

Myerstown United Church of Christ

Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany

February 9, 2020

Worship Time 8:00 am

Brief Service of the Word

Prelude *When Morning Gilds the Skies* Hazel Hulme

Silent Preparation for Worship

O God of light, your searching Spirit reveals and illumines your presence in creation. Shine your radiant holiness into our lives, that we may offer our hands and hearts to your work: to heal and shelter, to feed and clothe, to break every yoke and silence evil tongues. Amen.

Welcome & Announcements

(will all who are able, please stand)

WE GATHER TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

*Call to Worship [Leader/All] [lectern]

Called to be light,

We would carry God's hope into the shadows of the world.

Called to be salt,

We would enhance the lives of those around us, with joy.

Called to live in God's reality,

We would welcome everyone as sisters and brothers in faith.

*Invocation [lectern]

Let us pray as one.

O God, as salt poured from its shaker flavors our food, by your Spirit, set us free from our attachments to the safe containers, at times confinements, of our existence. Send us out to season your world with your love. In our loving, let us be as light that dispels the darkness of injustice. As salted light, may all whose lives we touch know that you create us holy and call us to become whole. Amen.

*Hymn #649

Gather Us In

GATHER US IN

(the congregation may be seated)

Confession of Sin

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

It is true we break your commandments, God of our lives. Much worse, we break your heart when we point the finger at those who are different from us; when we gossip about our friends and neighbors; when we think everything is all about us.

Forgive us, Loving God, we pray. We long to know your ways, so open our ears to hear those words we always ignore. We search for you each day, so open our eyes to your wonders so we may see them anew. We would believe in your promises, so fill our hearts with the presence of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

God will show us the way.

Gracious, merciful, and righteous is our God of salvation!

God rebuilds our lives and fills our emptiness with hope and joy.

Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination [lectern]

Open our ears and our hearts and our minds to the word you have for us today.

Let the essence of who we are be seasoned in ways we can be the salt of our community. Amen.

Scripture

A Lesson from the Old Testament

Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not

make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

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

*A Lesson from the Gospels Matthew 5:13-20
Hear the good news of Jesus Christ as recorded in the 5th chapter of Matthew's gospel verses 13 through 20.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is

accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

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

Thanks be to God!

Homily

Pass the Salt, Please

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People

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.

WE TAKE GOD'S WORD INTO THE COMMUNITY

*Sending Forth

To those huddled in the shadows of fear and worry,

God sends us to be light.

To those whose lives and hopes have lost all flavor,

God's son sends us to be salt.

To a society where love is tossed aside as easily as a food wrapper,

God's Spirit sends us to be faithful carers of everyone we meet.

*Benediction

*Recessional #559

Here I Am, Lord

*Personal Meditation

*Postlude

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

James Mansfield

Acknowledgements

The altar flower are given in loving memory of our grandson, Sean, who is dearly missed by Ernest & Loretta Firestine.

We thank Charlie & Carolyn Williams and Mark & Susan Herr for providing the Conversation nourishment after the service this morning. Let us all gather to continue our time together as God’s family to fellowship with each other.

Some of the liturgy for this service has been reprinted from <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2020/02/liturgy-with-communion-for-february-9.html>; <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/prayers.php?id=17>; <https://progressivechristianity.org/resources/salt-of-the-earth-liturgy/>; and <https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/4658/worship-elements-february-9-2020>

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Prayer List

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|--------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 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

There are multiple needs and opportunities waiting for you to accept. We are thankful for those who have offered their time, energy, and financial support. They include Better Families, Conversational, Faith Formation Helpers, and Nursery Attendants. An Altar Flower sponsor is needed for February 23rd. Please contact Betty Arnold directly [717.866.5329].

Announcements

WELCOMING PASTOR PAUL: 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. Even if you think or know that he already has made a connection with you, it’s important for everyone to wear them.

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.

HARTMAN CENTER LOVE OFFERING: Next Sunday, 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.

WE ARE GROWING ... Will you help?? As we expand our Children & Youth programming on a Sunday morning (8:45 am – 9:30 am) to include Faith Formation/Sunday School lessons for our preschoolers, Youth (grades 7 & up) and adult helpers are needed to assist our new Pre-K class (ages 3-5) and youth are needed to help with the primary class (grades K – 2). As a reminder, there is also a Middler class (grades 3 & up) and 2 adult classes that all meet from 8:45 am – 9:30 pm. A HUGE thank you to the youth and adults who have already come on board to help with this important ministry!

We also need youth and adult helpers to take children down to play in the nursery following the children’s sermon at the 10:00 am service (from approximately 10:15 am – 11:00 am.)

Sign-up on the Information Counter, by contacting the church office, or online through a sign-up genius link. If you would like to have the link emailed to you, please contact the church office at myerstownucc@comcast.net. Please feel free to contact Emily Frantz at muccparishadmin@comcast.net or 717-866-5252.

Blessings! Emily Frantz, Parish Administrator

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

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**Worship Assistants for February 16, 2020**

8:00 am Service **Open Church:** Marcia Bicher  
**Greeter:** Terry, Theresa & Christina Wolfe **Worship Leader:** Wanda Rabold

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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

Kory Leppo----- 717-269-6033 ----- Council President

Marie Hibshman 717-343-3247 ----- Elder

Paul Cronin----- 610-217-9717 ----- Designated Pastor

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

Calendar for This Week

Today, Sunday, February 9 **Boy Scout Sunday**
 8:00 am Brief Worship
 8:45 am Small group meetings.
 8:45 am Prayer Team [Prayer Room]
 10:00 am Traditional Worship with Scout participation

Monday, February 10
The Church Office is Closed
 8:30 am Strong Bones [Social Hall]

Tuesday, February 11
 10:00 am Elders [Library]
 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Pastor Paul on site*

Wednesday, February 12
 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open
 6:30 pm Scouts [Social Hall]

Thursday, February 13
 8:30 am Strong Bones [Social Hall]
 9:00 am Community Meal Prep
 9:30 am - 1:30 pm Pastor Paul on site*
 4:00 pm Community Meal

Friday, February 14
 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Saturday, February 15

Sunday, February 16
 8:00 am Brief Worship
 8:45 am Faith Formation Groups
 8:45 am Prayer Team [Prayer Room]
 10:00 am Traditional Worship

*On site for Pastor Paul means that he plans to be here. Those are also the times that he will be scheduling meetings. it is always preferred to make an appointment if you want to meet with him. Please contact the church office to establish the visit.

Worship Assistants

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

Organist: Mark Herr

8:00 am Service

Open Church: Mark Herr

Greeter: Nancy Weber **Worship Leader:** Jim Yoder

10:00 am Service

Greeters: Troop 20 **Worship Leader:** Paul Cronin

Sound: Paulie McQuate

Ushers Travis Bicher, Troop 20, Kenny Patrick

Nursery Attendants: Angie, Gabby, & Gavin Bicher

Counting Team Marie Hibshman, Kathy Grose, Charlie & Carolyn Williams

Stewardship Report for Sunday, January 26, 2020

General Fund \$4,120 OCWM \$473

Church Improvement Fund \$515

Attendance 8 am: 18 Attendance 10 am: 66