

Myerstown United Church of Christ

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 6, 2019

Worship Time 10:00 am

Traditional Service of the Word *World Communion Sunday*

Prelude *Communion* Camille Saint-Saens

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship (Leader/All)

(will all who are able, please stand)

Today we gather at God's table all around the world.

We are the People of God!

Though we differ in language, custom, and tradition,

We are brothers and sisters in Christ!

For there is one Lord, one faith, and one baptism.

We are One in God's Spirit!

*Opening Hymn #549

I Love Your Kingdom Lord

(please be seated)

Reading of the Old Testament Lesson

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save? Why do you make me see wrong doing and look at trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law becomes slack and justice never prevails. The wicked surround the righteous—therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

I will stand at my watchpost, and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me, and what he[a] will answer concerning my complaint. Then the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait

for it; it will surely come, it will not delay. Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith.

Reflection on Habakkuk

Litany for the Whole World [One/All]

Creator God, we give you thanks for calling us as stewards. Open our eyes to the intricacies of creation. Help us feel the textures of the world. Unstop our ears that we may hear your Word. Breathe into us the sweet aromas of life, that we may taste the fruits of your promise even now;

Even now, O God, even in Africa.

Africa. Where your church grows rapidly. Where faith is exuberant. Where a bright mosaic of culture shows the world the vibrancy of your love.

But where there is also pain, and famine, and thirst. Where violent unrest and ethnic strife fill so many lives and resist the unity our Savior brings.

Help us to stand with those who suffer, respond when we are called, give in appropriate ways so that wells will not run dry, creeping deserts may be slowed, and the chains of despair may be removed. Help us to bring the gospel, that your realm may be realized, even now;

Even now, O God, even in Asia.

Asia. So vast, so deeply rooted in tradition. Where your church is small but where religion is great. Gentle Asia, beautiful Asia, troubled Asia.

God of wisdom, teach us respect. Help us to learn from those who express their faith in different ways. Deepen our understanding of tradition, serenity, and prayer. Help us in this ancient land to witness meaningfully to the saving power of your Son.

Awaken us to systemic issues that increase despair and prolong poverty. Guide us in responsible stewardship, that your reign may extend throughout the world, even now;

Even now, O God, even in the Middle East.

The Middle East. The cradle of the church; the birthplace of our Lord; the land we call holy. Where the pain of the cross is so vivid; where the dry earth is watered by the tears of its children.

Show us again that we cannot feed the hungry with threats. We cannot quench thirst with religious intolerance. We cannot build for the future on sands of hate.

Lift us above strife. Infuse us with mutual respect, that the captives might be freed, that the frightened might be comforted. Lift us, loving God, as you lifted the stone from your Son's tomb. Make us joyous witnesses of his victory over death. Show us your grace, even now;

Even now, O God, even in Europe.

Europe and its magnificent Christian heritage. Where art, music, and architecture inspire generation upon generation with the beauty and the majesty of your gospel message.

Where the dramatic change in recent days has brought poverty and violence, displacing whole communities into a desperate present and an uncertain future. Where entire peoples have fallen away from faith in you.

God of grace, help us to believe and trust in your eternal promise. Point us toward the pathway of peace. Answer Jesus' prayer that all may be one in him, even now;

Even now, O God, even in Latin America.

Latin America. Where your church struggles valiantly for the weak and the poor. Where martyrs are made. In Latin America, so rich in the bounties of creation, so misused by outsiders. In Latin America, where we have made mistakes in your name and brought a gospel soiled with our greed.

Your servants in Latin America have taught us by example. Kindle within our hearts our own integrity of faith. Inspire within us a new sense of your church.

Make us aware that through such commitment, your peace and justice will be revealed, not in some distant time and place, but also right now, right here;

Here, O God, in North America, even here.

North America. Where so much affluence hides so much poverty and disease. North America, the sometimes hollow land, with so much to give. Make us bold in your Spirit, but humble in our work. Help us share your grace in Word and deed. Help us assume the servant's role as Jesus did. Help us share our blessings as the Samaritan did. Help us to put ourselves in others' shoes, sandals, mountain boots, and to walk in the footsteps of bare and calloused feet.

Here, O God, and throughout all the earth, we trust in your abiding care. We pledge ourselves to a deepened commitment in your name. Amen.

Hymn of Celebration #315

This Is the Feast of Victory

[stanza 1 only]

A Word for Children

Hymn of Celebration #315

This Is the Feast of Victory

[stanza 2 only]

*A Reading from the Gospels

Luke 17:5-10

[Will those who are able please stand.]

Hear the Good News of Jesus Christ as remembered by Luke in the 17th chapter beginning at the 5th verse.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

"Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"

Here is where the reading ends. It is the gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

[The congregation may be seated.]

Reflection on Luke

Hymn of Celebration #315

This Is the Feast of Victory

[stanza 3 only]

Preparation for the Sacrament

Confession of Sin

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful and forgiving God, we need a spirit of love and acceptance to flood into our lives this day. Even though we celebrate World

Communion Sunday with the giving of the precious bread and of the beloved wine, still we harbor anger and vehemence against others. We act out of frustration rather than love. We hoard your gifts and only grudgingly share our bounty with others. We find ways to turn our backs on you, claiming that other things are more important than our faith. And then in the midst of struggle and strife, we come back to you, awash in tears and sorrow. We plead for your help and salvation. Remind us again, O Lord, that your love has always and will always be with us. You have called us to be witnesses to the good things that can happen when we follow your ways. You have asked us to reach out, across our borders, our oceans, our fears to others with the reconciling love of your Son Jesus Christ. Heal us from our selfishness and our apathy. Give us courage and strength for the ministries in which you have placed us. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Opportunity for Giving Thanks

Invitation

Offertory

Rhapsody

Camille Saint-Saens

*Offertory Response

Sing Alleluia to the Lord

#120

Service of the Sacrament

*Invitation

*The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them in union with Christians around the globe.

