

# Myerstown United Church of Christ

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

November 17, 2019

Worship Time 8:00 am

## Brief Service of the Word

Prelude *Old Hundredth* Healy Williams

Welcoming & Announcing

*(will all who are able, please stand)*

\*Coming Together [Leader/All]

Whether we live in an apartment or a house or in the suburbs or the city:

**God tells us to pray for the places where we live.**

Whether we are exiles or prisoners for the gospel or are young, old, insider, outcast:

**God says, when you search for me, you will find me.**

Whether we have been wandering and lost or lived in the same place all our lives:

**God says, I will gather you from all your places and bring you home.**

\*Singing #661 *All People That On Earth Do Dwell* OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

*(the congregation may be seated)*

Admitting Our Indiscretions

Preparing For Prayer

Despite our foolish and angry words, God continues to speak of mercy to us. Despite our best efforts to be faithful in our living, God remains faithful in keeping the promise to forgive us and restore us to wholeness. Let us confess our sin to God, that God's hope and grace might endure in our brokenness.

Asking For Forgiveness

**God beyond borders, we know that on our way to worship, we may not have noticed the exiles in our neighborhoods. We admit how easy it is for us to wander down the street of temptation, pausing at the corner of easy choices. We fall silent in the presence of those who**

**speak words of anger and hate. We tolerate a culture that suspects all who are different from us.**

**Have mercy on us, O God, for surely you take the side of justice. Open our hearts to all the wonders you are performing in our lives. You gift us with those of other cultures, that our lives might be blessed. You send us friends out of places we least expect, that our community might be enriched. You call us to be generous with our blessings, so others might be graced with the gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

Petitioning In Silence

Let us continue our prayers in silence.

*[after an appropriate amount of time, end the silence with "Amen"]*

Expressing Our Gratitude

God challenges us, God encourages us. God confronts us, and God accepts us.

**God works wonders in our midst, and gives us the eyes, the hearts, the souls to see such miracles.**

God forgives us, God guides us through the wilderness of the world,

**God leads us home. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Listening for God's Word

A Reading from the Prophecies

Isaiah 12

Hear the Word of God spoken by Isaiah in the 12th chapter of his prophecy.

The prophet offers a poem of thanksgiving and praise.

You will say in that day: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.

Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

This is where the reading from the prophecy ends. May it give us hope for our future.

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

\*A Reading from the Gospels Luke 21:5-19

Hear the good news of Jesus Christ as recorded by Luke in chapter 21 beginning with the 5th verse and following.

**Praise be to you, O Christ.**

Jesus is giving his followers insight about the future.

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he! and, 'The time is near! Do not go after them.

"When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed

even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls."

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

**Thanks be to God!**

*[the congregation may be seated]*

Homily *Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done* Peter Schmeichen

Voicing Our Needs, Concerns, and Thanks Rev. Schmiechen

Praying As Our Savior Taught Us

**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.**

\*Bringing Our Time Together to a Close

Let us go forth into a world that needs new visions.

**We take the message of hope and love, of justice and peace, to all we meet.**

Let us live the dream and make it reality.

**We will celebrate endings and new beginnings, challenges and promises and live the new creation. Amen.**

\*Benediction Rev. Schmeichen

\*Recessing #96 *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* AZMON

\*Meditating

Postlude

### Acknowledgements

We welcome the Rev Dr Peter Schmiechen to our pulpit this morning. He was president of Lancaster Theological Seminary from 1985-2002, having previous served as Dean of Elmhurst College outside of Chicago. He and his wife continue to live in Lancaster County and have two married sons and four

grandchildren in the Midwest. He has written on the meaning of Christ, the church and the Lord's Supper. He also enjoys time in northern Minnesota and wood working.

The flowers on the altar are given in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Batdorff and Robert Patrick by the Batdorff and Patrick families.

*Better Families* for this month is sponsored by Jim & Nancy Weaber

The church office will be closed tomorrow morning until approximately 10:30 am for the monthly staff meeting.

Liturgy for this service was reprinted with permission from Lectionary Liturgies, <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2007/10/28th-sunday-in-ordinary-timeproper-23.html> and from Ministry Matters Worship Elements: November 17, 2019, <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4387/worship-elements-november-17-2019>

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Prayer List

Nancy Brown            Rosene Duffy            Larry Eisenhauer  
Ellen Goodyear        Ruthann Snoke            Joyce Mitstifer

Ralph Woynarowski (Sara Zeller)

Jewel Fessler (Kathy Grose)            Linda Feaser (Kathy Grose)  
Suzanne Fritsch (Stephen Fritsch)        Bill Gracely (Margo McQuate)  
Rosalla Hollenbach (Trudy Yeager)        Joanne Frantz (Emily Frantz)  
David Mock (Ed & Candy Hibshman)        James Haines (Ed & Candy Hibshman)  
Heather & Elvin Perez (Marianne Fritsch)        Steve Norford (Margo McQuate)

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**WILL YOU DONATE ONE HOUR?:** Friedens Lutheran Church has invited us and Myerstown Church of the Brethren to participate in their Salvation Bell ringing at Smith Candies. MCOB has taken all of Saturday, Dec 14th. There is a sign-up form on the Information Table for six shifts on Saturday, Dec 21st. This is a *no-cost-to-us* way of providing community support and helping people in need.

