

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 4, 2020

World Communion Sunday

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ."

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 19: 1-4 Joyce Fusner

(L) The heavens declare the glory of God! The skies proclaim God's handiwork.

**(P) The day pronounces God's glory without a sound, the night expounds
God's knowledge without a word,**

(L) and yet their voice goes out through all the earth.

(P) Let us join our voices with the voice of creation in declaring God's glory!

OPENING PRAYER

(L) Holy God, Maker of heaven and earth, out of your great love for the world
you sent us your beloved Son --but we sent him to his death.

Have mercy on us, O Lord; forgive us, renew us, restore us
so that we may be the people of your vineyard and bear good fruit
for your holy realm; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **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

**Loving God, you have planted us like a vineyard on a fertile hill.
You cleared away the stones, planted us with choice vines,
and kept watch over us by night and day.**

**But we have not yielded the good fruit you expect or desired.
We are overgrown with sin, choked with violence and injustice.**

**Forgive us we pray. Uproot our evil, prune away our sin,
and shower upon us the gift of your grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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 are 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

Matthew 21:33-46

33 "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. **34** When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. **35** But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. **36** Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. **37** Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." **38** But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." **39** So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.

40 Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"

41 They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." **42** Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes"? **43** Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. **44** The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. 46 They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

THE MESSAGE "Fanning the Flames" The Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope

HYMN *Something Beautiful*

CHORUS: *Something beautiful, something good.
All my confusion He understood;
All I had to offer Him was brokenness and strife.
But He made something beautiful, of my life.*

*If there ever were dreams that were lofty and noble,
They were my dreams at the start;
And the hopes for life's best were the hopes that I harbored
Down deep in my heart;
But my dreams turned to ashes, my castles all crumbled
My fortune turned to loss;
So I wrapped it all in the rags of my life, and laid it at the cross!*
(CHORUS)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Nicene Creed

(L) Do you believe in God?
(P) We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

(L) Do you believe in Jesus the son?
(P) We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

(L) Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

(P) We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. AMEN.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(L) The Lord be with you. **(P) And also with you.**

(L) Lift up your heart. **(P) We lift them to the Lord.**

(L) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **(P) It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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.

Unison Prayer After Communion

**Holy God, we thank you for this feast of grace and life.
As we have been served, help us to serve our neighbors.
As we have been fed, help us to feed all who are hungry.
As we have been loved, help us to love the world—
because in Christ Jesus you have loved us. AMEN.**

HYMN *When We All Get to Heaven*

*Sing the wondrous love of Jesus, Sing His mercy and His grace;
In the mansion bright and blessed, He'll prepare for us a place.*

CHORUS: *When we all get to heaven, What a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus, We'll sing and shout the victory.*

*Let us then be true and faithful, Trusting, serving everyday;
Just one glimpse of Him in glory Will the toils of life repay **(CHORUS)***

*Onward to the prize before us! Soon His beauty we'll behold;
Soon the pearly gates will open, We shall tread the streets of gold. **(CHORUS 2x)***

Sing the wondrous love of Jesus (4x) Shout victory!

