

Myerstown United Church of Christ

306 West Main Avenue, Myerstown, PA 17067-1023

717-866-5252 myerstownucc@comcast.net

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2019

Worship Time 9:00 am

Service of the Word

Gathering Meditation Parable of the Dinner Party Michael Coffey

(found on the page 7)

Prelude *Allegro Moderato* August Reinhard

Welcome and Announcements

Announcements/Concerns of Congregation

(will all who are able, please stand)

*Call to Worship (Leader/All)

We come to worship our God, to listen to the One who calls us here.

We come trusting God to lead us in the coming days, as surely as were our grandparents in the faith.

We come to worship our God, to shout with joy to the God of all people.

We come to the Creator of all things, to be bathed in the waters of life.

We come to the Feast of God's faithful, to be fed by the One who never forsakes us.

We come to worship our God, to sing aloud to the One who saves us.

*Opening Hymn *Gather Us In* #649

*Invitation to Confession

*Prayer of Confession (Leader/All)

We are always uncomfortable, Watching God, when you notice how we want to sit in the seats of honor. We can be so proper, so good, so well-off, that it is easy to imagine we are superior to the poor. We are so busy completing our 'To Do' list each day, that we forget to do good when we have the chance. Forgive us, Welcoming God. Fill our emptiness with

your grace and humility that we would spend our lives alongside Jesus, our Lord and Savior, throwing a party for the poor, the damaged, the prisoner, the lost, the oppressed.

*Silent Confession

*Assurance of Pardon (Leader/All)

This is the good news: after what God has done for us, what can anyone or anything do to us? We are new people, graced by our loving God.

Forgiven, embraced, welcomed by our God, we will offer open hearts and serving hands to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.

(please be seated)

A Word for Children

Scripture Readings

A Reading from the Epistles Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Let mutual love continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.^[a] ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you."⁶ So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?"

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

*A Reading from the Gospels Luke 14:1, 7-14

Hear the good news of Jesus Christ recorded by Luke in the 14th chapter.

Glory be to you, O lord.

Jesus has been invited to a dinner party. As he enters the home, he observes the behaviors of others who are also invited.

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

The lesson ends here. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(please be seated)

Prayer for Illumination

Homily

Hymn

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory

*Offertory Response

Entertaining Angels

Yesterday, Today, Forever

Adagio

Give Thanks

(Please remain standing.)

Rev. Jim Yoder

Next Page

Julius Andre

#359

Yesterday, Today, Forever

*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. Heb. 13:8
I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Mt. 28:20*

1. Oh, how sweet the glo-ri-ous mes-sage sim-ple faith may claim: Yes-ter-day, to-
 2. He who was the friend of sin-ners seeks the lost one now: Sin-ner, come, and
 3. Oft on earth He healed the suf-f'rer by His might-y hand: Still our sick-ness-
 4. As He walked once to Em-ma-us, with them to a-bide, So through all life's

day, for-ev-er, Je-sus is the same; Still He loves to save the sin-ful, heal the sick and lame,
 at His foot-stool pen-i-tent-ly bow; He who said, "I'll not con-demn thee, go and sin no more,"
 es and sor-rows go at His com-mand; He who gave His heal-ing vir-tue to a wom-an's touch
 way He walk-eth ev-er near our side; Soon a-gain we shall be-hold Him—has-ten, Lord, the day—

Refrain

Cheer the mourn-er, still the tem-pest—glo-ry to His name!
 Speaks to thee that word of par-don as in days of yore. Yes-ter-day, to-day, for-ev-er,
 To the faith that claims His full-ness still will give as much.
 But 'twill still be this same Je-sus as He went a-way.

Je-sus is the same, All may change, but Je-sus nev-er—glo-ry to His name! Glo-ry to His name!

Glo-ry to His name! All may change, but Je-sus nev-er—glo-ry to His name!

WORDS: Albert B. Simpson, 1890. MUSIC: James H. Burke, 1890. Public Domain.

Service of the Sacrament

*Invitation

*Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

People of God, lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the God who welcomes us at this Table.

Let us sing aloud to God.

We will offer glad songs of thanksgiving to the One who delivers us.

(The prayer continues)

*Proclamation

Therefore, we come to your Table singing, our voices joining with those in every time and in every place, lifting our glad songs to you:

Holy, holy, holy are you, God our strength! All creation shouts for you to you. Hosanna in the highest!

