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SAINT PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Fleetwood, Pennsylvania
September 17, 2017

GATHERING PRAYER

Almighty God, center us this day on the ways that you are moving among us, helping us to grow in our faith and our understanding of you. Help us to know your will for our lives and inspire us to follow the path that you've laid out for us. Push out the chaos, help us to abandon the noise of the world and to know only your calm and pure voice in the time ahead. Amen.

INTROIT

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *"Sing Praise To God, Who Has Shaped"* No. 22

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

PRELUDE **CENTERING**
 "Go Down Moses" Spiritual

 (Congregation Standing)

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

All: (singing) Amen!

Pastor: My soul, praises the Lord! Every part of me, praises God's holy name!

All: For God's love for us is as great as heaven is high above the earth and deeper than the greatest ocean.

Pastor: God has taken our sins as far away from us as the east is from the west.

All: My soul, praises the Lord and never forgets God's love for us. Every part of my being rejoices to be in the presence of the Lord, today and always. Amen

(The Congregation may be seated)

PENITENCE

Pastor: We find strength when we turn over the weakest parts of ourselves to God. Let's come before God with humble hearts...

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All: God of our every hope, You have created each of us in a special way. There has never been and there will never be anyone else who is exactly the same. As you formed us and gave us life, you also gave us unique gifts and abilities. Unfortunately, we don't always use our gifts in the way that you would want us to use them. We forget the purpose that you've laid out before us. We turn away from what it means to be in community and to support one another. Forgive us for thinking we know better than you. Forgive us for hurting our sisters and brothers. Forgive us for hurting ourselves. Forgive us for hurting You.

Silent prayers of confession

Pastor: Through Jesus Christ, we can know the promise of redemption, the promise of salvation, the promise that through him all of our sins 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.

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. 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. 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.)

SPECIAL MUSIC (8:55) *"How Great is Our God"* Pastor John
CHOIR ANTHEM (10:25) *"The Solid Rock"* McCluskey

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, his covenant, his Blood support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ, the solid Rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unending grace;
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the vale.
On Christ, the solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.

When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found!
Dresses in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.
On Christ the solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.
All other ground is sinking sand.

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT Exodus 14:19-31

EPISTLE LESSON Romans 14:1-12

*Choral Response: There is a Savior, what joys express,
His eyes are mercy, His word is rest.
For each tomorrow, for yesterday,
There is a Savior who lights our way.*

GOSPEL TEXT Matthew 18:21-35
(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 "488...489...490!"

(Congregation Standing)

RESPONSIVE HYMN "Amazing Grace" No. 547
(The congregation may be seated.)

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORDS 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.

*Choral Response: Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place,
Lord listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.*

GIVING

OFFERING INVITATION

THE OFFERTORY "Morning Has Broken" Traditional Gaelic Melody

(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. Amen.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

SENDING

THE RECESSIONAL HYMN "Called As Partners in Christ's Service" No. 495

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 "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" J. Dykes

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 September 17, 2017)

The **Altar Flowers** are sponsored by Dale and Debbie Dietrich and family in loving memory of her parents, Pearl and Elwood Noll.

The **Organ Arrangement** is sponsored by Gary, Rachel and Megan Eberly in memory of Stewart and Mary Eberly.

The **Bulletins** are sponsored by Patricia Lenhart in memory of her sister, Jacquelin Carlotta Wenger.

The **Upper Room Publication** for this month is sponsored by Peggy Wulterkens and Cheryle Baer in memory of their parents, Fern and Walter Fishpaw.

Coffee Time Sponsor: The Valick Family

Ushers: 8:55 a.m. – Steve Wentz, Cindy Rothenberger, Bob Wolf, Dennis Wanner

10:25 a.m. – Betsy Becker, Heidi Pierce, Allen Crockett, Jenn Hoffman

Readers: 8:55 a.m. – Sharon Dreibelbis **10:25 a.m.** – Gary Reinert

Acolytes: 8:55 a.m. – Nicholas Hill and Michaela Ernst

10:25 a.m. – Jaiden Valick and Parker Milyo

Attendance: September 10, 2017 8:55 a.m. – 157 10:25 a.m. – 53

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



...how often should
I forgive?
"Not SEVEN times,
but, I tell you,
SEVENTY-
SEVEN
times."

Matthew 18:21-22, NRSV