Announcements

**EMILY FRANTZ** will be on vacation until November 30th. Please contact the church office with any concerns normally directed to her.

**2019 CONTRIBUTIONS:** The last day to submit church offering to be credited in 2019 is Friday, January 3, 2020. The church is upgrading to new software the first week in January. Financial statements will be produced from the old system.

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY:** There is a revised membership directory on the Information Table. The Membership Committee is asking each person to check the information and either correct it or initial that it is correct. They would like this completed on or before Sunday, 24 November 19. When published, this will be the first complete listing of church members in two years.

**THE ANGEL TREE:** Our annual Angel Tree in support of LCCM has been placed in the Gathering Area. Please refer to the November Vineyard for more information.

**MANUAL LABORER NEEDED:** There is a project in the church office that can be done sitting at the table. Only one person can help at a time. There is no urgency; at the same time, the sooner-the-better. If interested, put a note in the communication book on the Information Table. The church secretary will get in touch with you.

**CHRISTMAS EVE PREVIEW:** We will be partnering with Friedens Lutheran Church on Christmas Eve. All will contain Holy Communion and Candle Lighting. They have a 4:00 pm Family-Children's Service; we will have a 6:30 pm Traditional ; they have an 11:00 pm Candle Light Service with Holy Communion. On Christmas Eve our offering is designated for the Veterans of the Cross-Christmas Fund. We have a few envelopes sent to us. If you do not have one, you can take a white envelop, write Christmas Fund and your name on it, and put it in either offering plate. Church envelopes will be exchanged between the congregation later that week

**VINEYARD:** It seems that by the time we get finished reading the Vineyard, it's time again to submit articles! The request is for all committees and task groups to provide a synopsis about what has been happening during the previous month. It could be the minutes reduced to a paragraph or a listing of projects started-completed-updated. They should be emailed to the church office for easier placement in the newsletter. Please submit by Monday,

**CHOIR MEMBERS:** The next choir rehearsals will be held on December 18, 22 and 24. They are to prepare for Sunday, December 22, and Tuesday, December 24th.

Calendar for This Week

Today, Sunday, November 17  
 8:00 am Worship, Peter Schmeichen preaching  
 8:45 am Small group meetings.  
 10:00 am Worship, Peter Schmeichen preaching

Monday, November 18  
 8:30 am Strong Bones [social hall]  
 10:30 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Tuesday, November 19 **No Pastor Office Hours This Week**  
 2:00 pm Elder's Meeting [library]

Wednesday, November 20  
 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open  
 6:30 pm Scouts

Thursday, November 21  
 8:30 am Strong Bones [social hall]  
 1:30 pm Women's Bible Study [library]  
 LCCM Annual Fund Raiser

Friday, November 22  
 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Saturday, November 23  
 12:00 pm Social Hall Reserved until 6:00 pm

Sunday, November 24  
 8:00 am Worship; Peter Hook preaching  
 8:45 am Small group meetings  
 10:00 am Worship; Peter Hook preaching

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**Worship Assistants for November 24, 2019**

8:00 am Service **Open Church:** William & Betty Arnold  
**Greeters:** Shirley Krall **Worship Leader:** Sally Kulp  
 10:00 am Service **Sound:** Bob Dash  
**Greeters:** Dawn Hassler **Worship Leader:** Kristi Fields  
**Ushers:** Ed & Candy Hibshman, Terry & Suzie Schott, Kenny Patrick  
**Counting Team:** Ed & Candy Hibshman, Terry & Suzie Schott

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**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](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

**Open Church:** Marcia Bicher  
**Greeter:** Nancy Weaber **Worship Leader:** Wanda Rabold

10:00 am Service

**Greeter:** Steve & Marianne Fritsch **Worship Leader** Margo McQuate  
**Sound:** Bob Dash  
**Ushers** Doug, Stephanie, & Braden Bohannon, Kenny Patrick  
**Counting Team** Marie Hibshman, Kathy Grose

Stewardship Report for Sunday, November 10, 2019

General Fund	\$2,606	OCWM	\$265
Church Improvement Fund		\$150	
Attendance 9 am:	58		