

# Myerstown United Church of Christ

Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany

February 2, 2020

Worship Time 8:00 am

## Brief Service of the Word

Prelude *Jesus Makes My Heart Rejoice* Robert Elmore

Silent Preparation for Worship

*Come and hear the good news. No matter what is happening in your life, God's blessing and love is with you. Come and hear what God wants you to do - adopt lives of justice and love and truth. Come and get courage and strength to embrace the values of God's realm rather than those of the world. Come and be blessed.*

Welcome & Announcements

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

WE GATHER TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

\*Call to Worship [Leader/All]

People of God, who do you come to worship?

**We come to worship the one true God.**

How will you worship?

**Not with words alone, but by living lives of justice and love.**

Come, you who are foolish in the eyes of the world.

**Come and abide in God's tent and in God's heart, now and forever.**

\*Invocation

Let us pray as one.

**Loving God, we come this morning seeking to abide in your presence.**

**Open our minds to your spirit of wisdom, that we may know how to live as your people. Open our hearts to your spirit of truth, that we may love all your people with a love that speaks of justice, kindness, and radical grace. May this time of worship be authentic and pleasing to you. Amen.**

\*Hymn #544

*The Church's One Foundation*

AURELIA

*(the congregation may be seated)*

Confession of Sin

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

from Psalm 15

**O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill? Yes we already know. It is those who walk blamelessly, do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart. It is those who do not slander with their tongue, do no evil to their friends, or take up a reproach against their neighbors. We know, it is those who fear you and who stand by their oath.**

**We seek your forgiveness and grace because we have not honored your expectations and gone away from your precepts. What we want most is to abide in your tent and dwell on your holy hill. Amen.**

Silent Confession

Prayers of the People

Assurance of Pardon

God has called us and blesses us.

**When we live God's ways and not the world's,**

The God of blessing loves and forgives us with a fierce tenderness.

**Knowing this, may our lives and souls be transformed.**

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

A Lesson from the Old Testament

Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed

you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

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

\*A Lesson from the Gospels

Matthew 5:1-12

Hear the good news of Jesus Christ as recorded in the 5th chapter of Matthew’s gospel beginning with the 1st verse and following.

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

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

**Thanks be to God!**

Homily

*Requirements & Blessings*

## WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD Service of the Sacrament

*[will those who are able please stand]*

\*Invitation

\*The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May the God of love, justice, and blessing be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts to the one who invites us to the holy hill.

**We lift them to the One who opens the tent to us.**

Let us rejoice and be exceedingly glad.

**It is right to do for great is our reward in Jesus.**

[The prayer continues]

Holy, Holy, Holy

Gifted by the presence of the Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere.

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is he who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest**

*[the congregation may be seated]*

Words of Institution

Acclamation

And now we remember and rejoice with all his followers at his resurrection and ascension from a mountain, even as we await his coming again to us, now in this time, in this place; We rejoice; we remember.

**His being God, whom the pure in heart see.**

**His granting of mercy, to those who love from tender hearts.**

**His satisfying us with the bread of peace and the wine of justice**

Prayer of Blessing

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.**

Call to the Supper

Communion of the Body and Blood of Jesus

*[will those who are able please stand for the Prayer of Thanksgiving]*

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us prayer together.

**O God, you bless us in so many areas of our lives—in places we often fail to recognize as blessing. Help us have eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts to understand the depth of your love and blessing. Today, we give out of that blessedness, dedicating ourselves to lives of justice and love, giving all that we are and all that we have to bring about your beloved community, here and now. Amen.**

WE TAKE GOD’S WORD INTO THE COMMUNITY

\*Sending Forth

Those who live lives pleasing to God shall not be moved.

**We go now to embrace the values of God’s realm: love, justice, and truth.**

Those who live lives pleasing to God are invited into God’s tent.

**We go now sharing the good news of Jesus Christ inviting those we meet to God’s holy hill.**

\*Benediction

\*Recessional #713

*Send Me Jesus*

THUMA MINA

\*Personal Meditation

\*Postlude

*Look Up My Soul, to Christ Thy Joy*

Robert Elmore

Acknowledgements

**HOLY COMMUNION:** The body and blood of Jesus will be carried from the chancel to each person in the nave. After all are served the bread, the servers will return to the chancel. Everyone will eat the bread together. In the same fashion, the servers will carry the juice into the nave. Everyone will drink it together.

