

Penns Valley Charge U.M.C. Worship Service for Sunday, October 4, 2020

Listen at 814-422-6238. Watch online at www.PennsValleyParish.info

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Welcome to God's house, a place of faith.

P: From our homes, we come seeking God's word.

L: Here you will find nourishment and hope.

P: May we learn lessons of courage and peace.

L: Here you will find rest from your struggles

P: Lord, prepare our hearts to receive your words that we may leave this holy house of faith and return to our homes, encouraged and challenged to be your people. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, from the mountaintop in ancient Israel, you gave your people ways in which to live in harmony with all creation. As time has progressed the power of those words seems to have faded in our lives and we often succumb to base temptations of power and greed. Bring us back to your words of compassion and hope, offered to all creation by your Son Jesus. Open our hearts to receive your love and your direction in our lives. AMEN.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Obeying God's Commandments

BLESSING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS – DOXOLOGY

JOYS AND CONCERNS - PASTORAL PRAYER (The Lord's Prayer "trespass")

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Matthew 21:33-46

MESSAGE When the Church Accounts for Its Harvest

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:...*

*... In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Glory to God. Amen.

- 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...*

*...all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

HYMN: Something Beautiful (Two times through)

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COMMISSION & BLESSING

PASTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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BIBLE STUDY: That I May Gain Christ (World Communion Sunday)

Read Philippians 3:4b-14

- What are you most prideful about? (A job, a project, your kids or grandkids, an achievement, etc.) Why do you think Paul, who had so much to be prideful in verses 5-6, describes it all as “rubbish” or “sewer trash” compared with gaining Christ?
- What did Paul hope to gain (v. 11)? [Resurrection from the dead] What is Paul’s motivation to strive or press on toward this goal (v. 12)? [Because Paul has been claimed by Christ.]
- When was the last time you were able to take Communion? When was the most memorable experience you’ve had with Communion?
- Assuming you can’t partake in Communion, take this opportunity to reflect on the liturgy of the Communion. For example, you might notice the movement of Gathering or Entering, Proclamation and Response, Thanksgiving and Communion, and the Sending Forth. Or another example might be the pattern of the bread being broken, the receiving of the elements, and the sending forth as similar to the pattern of discipleship – being broken before God, receiving God’s grace, and being sent as God’s witness. As you read through the various parts and litanies, what do you notice? What aspects can contribute to empowering us to press on? The next time you are able to receive Communion, you can be more intentional about experiencing the presence of Christ.
- How does partaking in Communion help us to hold fast to our faith and press on? [In Communion, we experience the mysterious presence of Christ. That experience alone should bring assurance and should propel us in mission and ministry. Thus, we should be expecting to encounter Christ’s presence in Communion. We should approach Communion with reverence, confession, and expectation.]
- Imagine your Christian faith as running along a racetrack (v. 14), pressing on toward the prize of full salvation. Where would you situate yourself currently? At the starting blocks, still hoping to get into the race? just starting? near the end? somewhere else?

CLOSING PRAYER

God of Resurrection, you continue to woo us, draw us, invite us deeper into the mysteries of your love and grace. May practices like Communion, scripture reading, prayer, and communal conversation train us to see the riches of a relationship with Christ. Empower us to press on in being witnesses of your glorious kingdom. Amen.