

Penns Valley Charge of the United Methodist Church
Worship Service with Holy Communion for Sunday, August 2, 2020

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

God of surprises, we come here from the weariness of the week, from various triumphs, from fears and doubts. Open our hearts to receive your surprising message of hope for all people, for we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Verse of the month: Psalm 100:1 "Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth!" This week: **A Tent for God** Based on Exodus 25:1-31:15; 35:4-40:38

PASTORAL PRAYER

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Genesis 28:10-19a

MESSAGE Works in Progress

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE - CONFESSION AND PARDON

Merciful God,

we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will,

we have broken your law,

we have rebelled against your love,

we have not loved our neighbors,

and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray.

Free us for joyful obedience,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;

that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing...*

*...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ...*

*...as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,

and on these gifts of bread and wine...

...Through your Son Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,

all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father,

now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Giving of the Bread and the Cup

The body of Christ broken for you. **Thanks be to God.**

The blood of Christ shed for you. **Thanks be to God.**

COMMISSION & BLESSING

Next Week: Sibling Rivalry Pt. 2 *No more playing favorites – we're all longing for love.*

PERSONAL STUDY: More Than Conquerors based on Romans 8:26-39

Read the passage. When did you learn to pray? Who taught you?

What exactly does it mean to pray? *[My favorite definition of prayer is intentionally being present before the Lord.]* What role does silence play in prayer?

How is it comforting to know that the Spirit prays with us, intercedes for us, and empowers us to pray? *[We don't do this alone.]*

Why do you think so many people are uncomfortable praying aloud in a group? *[It reveals a place of vulnerability.]* How might knowing the Spirit intercedes for us give us confidence to pray aloud? *[Realizing we are not interfering with God's day, that He wants to hear from us, helps!]*

Paul names some difficult life stresses and powerful entities in verse 35 and 38. How does the affirmation that nothing can separate us from God's loving presence give us the confidence and boldness we need in prayer? *[Side note: Verse 28 should not be read as affirming that with enough faith or saying the right prayer will make God work as we wish. It is affirming that in all circumstances, God is at work, whether we understand how or where.]*

Final thought from Pastor Theresa: Prayer, for a new Christian especially, is uncomfortable until you get comfortable with it. What makes us more comfortable talking to anyone we do not know well? Practice.

Much like Jesus' first disciples, we too request, "Lord, teach us to pray." Help us lean into, stand on, and be confident in your presence, which intercedes and gives us words when words fail us. Give us the eyes to see your presence calling us to be more than we see. Give us the eyes to discern when and where your presence is calling us to be in ministry to those we encounter. Amen.