

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 10, 2024

4th Sunday in Lent

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ."

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Renee Keiper

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

O give thanks to the Lord who is good; God's steadfast love endures forever.

OPENING HYMN *Psalm 150 (Praise the Lord)

You made the starry hosts, You traced the mountain peaks; You paint the evening sky with wonders.

The earth, it is Your throne, From desert to the sea; All nature testifies Your splendor.

CHORUS: *Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord; Sing His greatness All creation. Praise the Lord, Raise your voice; You heights and all you depths, From furthest east to west, Let everything that has breath Praise the Lord.*

You reached into the dust; In love, Your Spirit breathed. You formed us in Your very likeness.

To know Your wondrous works, To tell Your mighty deeds; To join the everlasting chorus: (CHORUS)

Let symphonies resound, Let drums and choirs ring out; All heaven hear the sound of worship.

Let every nation bring, Its honors to the King; A roar of harmonies eternal.

FINAL CHORUS: *Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord; Sing His greatness All creation. Praise the Lord, Raise your voice; You heights and all you depths, From furthest east to west, You distant burning stars, All creatures near and far, From sky to sea to shore, Sing out forevermore; Let everything that has breath Praise the Lord!*

CALL TO CONFESSION

This is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, for people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. Let us uncover our sin before the liberating light of Christ.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sovereign God, we confess that we have not turned away from sin. Forgive us, God of grace. Write your Word on our hearts, so that we may truly know you and joyfully serve you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, But in order that the world might be saved through him.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Staci Gower

"THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Marie Christman

(L) O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

(ALL) Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction; they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

(L) Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress; he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction. Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

***The Gloria Tibi:** *Glory be to thee, O Lord*

***The Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23** **Pew Bible 794**

***Laus Tibi:** *Praise be to thee, O Christ*

SERMON

"Multiplication Matters"

Pastor Mike

Based on Matthew 13:1-23

FRIENDSHIP PAD – Please sign and include any contact info updates.

JOYS AND CONCERNS – Please share!

OFFERING – Basket located on table in the rear of the sanctuary.

INVITATION

People of God, let us offer our sacrifice of thanksgiving,
telling of God's deeds with songs of joy.

OFFERTORY *The King in All His Beauty*

*O lift your eyes to Heaven see The Holy One eternal
Behold the Lord of Majesty Exalted in His temple
As symphonies of angels' praise Now strain to sound His glory
Come worship, fall before His grace The King in all His beauty*

CHORUS: *How worthy, how worthy How worthy The King in all His beauty*

*Now see the King who wears a crown One made of shame and splinters
The sacrifice for ruined man The substitute for sinners
As Earth is stained with royal blood And quakes with love and fury
He breathes His last and bows His head The King in all His beauty (CHORUS)*

*Now see the Savior lifted up The Lamb who reigns in splendor
The hope of every tribe and tongue His kingdom is forever
Bring praise and honor to His courts Bring wisdom, power, blessing
For endless ages we'll adore The King in all His beauty (CHORUS 2x)*

***DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

***THE LORD'S PRAYER – ALL**

Pastor Mike

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 Pastor Mike

Merciful God, we thank you for your wonderful works among humankind.
Accept this offering with the dedication of our lives
and help us be for the world an emblem of your steadfast love,
in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN *Living Waters*

*Are you thirsty? Are you empty? Come and drink these living waters.
Tired and broken, Peace unspoken, Rest beside these living waters.
Christ is calling, Find refreshing At the cross of living waters.
Lay your life down, All the old gone, Rise up in these living waters.*

Chorus: *There's a river that flows With mercy and love,
Bringing joy to the city of our God; There our hope is secure,
Do not fear anymore, Praise the Lord of living waters.*

*Spirit moving, Mercy washing; Healing in these living waters.
Lead your children To the shoreline, Life is in these living waters. CHORUS*

*Are you thirsty? Are you empty? Come and drink these living waters.
Love, forgiveness, Vast and boundless, Christ, He is our living waters.*

*There's a river that flows With mercy and love,
Bringing joy to the city of our God; There our hope is secure,
Do not fear anymore, Praise the Lord of living waters.
There our hope is secure, Do not fear anymore, Praise the Lord of living waters.*

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Pastor Mike

Church, we have received the immeasurable riches of God's grace
in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. Go forth to share this gift with others.