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

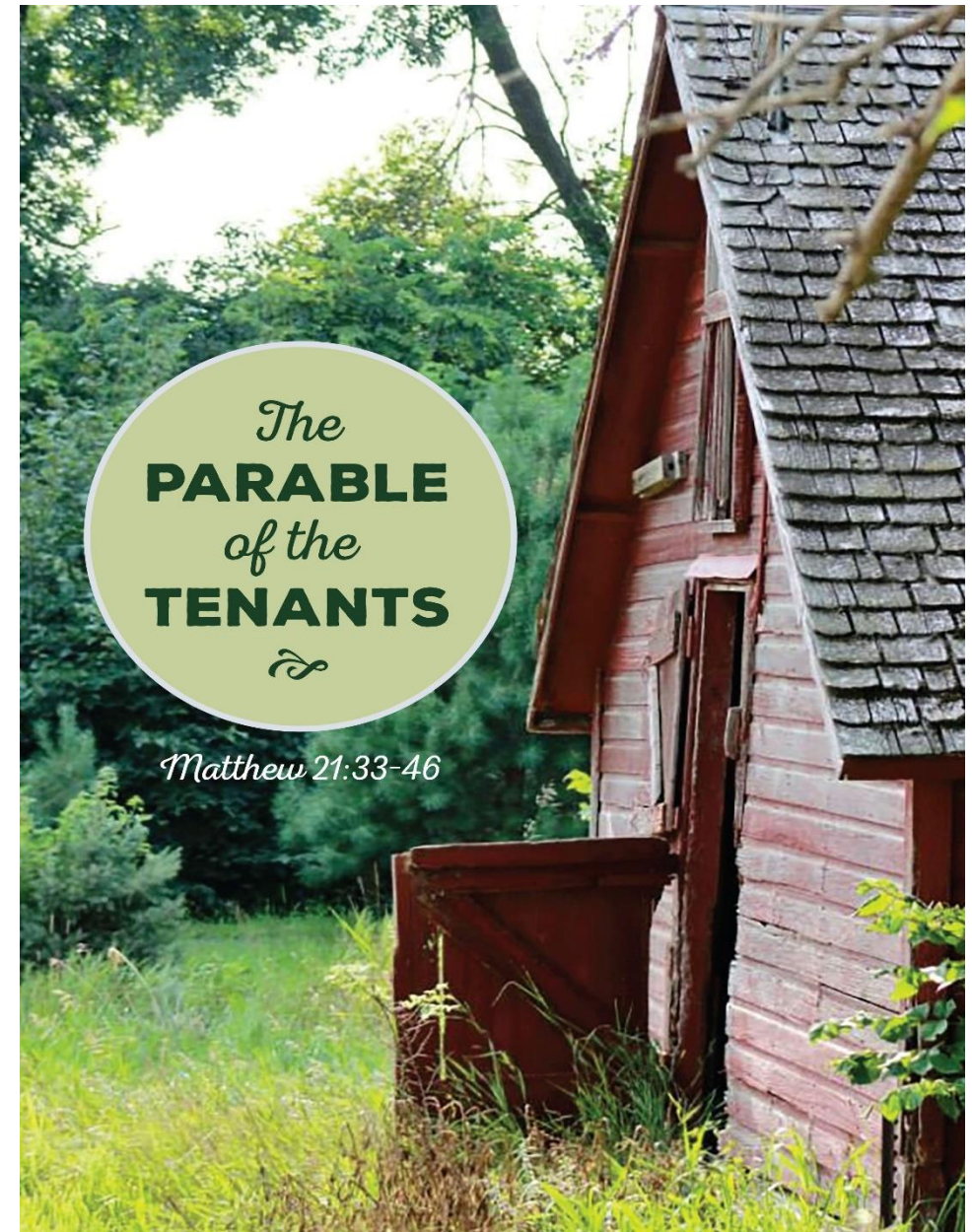
Coordinator of Spiritual Formation: Mrs. Staci Gower

Office Manager: Mrs. Rose Arace

Council President: Mr. George Huber

www.stmattsucckunkletown.com

A Faithful Family reaching out to serve Christ.





Welcome to worship on this World Communion Sunday. May our praise and prayers be pleasing to God, and may we be eager recipients of his Word.

This Week Ahead

Sunday, October 4	Worship in the Grove <i>World Communion Sunday</i>	-Grove, 9 am
Monday, October 5	Exercise Group Matthew Bible Study	-Office Open 9am-1 pm -Gathering Room, 1 pm -Stage Classroom, 6 pm
Wednesday, October 7	Exercise Group	-Office Open 9am-1pm -Gathering Room, 1 pm
Friday, October 9	Rose Off	-Office CLOSED
Sunday, October 11	Worship in the Grove	-Grove, 9 am

Prayer Concerns

Franklin Smith, Janet Gower, Henry Krechel, Dale Meixsell, Loretta Hawk, Marlene Prutzman, George Keller, Ann Heffner, Sandy Smith, Linda Handwerk, Sherwood Smith, Gladys Lindenmoyer, Alton Kleintop, Erica Pozza, Bobbie Christman, Scott Madden, Doug Hawk, Bruce Devoncourt, Lee Sitler, 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 and Betty Dutt

Today's Ushers: Harry, Henry, Dora, Darryl & Shirley
Next Week's Ushers: Jennie Rsoe and Norm
10/18th Ushers: Gabby & Renee



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.*

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. 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 chapter 13 of our study guide.