We welcome the One who shows hospitality to strangers.

Hosanna in the highest!

*Communion Hymn

Jesu, Jesu

#273

(The congregation may be seated.)

Mystery of Our Faith

As we remember his life and death, as we come to the Table of the resurrection, we speak of that mystery we call faith:

Dying, you took the seat of dishonor; Rising, you humbled yourself to be exalted; Coming again, you will honor us in the presence of the One who invites all to sit at the Table of grace.

Invocation

Breaking & Pouring

Response

Welcomed without question at your Table of grace, may we open our hearts to throw a party for all who have been forsaken by the world.

And when we gather around the Wedding Feast in glory, with all the poor, the broken, the prisoners, the oppressed - we will open our mouths

to receive your joy, and sing aloud to you our praise for all eternity: God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

The 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 Table

Communion of the Body & Blood of Christ

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving Savior, we have experienced all your gifts. Although we return to our old ways, you are the same—yesterday, today, and forever. We thank you for your unchanging grace and your unwavering hospitality. We have been blessed; help us to bless all we meet. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

Christ for the Word We Sing

#561

*Benediction

Having listened to God's words, we are sent to serve others.

Today and tomorrow, we will follow where God leads.

Having joined in songs of praise and hope, we will carry these gifts into the world.

Today and tomorrow, we will serve beside Jesus.

Having been filled with the Spirit of justice, we will go to be with all who struggle.

Today and tomorrow, we will bring justice and peace to those around us.

*Response

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

#393

(sing verse 3 and then verse 1.)

(please be seated)

Moments of Silent Meditation

Postlude

Lord, We Love to Worship Here

Alfred Fedak

Service Acknowledgements

The liturgy for the service was edited and reprinted with permission from “Liturgy with communion for September 1, 2019” by Thom M. Shuman. <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

The “Parable of the Dinner Party” by Michael Coffey was reprinted from Ocotillo Pub, <http://www.ocotillopub.org/2013/08/parable-of-dinner-party.html>

The hymn, “Yesterday, Today, Forever,” is in public domain and can be found at https://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Yesterday_Today_Forever/score/

Parable of the Dinner Party

She entered the party like a caped queen
her heels lifting herself up to thinner air
almost to where she wanted to be

she saw the table spread with boutique finery
charcuterie and artisanal cheeses and duck liver pate
red and white and bubbling wine for every course

she approached the gathering and saw on the far end
the out-of-fashioned, the rough handed and wrong
spoken

the servants and migrants who picked the butter lettuce

on the near end she saw well-labeled suits
handbags with leather and metal clasps
that look of confidence in the eyes of the highly educated

she saw one chair near her with those of her kind
she sat and mingled and sipped wine and laughed controllably
and knew which fork to use for the appetizer

the host came and thanked her for taking
the seat at this end and assured her warm voiced
that someday, she too, could join him at the other end



— Michael Coffey

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

If you are visiting, we welcome you!

Kory Leppo, Council President 717-269-6033

Marie Hibshman, Elder 717-343-3247

Emily Frantz, Parish Administrator 717-383-1147

Mark Herr, Family and Community Ministry Coordinator 717-572-7734

Lindy Bennetch, Financial Administrator

Elicia Frank, Custodian

Beverly Asroff, Church Secretary

WORSHIP LEADERS & ASSISTANTS

Appreciation to the following people who assisted with today's service:

9:00 am

Supply Pastor:	Rev. Jim Yoder
Organist:	Mark Herr
Choir Director:	Emily Frantz
Open Church:	Cal Beamesderfer
Greeter:	Pat and Trudy Yeager
Worship Leader:	William Arnold
Ushers:	Annamarie Behm, Kenny Patrick
Communion Servers:	Annamarie Behm, Suzie Wartluft, Marie Hibshman
Sound:	Robert Dash
Counting Team:	Ed and Candy Hibshman, Terry and Suzie Schott
Flowers:	In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hollingerby the family

Stewardship Report for Sunday, August 25, 2019

Offerings:	General Fund	\$ 2,885
	Our Church's Wider Mission	\$ 230
	Church Improvement Fund	\$ 340
	Total Attendance:	59