Some of the liturgy for this service has been reprinted from Worship Elements: February 2, 2020. Joanne Carlson Brown. <https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/4636/worship-elements-february-2-2020> and from *Thanksgiving at the Table*. <https://easternsynod.org/ministries/worship/files/2011/01/euchpraepiph4.pdf>

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Prayer List

|                                |                      |                                |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Nancy Brown                    |                      | Rosene Duffy                   |
| Erin                           | Bernadette Petzinger | Sarah                          |
| Steve Norford                  | James Haines         | Suzanne Fritsch                |
| Ellen Goodyear                 | Ruthann Snoke        | Bill Gracely                   |
| Ralph Woynarowski              | Jewel Fessler        | Linda Feaser                   |
| Rosalla Hollenbach             | Joanne Frantz        | Heather & Elvin Perez          |
| The family of Grace Brightbill |                      | The family of Richard Ondrusek |

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Information Table Sign Up Board

**BETTER FAMILIES:** February, June, July, August, September, November, December. The cost is \$10; it can be added to “other” on the offering envelope. Please specify which month.

**CONVERSATIONAL:** February 16 and 23. Light refreshments are perfect!

**FAITH FORMATION HELPERS:** Youth and adults needed for the entire month of February. These people are needed from 8:45 am until 9:30 am.

**NURSERY ATTENDANTS:** Youth and adults needed for the entire month of February. These people are needed from 10 am to the end of worship.

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** A sponsor needed for February 23rd. Please contact Betty Arnold [717.866.5329] directly to sign up. There is no sheet on the Information Table for flowers.

Announcements

**THE CHURCH OFFICE** will be closed tomorrow, Monday, February 3rd.

**WELCOMING PASTOR PAUL-PART A:** In order to make it as comfortable as we can for Pastor Paul to get to know us, we are going to make a picture-directory for him. Following both services this morning, we ask everyone to come to the Gathering Area and have your picture taken. Look for the *Photo Booth*.

**WELCOMING PASTOR PAUL-PART B:** So that Pastor Paul can connect with us better on a Sunday morning, we are revitalizing the around-the-neck name tags. This way he will be able to see our names and faces together.

**BIRTHDAY RECOGNITION** in the Vineyard is coming back by popular demand. Please look at the "Birthday Clipboard" in the Gathering Area. Only people who add the birthdate to this list will be included. We must have the month, day and year. While adding your birthday, please check and correct the other information; the line on the right is to correct addresses.

**FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS** for Grace Brightbill. The services will be held at Grose Funeral Home on Monday, February 3rd. There is a time to greet the family beginning at 10:00 am with the memorial service to follow at 11:00 am.

**GIFT CARD ORDERS** are due today. There are forms on the Information Table.

**ARE YOU WILLING TO HELP GROW OUR CHURCH?** The Children and Youth Ministry Team is excited to announce growth and new opportunities to rebuild our ministries for young people. Curriculum has been ordered for a new class which will involve preschool students (ages 3, 4, and 5). We are looking for volunteers to help with this class beginning ASAP. Our youth are already volunteering to be teachers/helpers; it would be wonderful to have an adult to oversee these young people. You can sign-up for one week or as many as you like! Our Primary Class (K – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) will continue to be taught by a rotation of Marcia Bicher with Jackie Shaak helping and Stephanie Bohannon with youth helpers. Our Middler Class (Grades 3 – 6) will continue to be taught by Ellen Goodyear. Confirmed youth have received an email asking for their help to make this a success. The goal is to create a new class for the youth beginning in Fall 2020.

**HARTMAN CENTER LOVE OFFERING:** On February 16th we will take a love offering in support of Hartman Center. There is some information posted on the bulletin board next to the Information Table about the ministry. There are also some envelope labels for your convenience. You can also write Hartman Center on your regular church envelope to make a contribution.

**CHURCH STAFF EMAIL:** The church staff with the exception of the custodian have church email addresses. It is preferred that you begin using them rather than their personal email addresses.

Pastor	muccpastor@comcast.net
Parish Administrator	muccparishadmin@comcast.net
Church Office / Secretary	myerstownucc@comcast.net
Financial Administrator	muccfinance@comcast.net
Organist/Worship Music Coordinator	muccmusic@comcast.net

## 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 ----- Organist / Worship Music 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:** Cal Beamesderfer

**Greeter:** Sue Harvey **Worship Leader:** Wanda Rabold

**Communion Servers:** Jackie Shaak, Wanda Rabold

10:00 am Service

**Greeters:** Jim & Beth Diehm **Worship Leader:** Margo McQuate

**Sound:** Paulie McQuate

**Ushers** Travis, Angie, Gabby, & Gavin Bicher, Kenny Patrick

**Communion Servers:** Ed & Candy Hibshman, Steve & Marianne Fritsch, Emily Frantz

**Counting Team** Ted & Carol Batdorff, Darryl Brown

### Stewardship Report for Sunday, January 26, 2020

General Fund	\$3,210	OCWM	\$445
Church Improvement Fund			\$510
Attendance 8 am:	15	Attendance 10 am:	58