

SAINT PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Fleetwood, Pennsylvania
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 July 23, 2017

GATHERING PRAYER

Ever-present God, who is at the side of every creature in creation, renew our lives so that we may discern and do your will, what is good and acceptable and perfect. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

INTROIT

PROCESSIONAL HYMN "*O God of Strength*" No. 534

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 "*Bourees #1 and 2*" from Suite No. 3. JS Bach Dana Cullen, Horn

(Congregation Standing)

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

All: (singing) Amen!

Pastor: God has searched us and knows us.

God knows when we sit down and when we rise up.

All: God searches out our path and our lying down.

God is acquainted with all our ways.

Pastor: Before a word is on our tongues, God knows it.

God's hand is ever available to guide us.

All: Such knowledge is a wonder to us.

It is beyond anything we can attain.

Pastor: We cannot escape from God's spirit.

There is nowhere to flee from God's presence.

**All: Darkness is as light to our God.
 God illuminates the way before us.**

Psalm 139, adapted

PENITENCE

Pastor: Create in us a clean heart, O God.

All: And renew a right spirit within me.

Pastor: Do not cast us away from your presence,

All: And do not take your holy spirit from me.

Pastor: Restore to us the joy of your salvation,

All: And sustain in me a willing spirit.

All: singing

*Dear God embracing humankind,
 Forgive our foolish ways;
 Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
 In purer lives Thy service find,
 In deeper reverence, praise.*

All: Search us and test us, that all wickedness may be purged from us, O Creator. Save us from our futile striving after our own advantage. Reshape our will to conform with your intentions for us. We confess that we have allowed weeds to grow in our lives. Our focus has drifted from the harvest you intend to the fears and greed that hold us hostage. Release us from bondage to decay that we may grow in likeness to Jesus Christ. We want to bear fruit for you. Turn us to the brightness of a new day. Amen.

All: singing

*In simple trust like theirs who heard,
 beside the Syrian sea,
 the gracious calling of the Lord,
 let us, like them, without a word,
 rise up and followers be.*

*Drop your still dews of quietness,
 till all our strivings cease;
 take from our souls the strain and stress,
 and let our ordered lives confess
 the beauty of your peace.*

All: *singing*

*Breathe through the heats of our desire
your coolness and your balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm.*

Pastor: Let us say again what it is that we believe.

Pastor: 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

SERMON TEXT Genesis 28:10-19a OT pg. 25

EPISTLE Romans 8:12-25 NT pg. 158

CHORAL RESPONSE

Bless, O Lord we pray Thee, This Thy Holy Word. Help our hearts remember what our ears have heard. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC "First Passageway" Jill Haley Dana Cullen, Horn

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 NT pg.14

Choral Response:

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen
(Congregation May Be Seated)

SERMON

"The Lord is in This Place"

¹⁶ Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!" Genesis 28:16

(Congregation Stands)

RESPONSIVE HYMN

"We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder"

No. 500

(Congregation May Be Seated)

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

Hear our prayer, O Lord, Hear our Prayer, O Lord. Incline your ear to us, and grant us Thy peace.

GIVING

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY (8:55)

"He Plants Me Like a Seed"

David Huntsinger

OFFERTORY(10:25)

"Hallelujah"

Leonard Cohen

Alana Rader, Vocal

(Congregation Stands)

DOXOLOGY (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*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

SENDING

THE RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Lead On Eternal Sovereign"

No. 573

THE BENEDICTION

THREE FOLD AMEN

CHIMES

THE POSTLUDE

"Break Forth, Ye Heavens!"

Edward Broughton

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 and Joyful Willing Workers class in the Conference Room. 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 July 23, 2017)

The **Altar Flowers** are sponsored by Randy and Barb Hoffman in honor of their 43rd wedding anniversary on July 27th.

The **Organ Arrangement** is sponsored by John and Sandra Dugan in honor of their wedding anniversary.

The **Piano Arrangement** is presented by Janet and Henry Peters in honor of their 63rd wedding anniversary.

The **Rose Bud** is in honor of the birth of Austin Joel Koch born July 11, 2017 to Ashley Weeast Koch and Jason Koch. Proud grandparents are David and Bonnie Weeast.

The **Bulletins** are sponsored by Patricia Lenhart in memory of her husband, Robert.

The **Upper Room Publication** for this month is sponsored by Michael and Barbara Werner

Coffee Time Sponsor: Tom and the Agnew girls.

Ushers: 8:55 a.m. – Tom Agnew, Mary Ann Hayes, Dennis Wanner, Mike Werner

10:25 a.m. – Betsy Becker, Donna Rader Bruce Rader, Chris Vojtasek

Readers: 8:55 a.m. – Dale Hollenbach **10:25 a.m.** – Jim Goldman

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

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

Attendance: July 16, 2017 8:55 a.m. – 120 10:25 a.m. – 57

June	Income	Expense	Difference
General Acct	\$29,900.06	\$50,144.68	-\$20,244.62
Other Accts	\$ 7,470.00	\$12,224.96	-\$ 4,754.96
Year to date			
General Acct	\$198,330.99	\$238,360.81	-\$40,029.82
Other Accts	\$ 67,223.05	\$ 57,406.91	\$ 9,816.14



ROMANS 8:16