

Myerstown United Church of Christ

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 20, 2019

Worship Time 10:00 am

Traditional 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

Let us pray as one.

**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.**

Musical Interlude *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* Ruth Coleman
Sarah Wagner, Violin Jennifer Blystone, piano

A Word for Children

Lessons for Today

A Reading from the Old Testament Genesis 32:22-31

Let us pay attention to God's Word for us as it is found in the book of Genesis beginning with the 22nd verse of chapter 32.

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me. So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob. Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed. Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet

my life is preserved. The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

The reading of the Lesson from the Old Testament ends here. Let us be blessed.

A Reading from the Epistles 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Listen for the Word of God in Paul's second letter to Timothy. It begins with the 14th verse of chapter 3 and ends at chapter 4, verse 5.

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

This is where the Epistle Lesson for the 19th Sunday after Pentecost ends. May we be blessed.

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

*A Reading from the Gospels Luke 18:1-8

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

Hymn #473 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

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.

Opportunity for Giving Thanks

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *Humbly We Adore Thee* John G Barr

*Offertory Response #592 *Lord, You Give the Great Commission*
[verse 4 only]

*Prayer of Dedication

Like your words, O God, the tangible gifts with which we are blessed are not to be hoarded or hidden away for rainy days. Rather we offer them so they might bring healing, hope, grace, and peace to all around us, your children. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*Affirming Our Faith *A New Creed* hymnal back cover

*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 delight 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.

We thank Marianne & Steve Fritch for providing refreshments in the Gathering Area following worship this morning. Let us continue the fellowship begun during worship in this relaxed time of community.

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>

Upcoming Preaching Schedule

October 20	Jack Esbenshade	October 27	Nora Foust
November 3	Jim Yoder	November 10	Jim Yoder
November 17	Peter Schmiechen	November 24	Peter Hook

Jim Yoder will be preaching the entire season of Advent and Christmas Eve

Announcements

WORSHIP SUPPORT TEAM will meet in the library tomorrow at 6:00 pm.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will take place on Sunday, November 10th. There will be only one service that morning at 9 am. The meeting to follow the service.

ANNUAL MEETING CHOIR: Since there is only one service on November 10th, there is an opportunity for folks who normally attend the early service to sing in the choir. It's also an opportunity for late service people to participate in a special musical event. If you are interested / willing, please contact Emily.

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS: At the Annual Meeting on November 10, 2019, we will vote on some amendments to our Constitution and By-Laws. Major changes include removing the list and descriptions of committees and task groups including term limits that we find impossible to follow. Committees will now be controlled by Council so adjustments can be made as needed (See Section 4.1 of the By-laws). We adjusted the terms for Elders to coordinate with having 4 Elders rather than 6, a change we made three years ago (See Section 4.2) We also added the word *active before member* in several locations to emphasize that quorums will be determined based on active membership. We replaced general mailing with communication to reflect our current use of electronic as well as paper communications (See Constitution Section 7.2, By-laws Section 5.3 and 5.4). Copies of the current [white paper] and proposed [pink] By-Laws are available on the information table.

ALL SAINT'S SUNDAY is November 3rd. As before, we will read the names of members of the congregation who have died in the past years. In addition, we will gather the names of persons who achieved their *sainthood* in previous years. You are invited to submit names of family members and friends. You are also encouraged to talk with your neighbors and invite them to submit names.

ORDINATION SERVICE FOR GARRETT BOOK. The service will be held on Nov 3rd and begins at 3:00 pm. It will take place at Christ UCC, 200 S White Oak St, Annville.

MAILBOXES for church staff and all task groups are located in the Library.

KITCHEN EQUIPMENT & UTENSILS should not be removed from the kitchen without talking to the Kitchen Task Group [Mark Herr] and being signed out through the church office.

LCCM needs plastic store bags in addition to the goods on the list. Please place them in the usual LCCM collection box. Also, the Annual Fundraising Event is scheduled for Thursday, Nov 21st. Carolyn Williams will be selling tickets.

MUCC also provides a basket for the silent auction that contains gift cards. Double benefit: Order a gift card on Nov 3 and give it to the Williams on Nov 10. Very simple!

LEBANON VALLEY HOMES [ANNVILLE] ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR will be held on Saturday, November 23rd from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm in the Chapel. Refer to the November Vineyard for items they would like to have donated.

CHOIR MEMBERS: Please take note of the rehearsal schedule for October through December: Wednesdays at 7:30 in the Music room 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 12/18, 12/22 [11am,if needed],12/24. Anthems will be rehearsed at 9:40 am (music room) and sung on 10/27, 11/3, and 12/22 at the 10 am services and 8:40 am for the 9 am service on 11/10, as well as 12/24. Please contact Emily Frantz or put your name on the absentee chart as soon as possible if you will miss any of these dates.

PRAYER TEAM: Replacing a traditional prayer chain, participants will come together to pray for individuals and situations as a group. Sally Kulp is organizing this team. Please contact her to participate.

~~~~~

**Worship Assistants for October 27, 2019**

8:00 am Service **Open Church:** William & Betty Arnold  
**Greeters:** Betty & William Arnold **Worship Leader:** Wanda Rabold  
 10:00 am Service **Greeter:** Dawn Hassler  
**Worship Leader:** Sally Kulp **Sound:** Robert Dash  
**Ushers:** Kory & Ryan Leppo, Bob Dash, Kenny Patrick  
**Counting Team:** Ed & Candy Hibshman, Terry & Suzie Schott

~~~~~

Prayer List

Nancy Brown	Rosene Duffy	Larry Eisenhauer
Ellen Goodyear	Ruthann Snoke	Joyce Mitstifer
Jewel Fessler (Kathy Grose)	Linda Feaser (Kathy Grose)	
Suzanne Fritsch (Stephen Fritsch)	Bill Gracely (Margo McQuate)	
Dennis Palm (former Scout Master)	Ralph Woynarowski (Sara Zeller)	
Rosalla Hollenbach (Trudy Yeager)	Joanne Frantz (Emily Frantz)	
David Mock (Ed & Candy Hibshman)	James Haines (Ed & Candy Hibshman)	
Heather & Elvin Perez (Marianne Fritsch)	Beverly Asroff (Steve Fritsch)	
Family of Carol Schwalm	Steve Norford (Margo McQuate)	

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