Let us give thanks to God on high.

As millions have done and will do this day, it is fitting to give our thanks and praise. Amen.

[the congregation may be seated]

Communion Hymn

Bread of the World

#693

Words of Institution

Call to the Supper

Communion of God's Gift to the World

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

[will all who are able please stand]

For what you have given us, God, thank you. For what you call us to, God, thank you. For filling us again, thank you! Help us to be, all that you know we can be. In Christ's name, in your love, we ask it. Amen.

*Prayer of Our Savior

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.

*Closing Hymn

I Know Whom I Have Believed

#407

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

The Church of Christ

#623

[verse 5 only]

(please be seated following the response)

Moments of Silent Meditation

Postlude

Psalm XIX

Benedetto Marcello

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### Upcoming Pulpit Supply Information

October 13

Garrett Book

November 3

Jim Yoder

October 20

Jack Esbenshade

November 10

Peter Hook

October 27

Nora Foust

## Acknowledgements

The flowers on the altar in loving memory of Mahlon and Mitch and our parents by the Hemperly family.

Many thanks to the *Bread Bakers* who used recipes they had never seen and transformed them into loaves from around the world. Their willingness to take part in this endeavor expands our awareness of World Wide Communion. They are: Lindy Bennetch, Melanie Bennetch, Marcia Bicher, Marianne Fritsch, Marie Hibshman, Shirley Krall, Wanda Rabold, Suzie Wartluft, and Gia Zimmerman. Also appreciation is expressed to Gia and Jeremy Zimmerman for organizing the rest of the “Conversational” time following the 10 am service.

### Liturgy Information:

The “Call to Worship” is reprinted with permission from <http://www.desperatepreacher.com/WorldCommunionSunday.htm>

The “Litany for the Whole World: A Prayer for World Communion Sunday” is reprinted from “From *Reformed Worship* 40 © 1996 Worship Ministries of the Christian Reformed Church. Used by permission.” <https://www.reformedworship.org/article/june-1996/litany-whole-world-prayer-world-communion-sunday>

The “Call to Confession” is *From the Africana Worship Book, Year B, (Discipleship Resources, 2007) Used with permission.*

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon were written by Nancy Townley and reprinted with permission from Ministry Matters; <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4232/worship-connection-october-6-2019>

The “Invitation: [offering] and “Invitation” [service of the sacrament] were written by Matt Gaventa and is reprinted with permission from Peace and Global Witness: World Communion Sunday Liturgy <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/PGW16-World-Communion-Sunday-Worship-resource.pdf>

The “Great Prayer of Thanksgiving” was written by Jason Rimmer and is reprinted with permission from <http://www.jordanrimmer.com/world-communion-sunday-ideas-and-liturgy/>

The “Prayer of Thanksgiving” was written by Richard Bott and is reprinted with permission from Sharing Liturgy: Communion Liturgy for World Wide Communion Sunday <http://liturgy.richardbott.com/?p=204>

## Welcome to Myerstown United Church of Christ

Church Office: 304 West Main Avenue, Myerstown , PA 17067-1023

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website: [myerstownuccchurch.org](http://myerstownuccchurch.org)

Kory Leppo ----- 717-269-6033 ----- Council President  
 Marie Hibshman 717-343-3247 ----- Elder  
 Jim Yoder----- 252-258-4268 ----- Bridge Pastor  
 Emily Frantz----- 717-383-1147 ----- Parish Administrator  
 Mark Herr----- 717-572-7734 -Family & Community Ministry Coordinator  
 Lindy Bennetch----- Financial Administrator  
 Jim Yoder----- Church Secretary  
 Elicia Frank----- Custodian

## Worship Assistants

*Appreciation to the following who participated in today's service:*

**Organist** Mark Herr

### 8:00 am Service

|                       |                  |                  |                     |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Open Church</b>    | Cal Beamesderfer | <b>Greeter</b>   | Nancy Weaver        |
| <b>Worship Leader</b> | Wanda Rabold     | <b>Communion</b> | Bill & Betty Arnold |

### 10:00 am Service

|                      |                                                       |                       |               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| <b>Greeter</b>       | Jim & Beth Diehm                                      | <b>Worship Leader</b> | Margo McQuate |
| <b>Ushers</b>        | Bob Dash, Darryl Brown, Marie Hibshman, Kenny Patrick |                       |               |
| <b>Communion</b>     | Jen & David Blystone, Darryl Brown, Marie Hibshman    |                       |               |
| <b>Counting Team</b> | Darryl Brown, Marie Hibshman                          |                       |               |
| <b>Sound</b>         | Paulie McQuate                                        |                       |               |

## Stewardship Report for Sunday, September 29, 2019

|                  |                         |                   |       |
|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------|
| General Fund     | \$2,736                 | OCWM              | \$266 |
|                  | Church Improvement Fund |                   | \$500 |
| Attendance 8 am: | 20                      | Attendance 10 am: | 48    |