

# Myerstown United Church of Christ

Third Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2020

Worship Time 10:00 am

Whoever You Are  
Wherever You are on Life's Journey  
You are welcome here!

Gathering Music

*Slane*

Gilbert Martin

Welcome & Announcements

Paul Cronin

\*Choral Call to Worship

*Morning has broken like the first morning,  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!*

\*Call to Worship

Sally Kulp

L: In this season we worship remembering Jesus' death in love for us and all people.

**P: Lent is a time of tears.**

L: But out of our tears, joy is born - the joy of sin forgiven, hope reborn, and life restored.

**All: We stand in awe of the God who brings joy out of tears, and life out of death. Let us worship with joyful abandon! Amen.**

\*Hymn of Praise #27 *God of Creation, All Powerful*

\*Greeting One Another with the Peace of Christ

Call to Confession

Paul Cronin

Prayer of Confession [in unison]

Sally Kulp

**We surround ourselves with crosses, O God; yet we confess that we shrink back from the awareness that your glory is revealed in the criminal's cross of Jesus Christ. Help us to know your presence wherever there is suffering in our world. Forgive our despair or discouragement and empower us to be bearers and channels of Your hope that does not disappoint. We ask this in Jesus; name. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Paul Cronin

Anthem

*God So Loved the World*

Lloyd Larson

Children's Sermon

**Disappointment Turned Upside Down**

*(following the Children's Sermon, children may return  
To sit with their parents or come to the piano and go downstairs.)*

Listening for God's Word

Hebrew Scripture Lesson

Exodus 17:1-7

Sally Kulp

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Epistle Chorus #654

*Holy Ground*

*We are standing on holy ground,  
and I know that there are angels all around.*

*Let us praise Jesus now;*

*We are standing in his presence on holy ground.*

Epistle Lesson

Romans 5:1-11

Paul Cronin

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a

good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Hymn of Preparation *Lord, We Hear Your Word*

Lord we hear your Word with gladness: you have spoken—we rejoice:  
Words of love and life and freedom—help us make their truth our choice!  
Now in holy celebration for your Word we worship you;  
Spoken, written, known in Jesus, our today to prove anew.

Sermon **Hope Does Not Disappoint**

Prayers of Pastor & People

Lord’s Prayer

**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 Our Best to God

Invitation Sally Kulp

Offertory *An Irish Blessing* Brian Glyncannon

\*Response #388 *O God in Whom All Life Begins* [verse 2]

\*Prayer of Dedication Sally Kulp

**O God, through the offering of these gifts may we become a more open people . . .**

**open-minded in hearing your Word and Wisdom,  
open-hearted in healing a broken world,  
open-handed in heeding your call for charity and enacted love.  
With thanks for all good gifts, we present a portion of our  
substance and the whole of ourselves. Amen.**

\*Hymn of Parting #433 *O Christ, the Same*

\*Sending Forth

\*Song of Sending

*Shalom, my friends, shalom, my friends, shalom, shalom.*

*Shalom, my friends, shalom, my friends, shalom, shalom.*

\*Postlude *Clonmel [We Praise You With Our Minds]* David Paxton

**COVID-19:** The MUCC Leadership has been in conversation about how we might respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. As part of that conversation we are meeting concerning ways to adjust our Communion distribution on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter. We will keep you informed and would appreciate any expertise you may have. If you could share your thoughts in an email or in the communication book, that would be greatly appreciated. For this Sunday, we will have hand sanitizer at all three entrances to the Sanctuary, as well on the Communion Table for the Worship Leasers to use. Please use the Sanitizer before and following the Service. We would also encourage distance during the passing of the Peace, without contact. Let’s be creative and see who still passes the peace of Christ in Spirit, but without physical contact. Our God reigns, even over Viruses.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to Marianne & Steve Fritsch for providing refreshments during the Conversational time following the service. Please stop in, enjoy some nourishment, and fellowship with others. Also, please wear your name tag and then put it on the turnstile before you leave.

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Prayer List

|                 |                    |               |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Nancy Brown     | Steve Norford      | James Haines  |
| Suzanne Fritsch | Ellen Goodyear     | Ruthann Snoko |
| Bill Gracely    | Ralph Woynarowski  | Jewel Fessler |
| Linda Feaser    | Rosalla Hollenbach | Joanne Frantz |

The family of Janet Elliott The family of Rosene Duffy

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## Announcements

**CHILDREN'S TIME DOWNSTAIRS:** Children who are going downstairs after the Children's Sermon are ask to gather at the piano and go downstairs together.

**EASTER FLOWERS:** The order form for Easter flowers is included in the bulletin. There are additional copies on the Information Table. **Orders cannot be accepted after Sunday, March 22nd.** Note: Easter flowers cannot be added to a contribution statement.

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING** offering will be received next Sunday. Envelopes are included with the bulletin this week. Please write your name and/or your envelope number on it. You can also use the Other line on your regular offering envelope.

