

SAINT PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Fleetwood, Pennsylvania
 World-Wide Communion
 October 1st, 2017

GATHERING PRAYER

Loving God, as we gather on this world-wide communion Sunday, remind us of the connection that we have to fellow believers throughout all of your amazing creation. When two or three come together in your name, you are there. Be with us now. Enter into this space and into each of us. Remind us once again of the love, the joy, and the peace that we can only know through you. Amen.

INTROIT

PROCESSIONAL HYMN "The Church's One Foundation" No. 386
 (verses 1 & 4)

PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us share signs of Christ's peace with one another.

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

CENTERING

PRELUDE (8:55) "Holy, Holy, Holy" Dykes
 (10:25) "Let There Be Peace on Earth" Linda Bullock - vocal solo
 (Congregation Standing)

Leader: We gather in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: (singing) Amen!

Pastor: Gather, people of God! Come into the Sanctuary of the Lord!
 Sing hymns of praise. Hear again the Good News of a loving and merciful God.

**All: Listen to the words of God, spoken to us.
 Listen, as God utters to us hidden things of old and ideas fresh and new.**

Pastor: We will celebrate the power and wonders of God.

All: Today is a day to worship our God!

PENITENCE

Pastor: Let us humble ourselves before God as we share in our confession.

All: Dear God, You ask us to have the mind of Christ, a mind free of pretense and self-interest. You teach us to value compassion above winning, humility over arrogance, kindness more than intolerance, and generosity over greed. You promise to support us in everything and we know that promise to be true. All the same, we struggle and often make a mess of things. We try to trust in our own authority rather than Yours. We fail to see the impact that our actions are having on others. We encounter difficult moments and find ourselves responding out of fear and anxiety. Help us to trust in You more. Give us the strength to not rely on our own strength. Help us to put aside our doubts and respond with determination and eagerness to your call upon our lives.

Silent prayers of confession

Pastor: God's grace triumphs over sinfulness. Through sacrifice and victory of Christ Jesus, you have been forgiven.

*All(singing) Open my eyes, that I may see (Scott)
 Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
 Place in my hands the wonderful key
 That shall unclasp and set me free.
 Silently now I wait for Thee,
 Ready my God, Thy will to see,
 Open my eyes, illumine me,
 Spirit divine!*

Pastor: Let us say again what it is that we believe. Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and Earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
 People: **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**
(The congregation may be seated.)

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL Matthew 21:23-32
(Congregation Standing)

*Choral Response: O God, You are my God, and I will ever praise You.
 O God, You are my God, and I will ever praise You.
 I will seek you in the morning, and I will learn to walk in Your ways;
 And step by step You lead me, and I will follow You all my days.*
(The congregation may be seated.)

SERMON "Authentic Christianity"
(Congregation Standing)

RESPONSIVE HYMN "As We Gather at Your Table" No. 332
(The congregation may be seated.)

PASTORAL PRAYER

GIVING

OFFERING INVITATION

THE OFFERTORY (8:55) "Let us Break Bread Together"
 (10:25) Offertory Choir Anthem "A Special Place for You" Ashton
 We Come to the table today.
 We gather to worship and pray.
 With reverence we honor this moment with praise.
 Come know the wonder of grace.

Christ has poured the wine and served the sacred bread.
 Sit with Him and dine. Your spirit will be fed.
 Receive his precious grace, so wonderful and true.
 The Lord has saved a special place for you.

Come celebrate the bread and the wine.
 Come taste of salvation divine.
 God's banquet is ready. Jesus awaits.
 Come to God's table of grace.

Christ has poured the wine and served the sacred bread.
 Sit with Him and dine. Your spirit will be fed.
 Receive His precious grace, so wonderful and true.
 The Lord has saved a special place for you.
 The Lord has saved a special place for you.
(Congregation Stands)

DOXOLOGY

All (singing) **Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise God, all creatures here below;
 Praise God above, you heavenly host;
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost**
(Congregation may be seated)

COMMUNION

Pastor: God be with you.
People: And also with you.
 Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to God.
 Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.
People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.
 Pastor: Holy God, today we join with millions of fellow Christians across this incredible world that you have created to share in this joyful feast. We give you thanks for diversity and unity within our faith communities and pray that in the breaking of bread and the pouring of wine we might be united even more strongly in your strength and love. Nothing that could ever divide us is greater than that which holds us together: the gift of Your son and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

All (singing) **Holy, holy, holy! God the Almighty!
 All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea;
 Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
 God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

Tune: NICAEA Words: Reginald Heber, 1826, alt.