CONGREGATIONAL SUNG RESPONSE - ALL *Go Now In Peace

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.

(CCLI #2810357 Don Besig)

***POSTLUDE**

St. Matthews United Church of Christ

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610-381-2442, stmatts@ptd.net

Council President: Diann Bittenbender

Coordinator of Spiritual Formation: Staci Gower

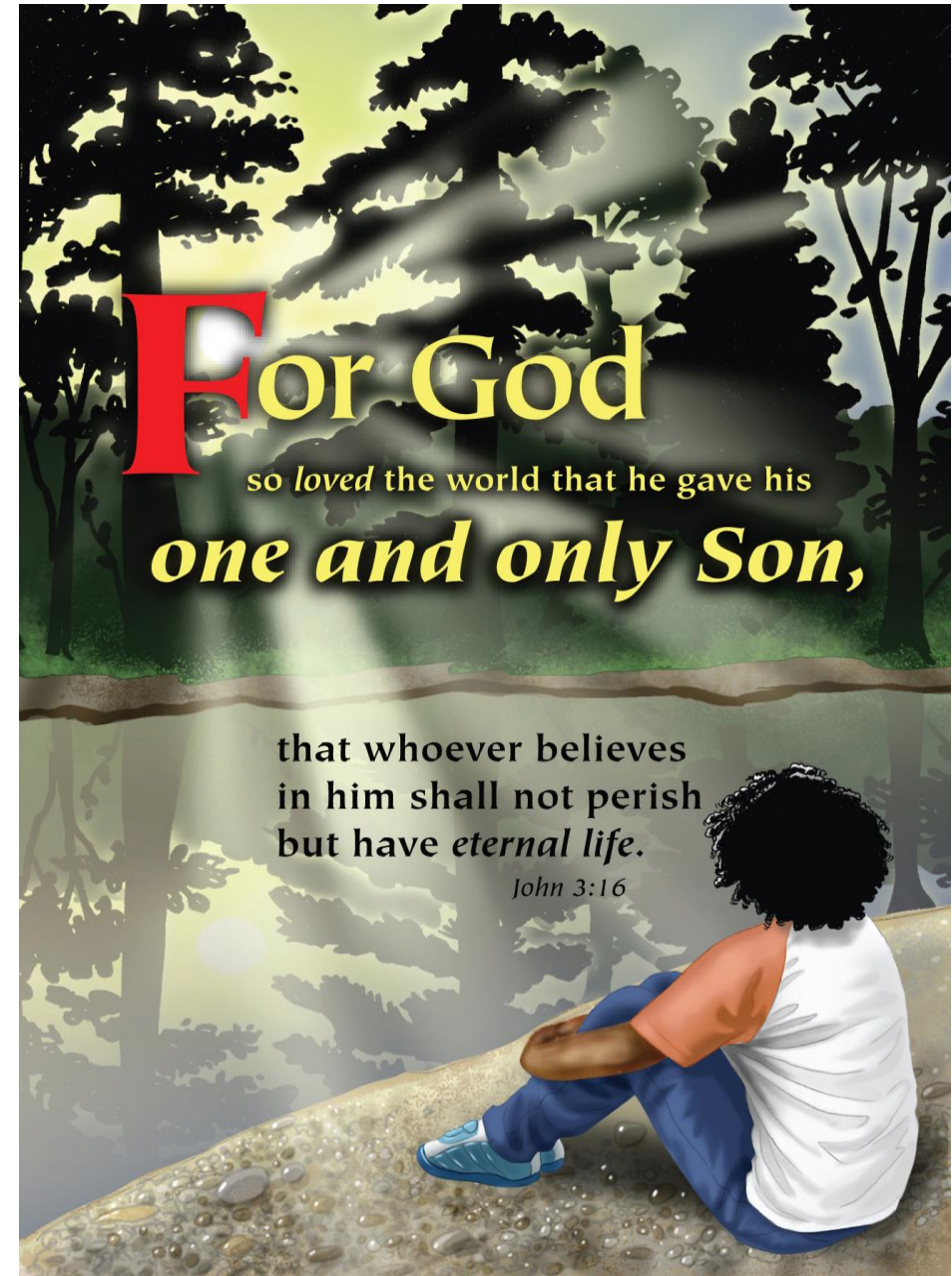
Office Manager: Renée Keiper

www.stmattsucckunkletown



Prayer Concerns

John Blundetto, Jessica Speer, Tom and Lee Byrne, Barbara Souders, Rose Fritz, Debra Kemmerer, Brenda Hawk, Joan Madden, Janet Smith, Marilyn McCloud, Ellen Kresge, Ray Smith, Kyle Frable, Diane Bonser, Shirley Smith, Edith George, Doris Neumeyer, Janet Gower, Joyce Gower, Conner Brawley, Gabrielle Collins, Gene Borger, Sharlee Ahner, Ronald Frantz, Sheila Sherer, Margaret and Larry Hahn, Hudson Stewart, Conner Bittenbender, Marlene Long, Roberta Heffley, Mike Heller, and Brian Holderman (Wendy Peddigree's brother)





The Week Ahead

Sunday, March 10	4th Sunday in Lent	-Sanctuary, 9am
Monday, March 11		-Office Open 10am – 2pm
	Exercise Group	-Gathering Room, 10:30am
	Council Meeting	-Classroom, 7:00pm
Wednesday, March 13		-Office Open 10am - 2pm
	Case for Easter Presentation	-Social Hall, 7pm
Thursday, March 14		-Office Open 10am - 2pm
	Exercise Group	-Gathering Room, 10:30am
Sunday, March 17	5th Sunday in Lent	-Sanctuary, 9 am
	Guest Preacher – Brian Eichelberger	
	Evangelism Seminar during and after the service	

March Lead Usher – Tom Barr

Altar Flowers

Vase 1 – In memory of Ernie Kleintop from Betty and Family
 Vase 2 – In loving memory of Gene Bittenbender from Diann and Family

Thank you to Pastor Mike Snedeker, the EC Kingdom Extension Associate for leading our service today.