**LCCM LENTEN BREAKFAST:** This annual breakfast buffet will be held on Saturday, March 28th, in the Cedar Crest Middle School cafetorium. The speaker is Steve Sabol, community pastor of Lifeway Church, Lebanon. Musical entertainment is by Celebrate Recovery Praise Team band, Church of the Good Shepherd, Lebanon. Tickets are \$15; please contact Carolyn Williams for tickets. *The last day to order tickets is this Friday, March 20th.* Seating is limited, and no tickets will be sold at the door. Please consult the bulletin board in the Gathering Area for additional information. This is a unique opportunity to experience ecumenical worship within Lebanon County. Remember: **no tickets sold at the door.**

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR:** All children are invited to participate in our Palm Sunday anthem: Sing Hosanna! Rehearsals will take place on Sundays, March 15 and 22 in the Music Room following the children's sermon in 10 am worship. The dress rehearsal with the chimes and adult choir will be Sunday, April 5th at 9:30 am. Please contact Emily Frantz for more information.

**PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED:** One adult and youth helpers are needed for March 29th and all of April from 8:45 am - 9:30 am. Materials provided. Extra youth are needed in March to help in the Primary classroom also. Please consider helping this ministry to grow. Sign-up available online or on the Information Counter.

**BULLETIN INFORMATION:** Announcements and other information to be included in the weekly bulletin need to be submitted to the Church Office by 9 am on a Tuesday morning. It is preferred that the information be sent electronically to myerstownucc@comcast.net. The Communication Book on the Information Table is another possibility. Please write or print legibly.

## Calendar for This Week

Today, Sunday, March 15

8:00 am Brief Worship  
8:45 am Small group meetings &  
8:45 am Prayer Team [Prayer Room]  
9:30 am - 9:50 am Chime Choir [Music Room]  
10:00 am Worship  
11:00 am Personnel Committee [Library]

Monday, March 16

8:30 am Strong Bones [Social Hall]  
9:30 am Staff Meeting  
**11:00 am - noon Church Office Open**

Tuesday, March 17

9:00 am - noon Church Office Open  
10:30 am - noon Leb Assoc Ministerium [Christ Church, Annville]  
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Pastor Paul on site\*

Wednesday, March 18

9:00 am - noon Church Office Open  
6:30 pm Scouts [Social Hall]  
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 19

8:30 am Strong Bones [Social Hall]  
9:00 am - noon Church Office Open  
9:30 am - 1:30 pm Pastor Paul on site\*  
1:00 pm Women's Bible Study [Library]

Friday, March 20

9:00 am - noon Church Office Open

Saturday, March 21

1:00 pm New Horizons [Light's Victorian Farmhouse]

Sunday, March 22

8:00 am Brief Worship  
8:45 am Faith Formation Groups  
8:45 am Prayer Team [Prayer Room]  
10:00 am Worship  
10:15 am Children's Choir [Music Room]

\*On site for Pastor Paul means that he plans to be here. Those are also the times that he will be scheduling meetings. Please contact the church office to schedule an appointment.

**Worship Assistants for March 22, 2020**

8:00 am Service **Open Church:** Fritz Firestine  
**Greeter:** Terry, Teresa, & Christine Wolfe **Worship Leader:** Wanda Rabold  
 10:00 am Service **Sound:** Bob Dash  
**Greeters:** Terry & Suzie Schott **Worship Leader:** Charles & Carolyn Williams  
**Children's Choir/Nursery Attendants:** Emily, Kara, & Abby Frantz  
**Ushers:** Ed & Candy Hibshman, Terry & Suzie Schott, Kenny Patrick  
**Counting Team:** Ed & Candy Hibshman, Terry & Suzie Schott  
**Flower Sponsor:** Larry & Marsha Eisenhauer

**VINEYARD INFORMATION:** Information to be included in the newsletter needs to be submitted to the Church Office by 9 am tomorrow morning, March 16th. It is preferred that the information be sent electronically. The Church Office requests that each committee or task group provide a one-paragraph summary of the most recent meeting.



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Instagram

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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)

Paul Cronin----- 610-217-9717 -----Designated Pastor  
 Kory Leppo----- 717-269-6033 ----- Council President  
 Marie Hibshman 717-343-3247 -----Elder  
 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:*

8:00 am Service

**Open Church:** Fritz Firestine  
**Greeter:** Nancy Weaber **Worship Leader:** Wanda Rabold

10:00 am Service

**Greeters:** Rosen Family **Sound:** Bob Dash  
**Worship Leader:** Sally Kulp  
**Ushers:** Jeff, Holly, Hannah, Jared & Leah Rosen, Kenny Patrick  
**Children's Choir/Nursery Attendants:** Emily, Kara & Abby Frantz  
**Counting Team** Sara Zeller, Sally Kulp

Stewardship Report for Sunday, March 8, 2020

General Fund	\$5,27	OCWM	\$860
Church Improvement Fund		\$380	
Attendance 8 am:	12	Attendance 10 am:	65