

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 19, 2020

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ."

PRELUDE

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP

(L) O Sovereign God, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

(P) You have set your glory above the heavens.

(L) Thank you for this beautiful grove, for its trees, birds, and gentle breeze.

(P) Let us worship you in joy and praise.

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING SONG

The Family Prayer Song

Come and fill our homes with your presence;

you alone are worthy of our reverence.

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord; We will serve the Lord.

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, your creatures cry—creation groans, but we turn away;
we surround ourselves with noise.**

We are quick to excuse ourselves from responsibility:

we are young; we are old, we are tired; we are busy.

It is hard to imagine that we might make a difference.

Life-giving God, wash us clean.

Restore our imaginations and our hearts.

**Let your courage and compassion flow through our veins
until we love with abandon**

and our hands reach out in blessing,

for your creation waits with eager longing

for the revealing of the children of God. 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!

VBS COMMISSIONING AND RECOGNITION

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Genesis 28: 10-19a

1 Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and charged him, "You shall not marry one of the Canaanite women. **2** Go at once to Paddan-aram to the house of Bethuel, your mother's father; and take as wife from there one of the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother. **3** May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and numerous, that you may become a company of peoples. **4** May he give to you the blessing of Abraham, to you and to your offspring with you, so that you may take possession of the land where you now live as an alien—land that God gave to Abraham." **5** Thus Isaac sent Jacob away; and he went to Paddan-aram, to Laban son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother.

6 Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan-aram to take a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he charged him, "You shall not marry one of the Canaanite women," **7** and that Jacob had obeyed his father **8** So when Esau saw that the Canaanite women did not please his father Isaac, **9** Esau went to Ishmael and took Mahalath daughter of Abraham's son Ishmael, and sister of Nebaioth, to be his wife in addition to the wives he had.

10 Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. **11** He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. **12** And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. **13** And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; **14** and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall

spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. **15** Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." **16** Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" **17** And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." **18** So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. **19** He called that place Bethel...

Responsive Psalm 139, 1-12, 23-24

- 1** O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.
3 You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.
4 Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.
5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.
6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.
7 Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?
8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
9 If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.
11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,"
12 even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.
23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.
24 See if there is any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.

THE MESSAGE

"Alone no more"

The Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope

HYMN

THE 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

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

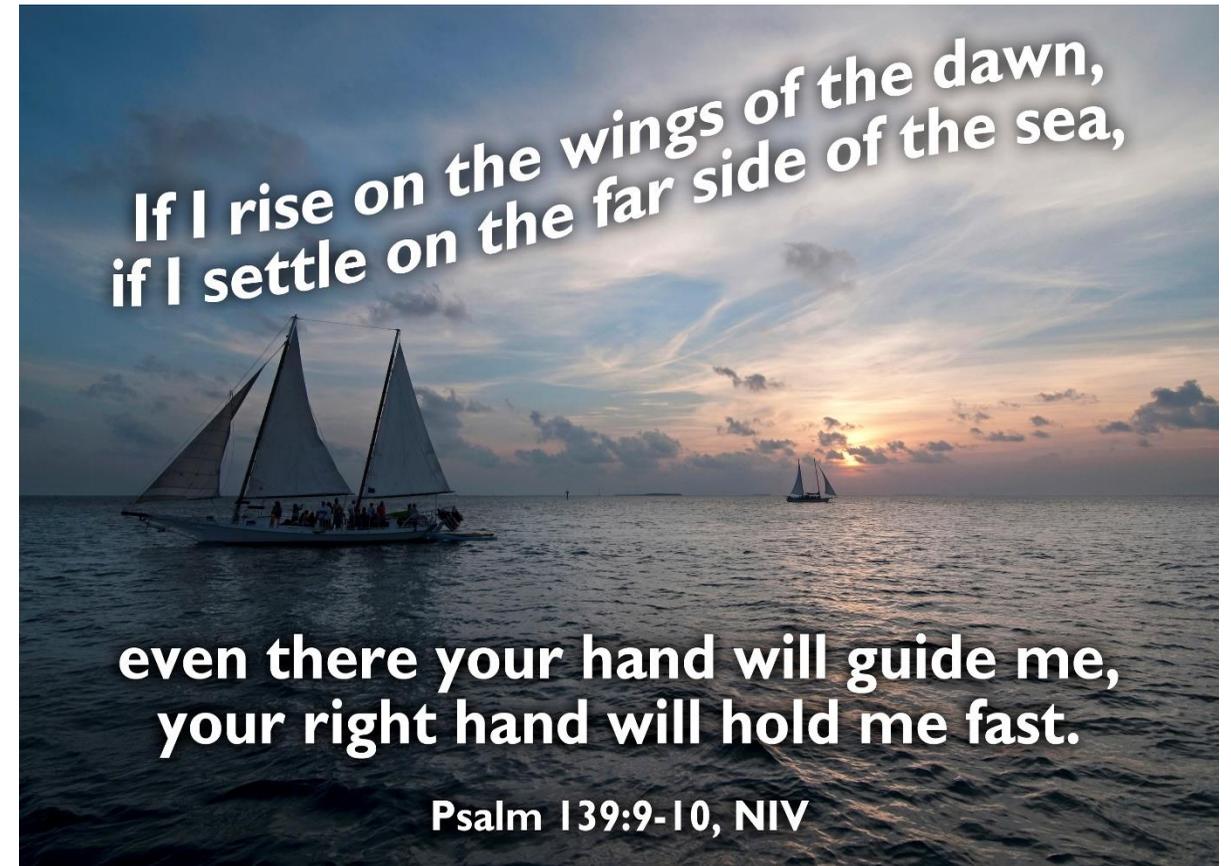
CHARGE AND BLESSING

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.

JULY

This Week Ahead

Sunday, July 19
Monday, July 20

Worship in the Grove

Exercise Group
Matthew Bible Study

-Grove, 9 am
-Office Open 9am-1 pm
-Gathering Room, 1 pm
-Stage Classroom, 6 pm
Or Zoom

Wednesday, July 22

Exercise Group

-Office Open 9am-1pm
-Gathering Room, 1 pm

Friday, July 24
Sunday, July 26

Worship in the Grove

-Office Open 9am-1pm
-Grove, 9 am

Prayer Concerns

Dale Meixsell, Lynn Borger, Loretta Hawk, George Keller, Ann Heffner, Sandy Smith, Gladys Lindenmoyer, Alton and Lila Kleintop, Charlotte Christman, Erica Pozza, Bobbie Christman, Scott Madden, Jeannie Anewalt, 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 Families of Sylvia George, Edith Semmel, Don Schneider, and Frances Ash

Today's Ushers:

Cheryl Dorshimer and Diann Bittenbender

Next Week's Ushers:



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. The bathrooms are cleaned and open.*

Rainforest Explorers VBS begins online this week. Families may pick up their packets before or after worship today. Just see Staci Gower. The videos for each day will be available on our website by 9 am each morning. Packets will contain all the materials you need to follow along at home. Many thanks go out to Staci and her wonderful group of volunteers who have been taping and getting the VBS packs together for our children.



Kay Frable collects our Weis and Shoprite receipts, tallies them up and turns them into receive a donation for PVEN. Please continue to save your receipts. You may drop them in her mailbox any afternoon or drop them by the church office.



The Strawberry Festival Church Picnic took place yesterday. The weather was warm but gathering with our Kunkletown community was wonderful and we heard two amazing bands and saw many fun classic cars. Thank you to our committee who worked hard. Thanks go to Dale Greenzweig who came in at the last minute to do concessions. And thanks to our members who volunteered to make it all possible. Hopefully, next year there will be a vaccine for COVID19 and we can return to our normal homemade ice cream, cake walks, car trophies and menu!

The 300 Club has been cancelled this year due to COVID19. Hopefully, things will be back to normal next year.