

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 13, 2020

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ."

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

(L) What shall we return to the Lord for all the good gifts God has done for us?

(P) We will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

(L) Praise the LORD.

(P) The LORD's name be praised.

OPENING PRAYER

(L) God, our source and our salvation
in love you made us and by love you have redeemed us.
Make your love for us bear fruit in our forgiveness of others,
that in this life we may know your all-embracing compassion
and in the world to come receive the everlasting joy of fellowship
you share with your Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

OPENING SONG *We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise*

*We bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord,
We bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord.
And we offer up to You the sacrifices of thanksgiving,
And we offer up to You the sacrifices of joy! (Repeat)*

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God,

We confess that we have failed to live in harmony
with our brothers and sisters.

We have been self-righteous in our attitudes,
closed minded in our beliefs,
and judgmental in our opinions.

We have shunned those whose ways we do not understand
and we have despised those who do not endorse our convictions,

Forgive our sins of discord and conceit,
and heal our divisiveness and quarreling

Help us to be charitable in our regard for others
that they may dwell in peace with Christ, who is Lord of all. 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:

II Corinthians 4:16-18

16 So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away,
our inner nature is being renewed day by day. **17** For this slight momentary
affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure,
18 because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for
what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

John 21:18-19

18 Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own
belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch
out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you
where you do not wish to go." **19** (He said this to indicate the kind of death by
which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

THE MESSAGE

"Growing Old Faithfully"

The Rev. Allan Kramer-Moyer

HYMN *The Heavens Shall Declare*

*The heavens shall declare the glory of His name,
All creation bows at the coming of the King.
Every eye shall see, every heart will know.
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.
See the coming of the King, holy is the Lord.*

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.

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.

HYMN *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

*O God, our Help in ages past, Our Hope for years to come,
Our Shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal Home,
And our eternal Home!*

*Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure,
And our defense is sure.*

*Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same,
To endless years the same.*

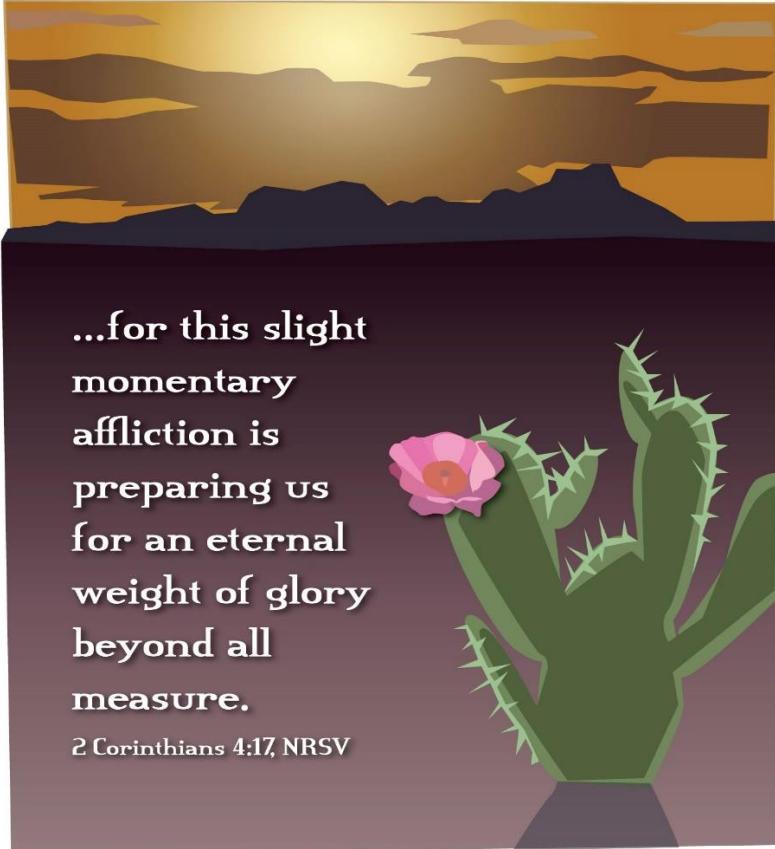
*O God, our Help in ages past, Our Hope for years to come,
Be Thou our Guide while life shall last, And our eternal Home,
And our eternal Home, And our eternal Home!*

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.)



**...for this slight
momentary
affliction is
preparing us
for an eternal
weight of glory
beyond all
measure.**

2 Corinthians 4:17, NRSV

**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.



"When we long for life without difficulties, remind us that oaks grow strong in contrary winds and diamonds are made under pressure. — Peter Marshall

This Week Ahead

Sunday, September 13	Worship in the Grove	-Grove, 9 am
	The Rev. Allan Kramer-Moyer preaching	
Monday, September 14	Exercise Group	-Office Open 9am-1 pm
Tuesday, Septeber 15	Council Meeting	-Gathering Room, 1 pm
Wednesday, September 16		-Social Hall 7pm
	Exercise Group	-Office Open 9am-1pm
Friday, September 18		-Gathering Room, 1 pm
Sunday, September 20	Worship in the Grove	-Office Open 9am-1pm
	Parent and Youth Confirmation Meeting	-Grove, 9 am
		-Grove, 10:30 am

Prayer Concerns

Henry Krechel, 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 The Rev. Sterling Schnell

Today's Ushers:

Cheryl Dorshimer and Darryl Brienich

Sept 20th Ushers:

Diann and Dora

Sept 27th Ushers:

Gabby & George



AIR HUG ZONE

Thank you for practicing
social distancing.

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.*

Welcome to our pulpit the Rev. Allan Kramer-Moyer. Allan is a retired member of the Penn Northeast Conference. He was the Director of Pastoral Care at Phoebe and CPE educator. He is married to Nancy. Allan continues to be active in the life of our conference. Welcome Allan!



Are you or is your child or grandchild interested in confirmation class this coming school year? Pastor Suzanne would like to hear from you. She is having a Parent/Youth Confirmation meeting after worship on September 20 up in the grove pavilion (bring a chair). Pastor Suzanne would like to talk to parents and youth as we make plans for the beginning of confirmation.

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 throughout September. 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 (wjslawt02@gmail.com) our website manager. There will also be an order form in the September White Dove. \$3 for every shirt purchased will be given to the Church.