

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 23, 2020

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ."

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

(L) We give thanks to God with our whole heart.

(P) We give thanks for God's steadfast love and faithfulness!

(L) All the rulers of the earth shall praise you, O LORD.

(P) We shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING SONG

The Steadfast Love of the Lord

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.

His mercies never come to an end.

They are new every morning, new every morning,

Great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord,

Great is Thy faithfulness.

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we confess that we have conformed our lives
to the ways of the world and not the ways of your kingdom.
We think of ourselves too highly and regard others as lowly.
We exalt possessions and power when you alone are to be exalted.
We let conflicts prevail over grace and divisions over harmony.**

**Have mercy upon us, we pray. Forgive and transform us,
that we may be holy and acceptable to you,
discerning your will. Through Jesus Christ 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Staci Gower

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Matthew 16: 13-20

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" **14** And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." **15** He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. **18** And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. **19** I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." **20** Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

THE MESSAGE "The Messiah, the Son of the Living God" The Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope

HYMN

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;

Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above;

Praise His name! I'm fixed upon it, Name of God's redeeming love.

Come, Thou Fount. Come, Thou Fount.

Hither to Thy love has blest me; Thou hast brought me to this place;

And I know Thy hand will bring me Safely home by Thy good grace.

Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wandering from the fold of God;

He, to rescue me from danger, Bought me with His precious blood.

Come, Thou Fount. Come, Thou Fount.

*O to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, Bind my wandering heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, oh take and seal it; Seal it for Thy courts above.
Come, Thou Fount. Come, Thou Fount. Come, Thou Fount. Come, Thou Fount.*

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed

(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 the life everlasting. AMEN.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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 *Take This Life*

(Chorus)

Take this life as I live and all I have to give; Take this life as a worship offering. (2x)

(Verse 1) *You came from heaven above Clothed in humanity, with God's perfect love.*

You came and gave it all on that day. You died on the cross so I could be saved.

What kind of gift can I bring? My heart, my soul, my everything.

What kind of gift can I bring? My heart, my soul, my everything. (Chorus)

(Verse 2) *You came to heal and to save.*

You took away my sorrow; and You took away my shame.

You came and showed Your mercy and Your grace.

You died on the cross; and You rose up from the grave.

What kind of gift can I bring?

What kind of gift can I bring? My heart, my soul, my everything.

What kind of gift can I bring? My heart, my soul, my everything. (Chorus)

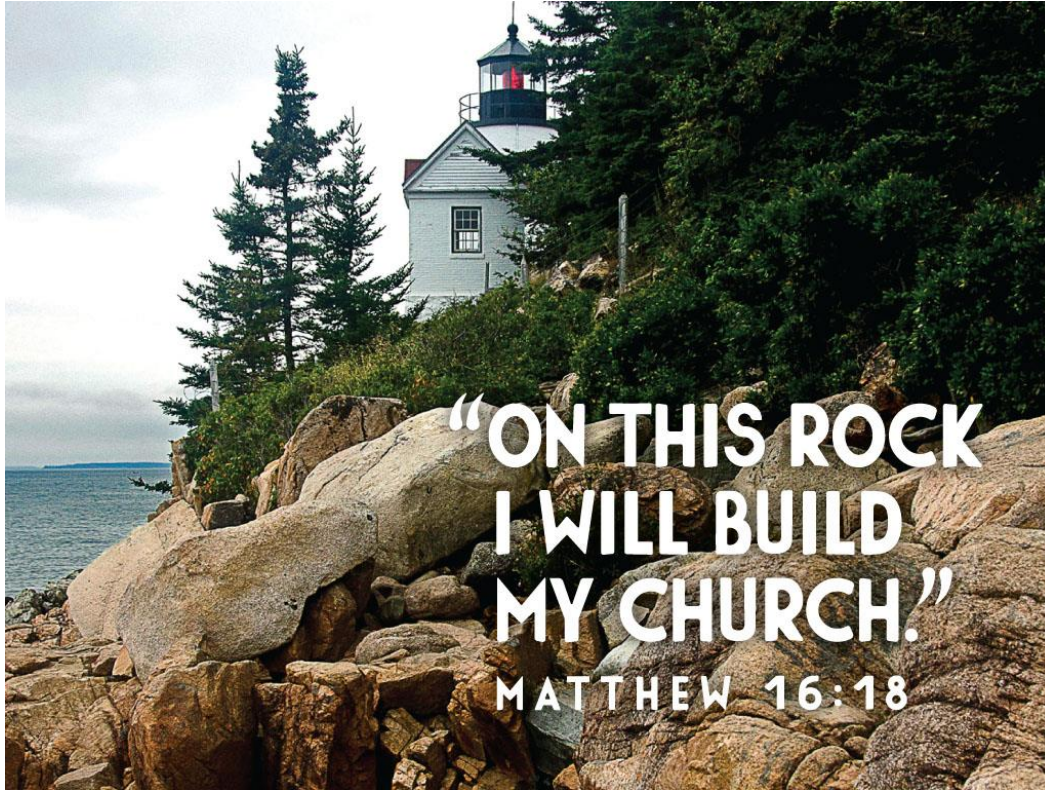
CHARGE AND BLESSING

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.

AUGUST

Creator of all that is good, open our ears and heart to your gospel of love and justice today. Amen.

This Week Ahead

Sunday, August 23	Worship in the Grove	-Grove, 9 am
Monday, August 24		-Office Open 9am-1 pm
	Exercise Group	-Gathering Room, 1 pm
	Matthew Bible Study	-Stage Classroom, 6 pm
		Or Zoom
Wednesday, August 26		-Office Open 9am-1pm
	Exercise Group	-Gathering Room, 1 pm
Friday, August 28		-Office Open 9am-1pm
Sunday, August 30	Worship in the Grove	-Grove, 9 am

Prayer Concerns

Dale Meixsell, Loretta Hawk, George Keller, Ann Heffner, Sandy Smith
 Linda Handwerk, Sherwood Smith, Gladys Lindenmoyer, Alton Kleintop, Erica Pozza,
 Lynn Borger, 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 Linda Lindenmoyer

Today's Ushers:

George Huber and Renee Keiper

Next Week's Ushers:

Harry Koehler and Henry Krechel



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.*

A huge thank you goes out to the Laymen's Fellowship for their wonderful gift of repaving our Grove driveway and for providing a 6-foot blacktop walkway around and to our Grove Buildings. THANK YOU!!



Are you or is your child or grandchild interested in confirmation class this coming school year? Pastor Suzanne would like to hear from you. Please email her at bcstmts@ptd.net or call her at the church office 610-381-2442 or on her cell 904-910-3034 if you or your child is interested. She would like to talk to parents about our options for this fall taking COVID19 into consideration.

The next Friday Fun Night will be August 28. Families will meet Staci at Snyder'sville Golf Range at 6 p.m. to play mini golf and have a snack. The golf costs \$5 per child ages 3 -18. Free for kids age 2 and under. \$6 for adults. CE will provide the snack - such as popsicles, animal crackers and juice boxes.



The Sight and Sound trip to see *Esther* on September 22, 2020 had been postponed until THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2021 at 11 am. If the virus situation improves and our evening bible study class is comfortable, we can move it up sometime next spring, but for now our tickets have been reserved for Sept. 2, 2021. Please mark your calendars.

Did you like the gray polo shirts and t-shirts with a St. Matthew's logo that were worn by our VBS staff? They are available for sale. Short sleeved gray tee's 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. \$3 for every shirt purchased will be given to the Church.

