

**ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

October 11, 2020

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ."*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Gabrielle Bentley

(L) You have been called to the banquet.

**(P) This is the feast.**

(L) You have been summoned to the wedding.

**(P) This is the feast of life and light.**

(L) From the streets and the byways, God has invited us.

**(P) We have come to the banquet that has no end.**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**OPENING PRAYER**

(L) Holy God, you set before us every day a bounty of good things.

Bring us to your feasting table, hungry for your Word,

eager to rebuild the cities you have made,

and ready to receive strangers

so that we celebrate at all times and in all places,

the peace which is life in you. **AMEN.**

**OPENING SONG**     *Make a Joyful Noise*

*Make a joyful noise, shout to the Lord all the earth.*

*Serve the Lord with gladness. Come into His presence with singing.*

*Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us not we ourselves.*

*We are His people, the sheep of His pasture.*

*Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise.*

*Show thankfulness to Him and bless His name.*

*For the Lord is good; His love is everlasting.*

*His truth endures to every generation.*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**You invite us to your feast, O God, and we do not come.**

**You beg us to give thanks for life, and we fail in our thanksgiving.**

**You have made us for a wonderful earth, and we neglect the gift.**

**Forgive us for what we have done and for abandoning the  
pathway you desire for us.**

**Be our guide and conscience. Turn our feet and hands to your will,  
that all we do might give glory to you. AMEN.**

**MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**ACT OF PRAISE #726**

*With voices united our praises we offer,*

*our songs of thanksgiving to you we now raise.*

*your strong arm will guide us, our God is beside us,*

*to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Scott Brooks-Cope

**THE READING OF SCRIPTURE**

**Psalms 105** (responsively)

(L) Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

**(P) Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord, or declare all his praise?**

(L) Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.

**(P) Remember me, O Lord, when you show favor to your people; help me when you deliver them;**

(L) that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones, that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation, that I may glory in your heritage.

**Matthew 22: 1-14**

*1 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 2 "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. 4 Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." 5 But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, 6 while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them.*

*7 The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. 8 Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. 9 Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' 10 Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.*

*11 "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, 12 and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless.*

*13 Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*

*14 For many are called, but few are chosen."*

#### **THE MESSAGE**

"You Are Invited!"

The Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope

#### **HYMN**

*O Jesus, I Have Promised*

*O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
remain forever near me, my Master and my Friend:  
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.*

*O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self will.  
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;  
now speak and make me listen, O guardian of my soul.*

*O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you  
that where you are in glory, your servant shall be too;  
and, Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.*

#### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God, preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. AMEN.**

#### **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.

#### **THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

#### **HYMN**

*Lord of All Hopelessness*

*Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, whose trust, ever childlike,  
no cares could destroy; Be there at our waking and give us we pray,  
your bliss in our hearts Lord, at the break of the day.*

*Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith, whose strong hands were skilled  
at the plane and the lathe; Be there at our labors, and give us we pray,  
your strength in our hearts, Lord at the noon of the day.*

*Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace, your hands swift to welcome,  
your arms to embrace: Be there at our homing, and give us we pray,  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.*

#### **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

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Pastor: The Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope [sbcstmts@ptd.net](mailto:sbcstmts@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](http://www.stmattsucckunkletown.com)

***A Faithful Family reaching out to serve Christ.***





“O LORD ... we will exalt you, we will praise your name” (Isaiah 25:1, NRSV).  
Welcome, friends, as we gather to praise God.

**This Week Ahead**

Sunday, October 11	Worship in the Grove	-Grove, 9 am
Monday, October 12		-Office Open 9am-1 pm
	Exercise Group	-Gathering Room, 1 pm
	Matthew Bible Study	-Stage Classroom, 6 pm
Tuesday, October 13	Confirmation Class	-Gathering Room, 4 pm
	Council Meeting	-Social Hall, 7 pm
Wednesday, October 14		-Office Open 9am-1pm
	Exercise Group	-Gathering Room, 1 pm
Friday, October 16		-Office Open 9am-1pm
Sunday, October 18	Worship in the Grove	-Grove, 9 am

**Prayer Concerns**

Franklin Smith, Janet Gower, Dale Meixsell, Loretta Hawk, Marlene Prutzman,  
George Keller, Linda Handwerk, Gladys Lindenmoyer, Alton Kleintop, Erica Pozza,  
Bobbie Christman, Scott Madden, Doug Hawk, Lee Sitler,  
Janet Fowler, Shirley Smith, Chapman and Mason Buskirk,  
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 and Betty Dutt

**Today's Ushers:** Jennie Rose and Norm  
**Next Week's Ushers:** Gabby & Renee  
**October 25<sup>th</sup>-** Shirley & Starlene



**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 worship with us digitally on your smart phone and computer.*

**Shirt orders with the St. Matthew's logo are available for pick up after worship. See Jessica Slawter after worship near the food stands.**

**Middle School and High School youth are invited to come help harvest pumpkins for the West End Food Pantry's Annual Pumpkin Patch for the children in the community, Friday, October 23 at 4 pm.** It will take about 2 hours to pick the pumpkins and get them arranged at the food pantry. After that we will return to our grove for a campfire, food, and games. Friends are welcome to join us. Some parents are needed to help with driving. Talk to Pastor Suzanne if you are interested.

**The next Friday Fun Night is October 30, 5-8:30 p.m.** Please join Miss Staci and the others in the grove for our Howling Happy Halloween Party. Kids and adults may come in costume. Bring an old shirt or smock, as we'll be painting pumpkins. We will also scavenger hunt for candy and treats, play a game, roast hot dogs, and make s'mores, and watch a movie! Bring blanket/pillow/warm coat. The Christian Education committee is seeking donations of wrapped candy, treats such as stickers and bubbles, hot dog rolls, hot dogs, snack size variety packs, juice, marshmallows, and string cheese. Please contact Staci if you have questions or concerns. Rain date is Nov. 1 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.



**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.

**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 the last chapter of our study guide.