

Myerstown United Church of Christ

Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany

February 9, 2020

Worship Time 10:00 am

Traditional 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 [lectern]

(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.

Scout Presentation

Boy Scout Oath

Boy Scout Law

A Child's View of God *This Little Light of Mine*

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination [lectern]

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!

*Hymn [insert] You Are Salt for the Earth, O People BRING FORTH

Homily *Pass the Salt, Please*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn #723 For the Fruit of All Creation [verse 2] AR HYD Y NOS

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.

Offering [lectern]

Invitation

Offertory

Poco Lento

*Response #518

Give Thanks for Life [verse 2]

SINE NOMINE

*Prayer of Thanksgiving [lectern]

May the gifts we offer, Loving God, be used to fix breakfast for hungry children, to shower others with grace, and to patch the potholes poverty has created in the roadways of the realm. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

WE TAKE GOD'S WORD INTO THE COMMUNITY

*Sending Forth [lectern]

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.

"You Are Salt for the Earth, O People" is reprinted from *The New Century Hymnal*, Copyright © 1995The Pilgrim Press. Permission is granted for this one-time use.

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>

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO HAVE TROOP 20 OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA with us this morning. They will be participating in the service in a variety of ways. For your information, the troop was originally chartered in 1915 and is currently chartered with Myerstown United Church of Christ. Previous charter organizations include the Myerstown Civic Club, the American Legion, and the Myerstown Jaycees. The responsibilities of the chartered organization include: Providing adequate meeting facilities; providing quality leadership for the Scouting unit; and appointing a chartered organization representative to coordinate all Scouting unit operations within the organization. Currently that

post is filled by Travis Bicher. In addition to camping, hiking, and adventure activities in our troop program, the boys participate in various service events throughout the year: Adopt-a-highway clean-up on ELCO Drive in spring and fall; Place over 600 American flags on the local cemeteries prior to Memorial Day and retrieve them after Veteran's Day; repair Christmas wreath lights prior to being hung on the poles on Main Avenue; Leaf clean-up for the church; *Scouting for Food* in November; assist with placing, for *Wreaths Across America* at Fort Indiantown Gap in December; and retire over 1,000 U.S. flags a year. [Editor's note: Retired flags are presented in a variety of capacities including at funeral or memorial services when a veteran dies.]

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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 |                      |                       |

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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

Worship Assistants for February 16, 2020

8:00 am Service **Open Church:** Marcia Bicher
Greeter: Terry, Theresa & Christina Wolfe **Worship Leader:** Wanda Rabold
 10:00 am Service **Sound:** Bob Dash
Greeters: Dawn Hassler **Worship Leaders:** Steve & Marianne Fritsch
Nursery Attendants:
Ushers: Kory & Ryan Leppo, Bob Dash, Kenny Patrick
Counting Team: Sara Zeller, Sally Kulp

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**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](mailto:muccpastor@comcast.net)  
 Parish Administrator [muccparishadmin@comcast.net](mailto:muccparishadmin@comcast.net)  
 Church Office / Secretary [myerstownucc@comcast.net](mailto:myerstownucc@comcast.net)  
 Financial Administrator [muccfinance@comcast.net](mailto:muccfinance@comcast.net)  
 Organist/Worship Music Coordinator [muccmusic@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:myerstownucc@comcast.net)  
 website: [myerstownuccchurch.org](http://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

**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    |