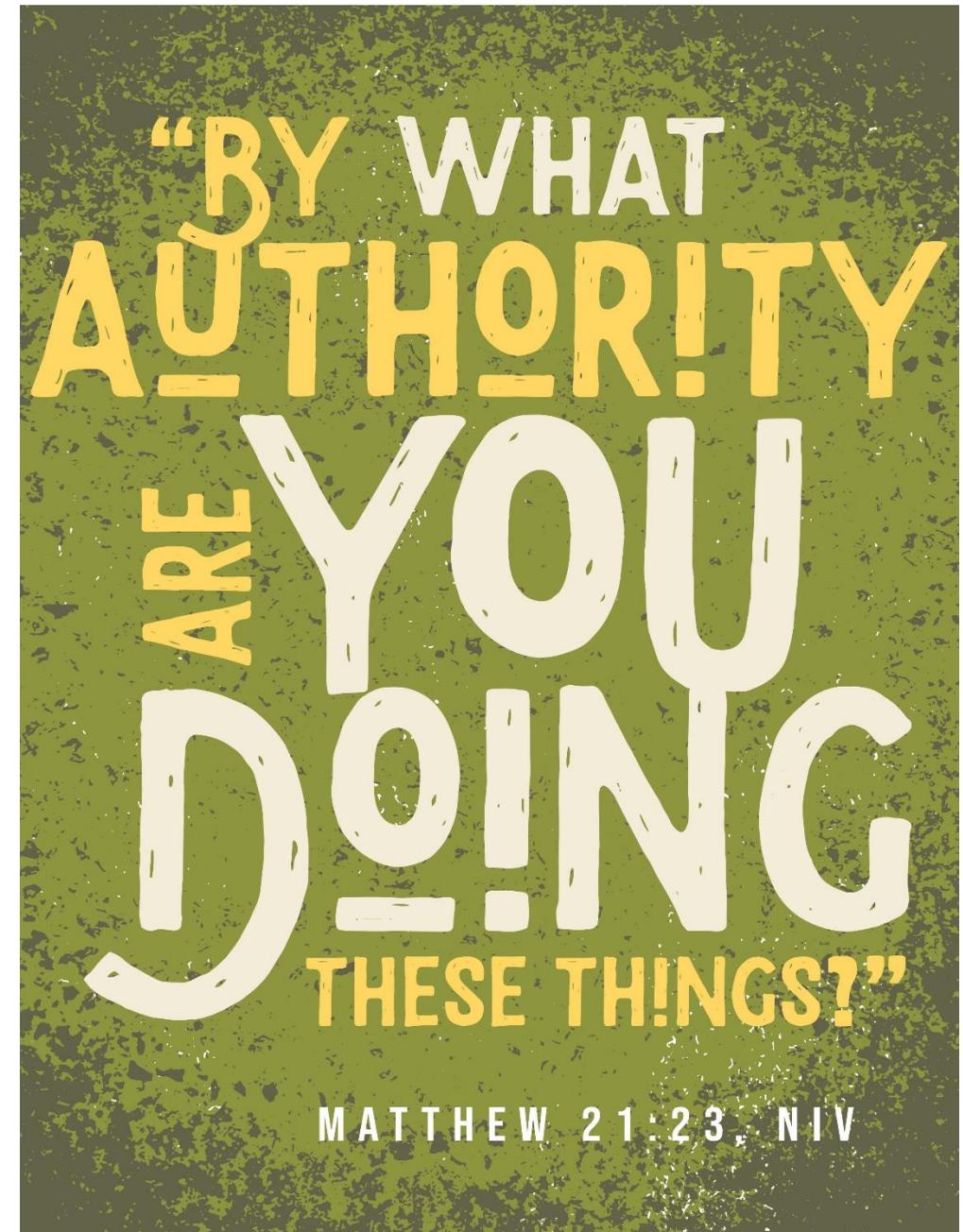
Coordinator of Spiritual Formation: Mrs. Staci Gower

Office Manager: Mrs. Rose Arace

Council President: Mr. George Huber

www.stmattsucckunkletown.com

A Faithful Family reaching out to serve Christ.