Pastor: We remember that on the night of betrayal Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, and said: "Take, eat: This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Pastor: In the same way also after supper, Jesus took the cup, and after giving thanks, gave it to them and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is the cup of the new covenant, which is poured out for you and many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Pastor: By the presence of your Holy Spirit may these gifts we offer be transformed from ordinary to holy things, so that as we eat and drink of them at this table, we may be fed and nourished with the body and blood of Christ, and so be united with him until we shall feast face to face at the glorious banquet table of heaven.

Pastor: Let us join in the prayer Jesus taught us saying...

All: 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 for ever Amen

Special Music: (8:55) "Let there be Peace on Earth" Linda Bullock - vocal soloist

Pastor: This is the body of Christ which is broken for you.
This is the cup the new covenant in the blood of Christ shed for you.
These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

THE SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

(We offer wine or grape juice as the symbol of the Blood of Christ. Grape juice is the light, wine is the dark. The lead Usher offers gluten free wafers).

BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN

(Children who did not receive communion and infants are welcomed to come forward and receive a blessing at this time).

(Congregation Standing)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ALL: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SENDING

THE RECESSIONAL HYMN "God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak" No. 531

THE BENEDICTION

CHORAL SENDING

*May the grace of Christ, our Savior,
And the love of God our Father,
And the fellowship of the Spirit be with us.
May the grace of Christ, our Savior,
And the love of God our Father,
And the fellowship of the Spirit be with us.
Forever and ever, forevermore, Amen*

CHIMES

POSTLUDE "Theme from Symphony #1" Brahms



MISSION STATEMENT

As Followers of Jesus Christ we commit ourselves to:

- Enthusiastically proclaim and teach God’s love through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Share God’s love with neighbors near and far.
- Live as a Christian community of hope, acceptance, and encouragement in a rapidly changing world.

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL’S

- If you are visiting and would like to know more about St. Paul’s please fill out the visitor’s card located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. One of our pastors will contact you.
- There are assisted listening devices for the hearing impaired available at the sound board in the rear of the church.
- **Adult Sunday school is held at 9 a.m. - Generations Class in the Lounge off the Narthex. Also, Adult Bible Study is held Tuesday evenings and Wednesday mornings. See Announcement sheets in the bulletin for details.**
- Children are always welcome in our worship space (as are the joyful noises that they sometimes add). For those moments when it might be needed, we do have a nursery room in the rear of the church that anyone with younger children is welcome to use. The room is equipped with a speaker that will allow you to continue enjoying the service. Please ask an usher if you need any assistance.
- Activity bags for children can be found on a rack in the Narthex.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(For the week of October 1, 2017)

The **Altar Flowers** are sponsored by Harriet Simmons in memory of her son, Bruce Simmons and her son-in-law, John Kauffman.

The **Organ Arrangement** is sponsored by Peter and Sharon Koller in honor of W. David Koller's birthday on October 3.

The **Bulletins** are sponsored by Joanne Sholedice in honor of the Music Ministry.

The **Upper Room Publication** for this month is sponsored by Dale Hollenbach in memory of his parents, Hattie and Melvin Hollenbach and his wife, Doris Hollenbach.

Coffee Time Sponsor: John Diehl and Dawn Stern

Ushers: 8:55 a.m. – TBA

10:25 a.m. –TBA

Readers: 8:55 a.m. – Laura Walizer

10:25 a.m. – Marcia Moll

Acolytes: 8:55 a.m. – Parker Milyo and Nicholas Hill

10:25 a.m. – Herbert Dunkelberger and Alex Sheffler

Attendance: September 24, 2017 8:55 a.m. – 121 10:25 a.m. – 87

August	Income	Expense	Difference
General Acct	\$31,462.59	\$51,040.05	-\$19,577.46
Other Accts	\$ 6,006.00	\$13,106.74	-\$ 7,100.74
Year to date			
General Acct	\$271,830.10	\$327,252.74	-\$55,422.64
Other Accts	\$ 75,126.72	\$ 74,982.16	\$ 144.56



WORLD

COMMUNION

SUNDAY