Pastor Mike would like to invite anyone interested to a Bible discussion group that has resumed meeting on Thursdays at 12:30pm, at Papa Al’s on Delaware Ave in Palmerton. A chapter will be chosen for you to read in advance. Then the discussion will take place at the restaurant while you enjoy a delicious meal.

On Wednesdays, at 1:00pm Pastor Mike leads a Bible Study People’s EC Church is located at 216 Wagner Street, Lehighton.

The Property Committee walked through the basement and saw the need to clean up/organize or clean out. All committees, please take the time to attend to your areas. Whatever is not removed or organized by mid-April will be thrown out.

The ‘Case for Easter’ presentations will take place on Wednesdays in the social hall at 7pm. The final night is March 13.

Laymen’s Fellowship is hosting a Krispy Kreme Donut fundraiser. Orders can be placed March 3rd through March 24th, pickup day is April 2nd, 12:00pm – 4:00pm. \$12 per dozen for original glazed donuts, \$9 per ½ dozen choices: chocolate iced glazed, raspberry filled glazed, glazed kreme filled or glazed lemon filled. Orders can be given to any Laymen’s Fellowship member.

March 17th Pastor Brian Eichelberger will be our guest pastor. He will talk about evangelism and relationships during his sermon. Following the service there will be a luncheon in the social hall when Pastor Brian will continue his seminar. **A headcount is needed for lunch, please let Renee or Dora know if you will be attending.**

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday - TBA
 Good Friday - TBA
 Easter Dawn – 6:30am (in the sanctuary)
 Light Breakfast – immediately following early service
 Easter Service – 9:00am