“When we long for life without difficulties, remind us that oaks grow strong in contrary winds and diamonds are made under pressure. —Peter Marshall

This Week Ahead

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|-------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Sunday, September 27 | Worship in the Grove | -Grove, 9 am |
| Monday, September 28 | | -Office Open 9am-1 pm |
| | Exercise Group | -Gathering Room, 1 pm |
| | Matthew Bible Study | -Stage Classroom, 6 pm |
| Tuesday, September 29 | Confirmation Class | -Social Hall, 4-6 pm |
| Wednesday, September 30 | | -Office Open 9am-1pm |
| | Exercise Group | -Gathering Room, 1 pm |
| Friday, October 2 | | -Office Open 9am-1pm |
| Sunday, October 4 | Worship in the Grove | -Grove, 9 am |
| | <i>World Communion Sunday, please bring your communion elements</i> | |

Prayer Concerns

Franklin Smith, Janet Gower, Henry Krechel, Dale Meixsell, Loretta Hawk,
George Keller, Ann Heffner, Sandy Smith, Betty Dutt (Joyce Fusner’s mother)
Linda Handwerk, Sherwood Smith, Gladys Lindenmoyer, Alton Kleintop, Erica Pozza,
Bobbie Christman, Scott Madden, Doug Hawk, Bruce Devoncourt
Amanda Mitchell (Joan Madden’s niece), Lee Sitler, Marlene Prutzman,
Janet Fowler, Carol Popay, Donna Smith, Shirley Smith, Chapman, and Mason Buskirk,
Jan Burger, Dean Zacharis, Brayden Wunder, Kelly George, Alan Miller, Kim Cope,
Margaret Hahn, Josh and Kevin Engler, Mae Borger, Marlette Palermo
and the Family of The Rev. Sterling Schnell

Today’s Ushers: Gabby & George
Next Week’s Ushers: Harry, Henry, Dora, Darryl & Shirley
Oct 11th Ushers: Jennie Rose & Norm



When we worship in the Grove, we ask that all worshipers follow best practices for the safety of our members and visitors. *Best Practices will include—wear a mask while finding your seat and returning to your car and also while singing— keep 6 feet apart from others at all times—no congregating in groups—no hugging or shaking of hands—no playing on the playground. Other practices may be added. Any who are uncomfortable joining us, we encourage you worship in your car at 105.5 FM or to continue sheltering at home and worship with us digitally on your smart phone and computer.*

Council is making plans to move back into our building for worship. A list of requirements due to COVID19 have been placed in the cover letter of October’s White Dove Flyer. Please read them over and give any feedback to George Huber, Pastor Suzanne, or any member of the council. We want to worship in person, but we also want everyone to be safe. If anyone is uncomfortable coming back to our buildings, our worship service will continue to be found on our website each Sunday.

Did you like the gray polo shirts and t-shirts with a St. Matthew’s logo that were worn by our VBS staff? Orders are due by this Wednesday, September 30. Short sleeved gray tees are \$16 for small to XL and \$19 for 2XL and up. The short sleeved gray Polo shirts are \$20 for small through XL and \$25 for 2XL and up. If you are interested, contact Cheryl Bartholomew at 570-224-2570 or Jessica Slawter (wjlawt02@gmail.com) our website manager. There will also be an order form in the September White Dove. \$3 for every shirt purchased will be given to the Church.

The Gospel of Matthew Evening Bible Study will meet tomorrow in the Social Hall up on the Stage or by Zoom. We will be reflecting on chapter 12.

Just for fun! Here are some quiz questions to ask your kids or grandkids!

1. What was the first thing that God created?
2. Which day did God create plants?
3. What was the boat Noah built called?
4. How many of each type of animal did Noah have on the ark.

