

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 25, 2020

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ."

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Kyle Strohl

(L) Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

(P) In you, we come home—to rest, to wrestle, to love, to be loved.

We dwell in you.

(L) Before the mountains were born, before you delivered the whole world, from everlasting past to everlasting future, you are God.

(P) In you, we are home—we dream, we fade, we rejoice.

We dwell in you.

OPENING PRAYER

(L) God of creation, you have made us to be nourished by your care, and you test us so that we will turn again and again toward your gifts. Show us how to love our neighbors and ourselves, and to teach us to delight in your law so that we will know the way of gratitude and thanksgiving. In the name of Christ Jesus, our Savior, we pray. **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

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 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

A Faithful Family reaching out to serve Christ.

There will be a Congregational Meeting next Sunday to consider a few changes to our By-Laws. Council recommends that we reduce the number of people who serve on the council from 15 to 9 over the next three years. There are also a few other minor changes they would like the congregation to consider. Members, please stay a few extra minutes following worship for this important meeting.



We are moving into the sanctuary on November 1—All Saint's Day. The electrical work to be able to stream our services to the Social Hall and rooms in the new addition will not be done until December. Only 57 people will be allowed to sit in sanctuary. We will continue to use our radio transmitter

for those who remain in the car. Hopefully, in December, once the sanctuary is full to COVID capacity, you can pick any room with a TV in it to participate in worship. If anyone is uncomfortable coming back to our buildings, our worship service will continue to be found on our website each Sunday. Masks will be required for worshipping inside the building.

On All Saints' Sunday next week, we will be honoring those we lost since last All Saints' Sunday and will light a candle in their memory. Family members of those who have died will have first preference for seating in the sanctuary.

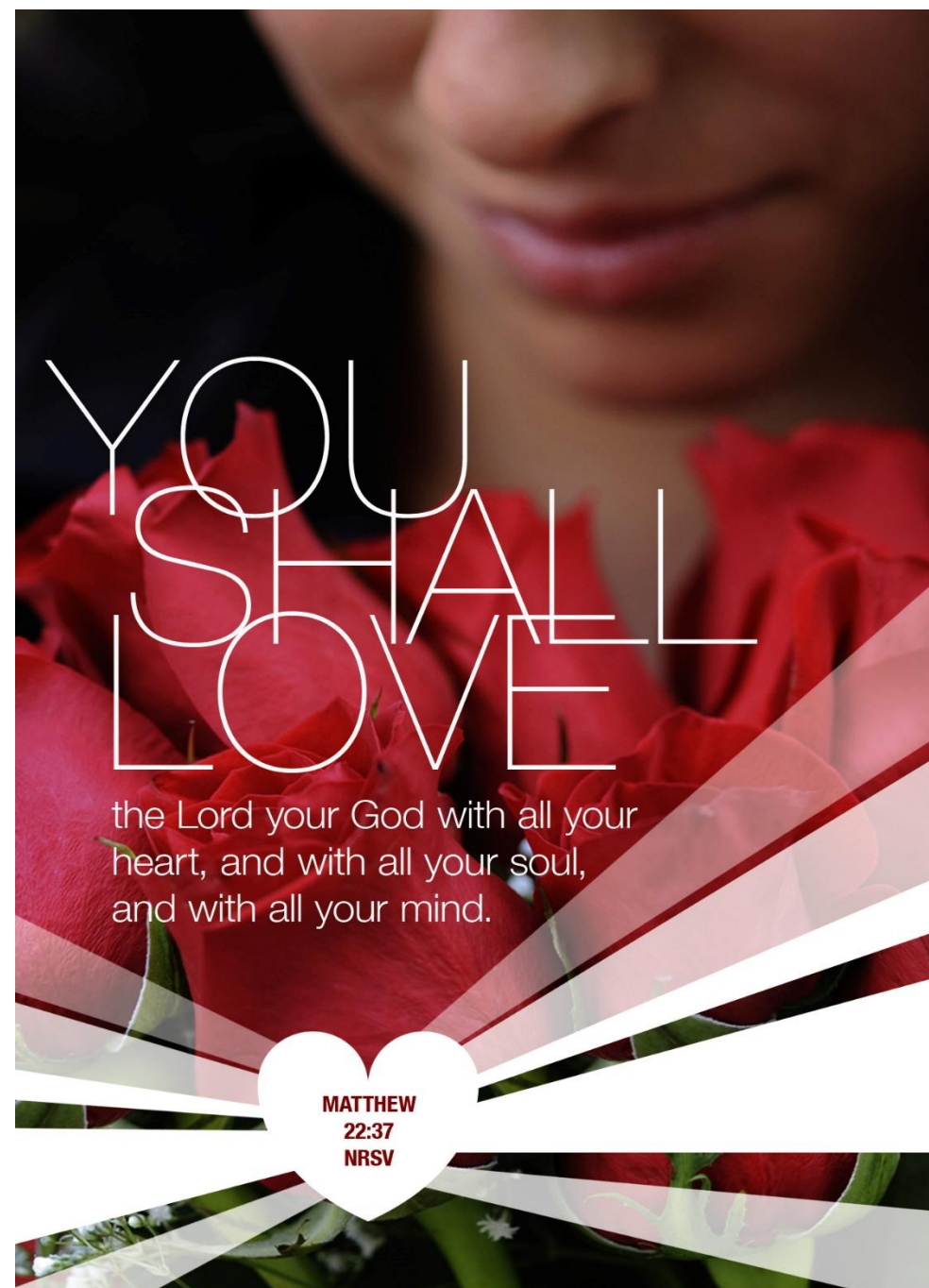
November 1st is a Communion Sunday. Council decided that it is safer if everyone continues to bring their own communion elements. If you forget, we will have prepackaged small wafers and juice to hand out.

