

SAINT PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Fleetwood, Pennsylvania
January 7th, 2018

GATHERING PRAYER

In our sadness and our joy we have been gathered by your strong, tender arms, O God. You have ransomed us from things too strong to overcome on our own, and you have freed us to flow like living waters upon the earth. Let your Spirit flow through this place, that every spiritual blessing might be ours for the receiving and the sharing. Amen.

INTROIT

PROCESSIONAL HYMN “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” No. 129

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): “Create in Me a Clean Heart” anonymous
(10:25) “In the Bleak Midwinter” Gustav Holst

Greta Ertel - piano

Jill Haley - English horn

(Congregation Standing)

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

All: (singing) Amen!

Pastor: The prophet announces:

All: All of you will return to God, a great company of saints processing!

Pastor: The people reply:

All: We praise the Lord, for we are God’s people!

Pastor: God restores what has been broken

**All: Communities destroyed by conflict, Trust betrayed by broken promises,
Families torn apart by war.**

Pastor: The prophet has spoken, and the people respond:

All: We praise the Lord, for we are God’s people!

PENITENCE

Pastor: Let us join together in clearing our hearts and minds by freely confessing our sins together:

All: **God, your true light has come into the world, blessing all upon whom it shines. Hope, peace, joy and love are ours through the Incarnate Word. Yet we languish, O God. We do not dance your praises; we do not join in merry laughter or holy joy. Our mourning is like ash in our mouths, and sorrow chokes the words of delight we wish to profess. There is no peace in our hearts. We struggle to see the promises of the prophets fulfilled. Open us to the blessings that surround us, that we may again be moved to praise you, God of blinding light and gentle power.**

Silent prayers of confession

Pastor: God’s might is inscrutably contained in the vessel of a human baby, and God’s grace is unleashed upon a weary, broken world. You, too, are vessels of God’s spirit, recipients of God’s grace and partners in Christ’s reconciling work. Be at peace; in Christ you are made whole once more. Alleluia and amen!

All (singing)

Open My Eyes

Voice

O-pen my eyes that I may see Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me

5 Place in my hands the wonder-ful key That shall unclasp and set me free.

9 Silently now I wait for Thee, Rea-dy my God, Thy will to see; O-pen my eyes il -

14 lu - mine me, Spir it di - vine.

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

SERMON TEXT Mark 1:4-11 NT pg. 34

(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 “Embodied”

(Congregation Standing)

RESPONSIVE HYMN “As We Gather at Your Table” No. 332

(The congregation may be seated.)

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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.

GIVING

OFFERING INVITATION

THE OFFERTORY “We Three Kings”
 Carol Aulenbach- oboe

(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: We give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy, for calling forth the creation and raising us from dust by the breath of your being. We praise you for the beauty and bounty of the Earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and for your faithfulness that transcends our understanding.

Pastor: We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory. We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the good news, the light shining in the darkness. Your Word which became flesh and lived among us, delivering grace and truth.

Pastor: We praise you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we magnify your name with joy.

All (singing) *Holy, holy, holy! God the Almighty!*

NICAEA

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! 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 you 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.

Special Music (8:55) "In the Bleak Midwinter" Gustav Holst

Greta Ertel - piano

Jill Haley - English horn

CHANCEL CHOIR (10:25) "Led By A Star" Lloyd Larson

Many nights the wisemen looked into the evening sky,

Searching through the glorious heavens for a long expected sign.

When at last the star appeared upon a cloudless night,

quickly leaving everyone they followed in its light.

Led by a Star, looking for a Child;

Led by a Star, over many miles.

Led by a Star with the gifts they bring;

Led by a Star, searching, searching for a King.

Through the winding countryside,

Not knowing where it led, faithfully they

followed on with the starlight overhead.

When it came to rest above the place the Baby lay,

kneeling down, they worshipped Him

and went upon their way.

Led by a Star, looking for a Child;

Led by a Star over many miles.

Led by a Star, with the gifts they bring;

Led by a Star, searching, searching for a King.

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

"Great is Your Faithfulness"

No. 423

THE BENEDICTION

CHORAL SENDING

May the Grace of Christ

♩ = 100

Soprano

May the Grace of Christ our Savior, and the love of God our Fa ther, and the

5
S
fellowship of the Spirit be with us----- May the Grace of Christ our Savior, and the

11
S
love of God our Father, and the fellowship of the Spirit be with us----- For

17
S
ev-er, and ev-er, for ev-cr - more. A - men.

CHIMES

POSTLUDE “O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright” P. Nicolai

Portions of this morning’s liturgy were originally published at:
http://www.ucc.org/worship_worship-ways

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 January 7, 2018)

The **Altar Flowers** are sponsored by Valerie Worthington in loving memory of Sandra Kohler.

The **Bulletins** are sponsored by Joel and Ginny Herb

The **Upper Room Publication** for this month is sponsored by the Women’s Guild in appreciation for all the time volunteered by everyone in the congregation throughout the church year.

Coffee Time Sponsor: Sharon Koller and Eileen Gilmore

Ushers: 8:55 a.m. – TBD

10:25 a.m. – TBD

Readers: 8:55 a.m. – Dale Hollenbach

10:25 a.m. – Sue Creswell

Acolytes: 8:55 a.m. – Michaela Ernst and Jade Vojtasek

10:25 a.m. – Ethan Raudenbush and Nicholas Hill

Attendance:	December 31, 2017	8:55 a.m. – 81	10:25 a.m. – 54
November	Income	Expense	Difference
General Acct	\$35,157.13	\$28,402.30	\$ 6,754.83
Other Accts	\$19,960.50	\$ 9,373.81	\$10,586.69

Year to date			
General Acct	\$366,817.28	\$433,392.09	-\$66,574.81
Other Accts	\$142,648.89	\$132,434.00	\$10,214.89