

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 9, 2020

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ."

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

(L) We give praise and thanks to our God.

(P) Who delivers us from discord and from fear.

(L) Who is our hope in difficult times.

(P) Who fills our lives with joy and reconciliation.

(L) Let us worship the God of salvation.

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

Gracious God, we confess that we have not loved you with all our heart, our soul, our strength, and our mind. We have not loved our neighbors with a deep and abiding compassion. And we have not loved ourselves and cared for our own truest needs. Transform our shallowness, enliven our deadness, heal our wounded, broken places, and so fill us with your spirit that we can be forgiven, even as we forgive ourselves and others. For we pray in the name of Jesus Christ who brings us love that has no end. 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

Genesis 33: 1-11

1 Now Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two maids. **2** He put the maids with their children in front, then Leah with her children, and Rachel and Joseph last of all. **3** He himself went on ahead of them, bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near his brother. **4** But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. **5** When Esau looked up and saw the women and children, he said, "Who are these with you?" Jacob said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant." **6** Then the maids drew near, they and their children, and bowed down; **7** Leah likewise and her children drew near and bowed down; and finally Joseph and Rachel drew near, and they bowed down. **8** Esau said, "What do you mean by all this company that I met?" Jacob answered, "To find favor with my lord."

9 But Esau said, "I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself." **10** Jacob said, "No, please; if I find favor with you, then accept my present from my hand; for truly to see your face is like seeing the face of God—since you have received me with such favor. **11** Please accept my gift that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have everything I want." So he urged him, and he took it.

2 Corinthians 5: 16-21

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way.

17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! **18** All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; **19** that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. **20** So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. **21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

THE MESSAGE

“The Family Reunion”

The Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope

HYMN

Sweet Hour of Prayer

*Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief
And oft escaped the tempter's snare by Thy return, sweet hour of prayer!*

*Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since He bids me seek His face, believe His Word and trust His grace,
I'll cast on Him my every care, And wait for Thee, sweet hour of prayer!*

I'll cast on Him my every care, And wait for Thee, sweet hour of prayer!

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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you... **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts... **We will lift them to the Lord.**

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

...we join in giving you praise:

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

...we live in him and declare:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

HYMN

The Strong Name of Jesus

*There is only one Lord that we cling to; There is only one truth that we claim.
There is only one way that we walk in; There is only power in one name. (Refrain)*

Refrain:

*And in the strong name of Jesus, By the blood of the Lamb,
We are able to triumph; We are able to stand, In the power of His Spirit,
By the strength of His hand, In the strong name of Jesus,
By the precious blood of the Lamb.*

Though apart from Him, we can do nothing.

*By His Spirit, we can all things covered by His blood, we are made righteous.
Lifting up the name Christ the King; (Refrain)*

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.

AUGUST

The Lord invites all people, "Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters" (Isaiah 55:1, NRSV). So, we gather to quench our spiritual thirst with the Living Water. Welcome.

This Week Ahead

Sunday, August 9	Worship in the Grove Holy Communion	-Grove, 9 am
Monday, August 10	Exercise Group Matthew Bible Study	-Office Open 9am-1 pm -Gathering Room, 1 pm -Stage Classroom, 6 pm Or Zoom
Tuesday, August 11	Council Meeting	-Social Hall, 7 pm Or Zoom
Wednesday, August 12	Exercise Group	-Office Open 9am-1pm -Gathering Room, 1 pm
Friday, August 14		-Office Open 9am-1pm
Sunday, August 16	Worship in the Grove	-Grove, 9 am

Prayer Concerns

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

Norman Burger and Stephen Christiansen

Next Week's Ushers:

Jennie Rose Serfass and Cheryl Dorshimer

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.*



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!!

PVEN is planning on having a Back to School Extravaganza on August 18th. They will be handing out backpacks filled with school supplies and also give out new school uniforms to the children. They need new socks, underwear, black or white shoes, school uniforms, backpacks, and school supplies. If you would like to help a child get ready for school, your donations may be dropped off at the church during office hours or at PVEN on Monday mornings. Thank you for your donations. (They have plenty of pencils—and don't need any more.)



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 sbcstmmts@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.

Are you interested in Church Membership or learning more about St. Matthews UCC? A couple people have expressed interest in joining our St. Matthew's family. If you are interested, please speak to Pastor Suzanne so she can arrange a get together after church one Sunday.