When we return to worshipping inside, we will need volunteers to help. We would like someone to open the doors as folks enter at our three main entrances. Volunteers will also need to hand out bulletins to anyone wishing to worship in their cars. If you would be willing to help, you would need to be here by 8:30 am to be ready to welcome worshippers and open the door. Let Pastor Suzanne, George Huber or call the office if you are willing to volunteer.

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. We will painting pumpkins, have a scavenger hunt for treats, play a game, roast hot dogs, make s'mores, and watch a movie! Dress for cold weather. The C. E. committee is seeking donations of wrapped candy, treats such as stickers and bubbles, hot dog rolls, hot dogs, snack packs, juice, marshmallows, and string cheese. Please contact Staci if you have questions. Rain date is Nov. 1 at 10:30 a.m.



Laymen's Fellowship is meeting again! New members are welcome and encouraged. They will be making filling this year (wearing gloves and masks). \$6 for two pounds.





The greatest commandments are to love God and neighbor. Welcome to worship, where we're strengthened in God's love so we can better love others. May God's grace nourish you.

This Week Ahead

Sunday, October 25	Worship in the Grove	-Grove, 9 am
Monday, October 26		-Office Open 9am-1 pm
	Exercise Group	-Gathering Room, 1 pm
Tuesday, October 27	Confirmation Class	-Gathering Room, 4-6 pm
Wednesday, October 28		-Office Open 9am-1pm
	Exercise Group	-Gathering Room, 1 pm
Friday, October 30		-Office Open 9am-1pm
	Howling Halloween Party	-Grove, 5-8:30 pm
Sunday, November 1	All Saints' Sunday	-Sanctuary & Cars, 9 am
	Communion will be celebrated, bring your elements	
	Congregational Meeting	-Sanctuary, 10 am

Prayer Concerns

Franklin Smith, Janet Gower, Rosemarie Stranahan, Loretta Hawk, Marlene Prutzman, Gladys Meixsell, George Keller, Linda Handwerk, Gladys Lindenmoyer, Alton Kleintop, Erica Pozza, McCoy Rappa, Bobbie Christman, Scott Madden, Doug Hawk, Lee Sitler, Lynda Edwards, Janet Fowler, Shirley Smith, Chapman and Mason Buskirk, Brayden Wunder, Kelly George, Alan Miller, Kim Cope, Margaret Hahn, Josh and Kevin Engler, Mae Borger, Marlette Palermo and the Families of Tony Mitsos (Tracy Buskirk's brother-in-law) and Tom Meinhart

Today's Ushers: Shirley & Starlene
Nov 1st Ushers: Harry, Henry, Dora, Darryl & Shirley
Nov 8th Ushers: Jennie Rose & Norm

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Your holiness, O God, commands that we confess:
 We have neither loved our neighbors as ourselves
 nor honored ourselves as your beloved creation.
 We have judged unjustly,
 regarded others ungenerously,
 profited at the losses of those near and distant,
 borne grudges, desired vengeance,
 and kept silence in the face of wrongdoing.**

**We long to live in accord with your desire
 that your way of compassion, kindness, and honesty
 will govern our hearts and minds,
 turning us toward lives of peace.
 Forgive us and lead us.**

**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

Staci Gower

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Leviticus 19: 1-2, 15-18

1 The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: **2** Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

15 You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. **16** You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the Lord. **17** You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. **18** You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Matthew 22: 34-46

34 When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, **35** and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. **36** "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" **37** He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' **38** This is the greatest and first commandment. **39** And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' **40** On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

41 Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: **42** "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." **43** He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, **44** "The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet" '? **45** If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" **46** No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

THE MESSAGE

"You hold every card"

The Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope

HYMN

Jesus, Name Above All Names

*Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, Living Word.*

*Jesus, loving Shepherd, Vine of the branches, Son of God;
Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Lord of the universe, Light of the world.*

*Praise Him, Lord above all lords, King above all kings, God's only Son.
The Prince of Peace, who by His Spirit comes to live in us, Master and Friend.*

*Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, Living Word.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves
and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the
one body of Christ, the church.**

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks, and to live holy and joyful lives. 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

Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated

*Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord to Thee;
Take my moments and my days- Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee,
Swift and beautiful for Thee.*

*Take my voice and let me sing Always only, for my King;
Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from Thee,
Filled with messages from Thee.*

*Take my will and make it Thine- It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart- it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne. It shall be Thy royal throne.*