

Myerstown United Church of Christ

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 20, 2019

Worship Time 8:00 am

Brief Service of the Word

Prelude *I Surrender All-Just As I Am* David Ritter
Sarah Wagner, Violin Jennifer Blystone, piano

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship (Leader/All)**

(will all who are able, please stand)

We have gathered in God's holy presence,

The One who etches grace on our hearts.

This is the place where God

Will transform us into disciples.

We glorify our God, who yearns for justice,

Not just for a favored few, but for the least of our world.

This is the place where God will write compassion on our souls.

We give thanks to God for unceasing grace;

We remember God's persistence in saving us.

This is the place where God will breathe the Word into our lives.

***Opening Hymn #358**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

(please be seated)

Confession of Sin

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Your words are given to us, Author of Life, so we might be reformed, but we are intent on changing others. Your words are offered to us so we might be transformed, but we are focused on conforming to our culture. Your words are spoken to lead us into new life, but we hold our old ways tight to our chests.

Forgive us, God of Wonder. Do not remember our sins, but continue to touch us with your steadfast mercy. Show us how to be persistent in living out our faith, even as you were so tenacious in offering us your grace and life in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Jesus reminds us that we are to be resolute in our lives of faithfulness and service. The good news is that God is steadfast in filling us with love and grace.

We are forgiven people. May we live as sisters and brothers in Christ, God's children in word and deed, in hope and joy. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***A Reading from the Gospels**

Luke 18:1-8

[will those who are able please stand for the reading of the Gospel]

Hear the good news of Jesus Christ as remembered by Luke in the first 8 verses of chapter 18.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent. For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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

Thanks be to God!

[the congregation may be seated]

Homily

A Parable on Persistence & Justice John Esbenshade

Pastoral Prayer

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 #631

There Is a Balm in Gilead

*Benediction

*Benediction Response #502 [verse 1 only]

Be Thou My Vision

(please be seated following the response)

Moments of Silent Meditation

Postlude

Toccata on LEONI

Gordon Young

Acknowledgements

We again welcome Rev. John Esbenshade to our pulpit and thank him for his presence among us today.

We welcome Sarah Wagner once again as our organist. It is our pleasure to have her with us this day. It is also our pleasure to have her sister, Jen Blystone, participate with her.

The flowers on the altar in loving memory of pop-pop and nana Sorenson and grandpa and grandma Sauders.

Liturgy Information: Some liturgy for this services was reprinted with permission from <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2019/10/liturgy-with-communion-for-october-20.html>

Welcome to Myerstown United Church of Christ

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

Phone: 717/866-5252 myerstownucc@comcast.net

website: 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----- Office Administrative Assistant

Elicia Frank----- Custodian

Worship Assistants

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

Organist Sarah Wagner

8:00 am Service

Open Church

Marcia Bicher

Greeters

William & Betty Arnold

Worship Leader

William Arnold

10:00 am Service

Greeter

Sara Zeller

Sound:

Robert Dash

Worship Leaders Carolyn & Charlie Williams

Ushers

Kory & Ryan Leppo, Bob Dash, Kenny Patrick

Counting Team

Lois Werner, Sara Zeller, Sally Kulp

Stewardship Report for Sunday, September 29, 2019

General Fund \$2,292 OCWM \$185

Church Improvement Fund \$325

Attendance 8 am: 25

Attendance 10 am: 51