



**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director- Rae Ann Borger  
Organist- Colin Andrew

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer, from our Schuylkill Association Prayer Calendar, **Christian Education and Faith Formation.**

Please read the announcements that are in this downloadable bulletin, as well as those we post on our Facebook site, our emails, and our phone calls, and then help spread the word to those who do not have access to any of those messages.

*(Communion note: This morning, as some of us are gathered together here at church while many are gathering with us virtually from their homes, we all are invited to the same table. Those present this morning are invited to pick up a bag of individually prepared elements from the table in the narthex, as we will not be distributing the elements during the service. Those at home may gather bread and drink and partake as we do when we are gathered together.)*

INVOCATION

**GATHERING FOR THE WORD**

PRELUDE

*The congregation may stand.*

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung “Amen”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Look to the mountains; look to the hills!

**People: Love comes to us with joy!**

Pastor: The world is filled with beauty.

**People: Flowers appear on the earth, birdsong brightens the day.**

Pastor: Crops yield their produce in abundance, the air is filled with sweetness.

**People: The summer of God’s love is with us.**

Pastor: Let the oil of gladness anoint your souls as we join our voices and sing for joy! Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 40.....“For the Beauty of the Earth”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

**Ever-faithful God, you create each of us to be a presence of healing and love in our world. You equip us to resist intentions and actions that hurt ourselves and others. Forgive us when we forget your desire for us. Forgive us when we put aside your vision. Remind us of the love and goodness that you have planted within us. Draw our hearts close to you and bless us as we live in your ways. Amen.**

MOMENT OF PERSONAL CONFESSION

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

**People: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Pastor: Christ, have mercy upon us.

**People: Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

**People: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: God has chosen to give us new life.

**People: This is God’s choice, given freely to us, as is every other good gift God has given.**

Pastor: Rejoice in this good news! You are born anew in Christ, forgiven and beloved. Amen.

THE GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, it is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

*The congregation may be seated.*

**ENGAGING THE WORD**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD:.....Lector, Mike Fessler

Old Testament: Song of Solomon 2:8-13 (Page 581)

Psalm: Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9 **(Read Responsively)**

Lector: My heart overflows with a goodly theme; I address my verses to the king; my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.

**People: You are the most handsome of men; grace is poured upon your lips; therefore God has blessed you forever.**

Lector: Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. Your royal scepter is a scepter of equity;

**People: you love righteousness and hate wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;**

Lector: your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia. From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad;

**People: daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor; at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.**

Epistle: James 1:17-27 (Page 1054)

Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 (Page 874)

Lector: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE.....“Let Thy word abide in us, O Lord.”

SERMON.....“Take a Good Look”

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**  
*The congregation may remain seated.*

HYMN NO. 123.....“Fairest Lord Jesus”

*The congregation may stand.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison) .....The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

PASTORAL

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

*Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord, And grant us Thy peace. Amen.*

CALL TO OFFERING

*The congregation may stand.*

OFFERING RESPONSE & DEDICATION.....DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

OFFERING PRAYER

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Invitation:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

The Communion Prayer:

The Seraphic Hymn

*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of Thy glory, Hosanna, Hosanna, hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!*

*The congregation may be seated.*

Words of Institution:

Pastor: At this table we recall the night when Jesus was at table with his friends. As they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it. He gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same manner, Jesus also took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**People: By partaking at this table, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's return.**

Prayer of Consecration:

THE 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.**

Breaking of the Bread:

Lifting of the Cup:

Call to the Supper:

The Sharing of the Elements:

Blessing of the Children:

*The congregation may stand.*

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison):

**We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**GOING WITH THE WORD**

COMMISSION

Pastor: The good gifts of God continue to pour out upon us, giving us inspiration and energy for every good act.

**People: May our lives yield a full harvest of goodness and compassion!**

Pastor: Go and be doers of God’s word of truth!

**People: May our lives honor God!**

BENEDICTION

THE THREEFOLD AMEN.....*Amen. Amen. Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN NO. 457.....“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

SILENT MEDITATION

POSTLUDE

\* \* \* \* \*

*Portions of today’s worship resources were reproduced or adapted from the UCC’s Book of Worship, Worship Connection by Nancy C. Townley on MinistryMatters.com, and by Rebecca Gaudino from the 2024 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu.*

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-The altar flowers are in memory of Betty Brown by the Brown family.

-The bulletins are in honor of Justin and Erin Nagle’s Wedding Anniversary (Sept. 4) and Marion Bartolet’s Birthday (Sept. 5) by Tom and Lucinda Nagle.

-Offering on Sunday, August 25, 2024: \$2,115.00

-Weekly envelope & plate budget for 2024: \$3,243.09

**-The September Communion offering is designated to support the UCC Disaster Relief Fund.**

**-Our members, friends and visitors give their offerings and donations to the church in many different ways, to include electronically via apps like Tithe.ly and bank transfers. To help accommodate the varied ways of giving, we have an offering box in the narthex as well as offering plates by the pews in the rear of the sanctuary to place Sunday morning offerings as you enter or leave the sanctuary. However, we have heard that some forget to drop their offerings off, while visitors may be unaware of the remote offering collection. **The Consistory has decided that we will continue to have the offering box and plates to drop off your offering before or after the service, but we will also have two ushers accept offerings during the Hymn of Reflection after the sermon as another option.** Thank you for your financial support of the ministries of St. Paul’s and your faithful giving in response to what God has given us!**

-There will be a **Board of Christian Education Meeting this Tuesday, September 3** at 7:00pm. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**-Next Sunday, September 8, everyone is invited to come celebrate the beginning of our Sunday School year on Rally Day.** Sunday School classes will resume at 9:15am, followed by worship at 10:30am. We hope you will join us!!

-There will be a **blessing of the Sunday School teachers, leaders and the confirmands** during our 10:30am worship service **next Sunday, September 8**. We hope to see you there!

-**Following our worship service next Sunday, September 8 (“Rally Day”), we will gather in the grove for a church wide picnic and enjoy fun, fellowship, games and food.** Hamburgers, hotdogs and other snacks will be served. You’re welcome to bring your favorite dish to share but it certainly is not necessary. You may want to bring a lawn chair, blanket and any kid friendly outdoor games to play too. We can’t wait to see you there! Please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin table to help in the food preparation planning.

-Are you interested in learning more about Scouting?! **You are invited to the Cub Scout Pack 651 Open House on Sunday, September 8** here at St. Paul’s beginning at 4pm. There are informational cards on the bulletin table in the narthex. You may call Kevin at 484-824-5403.

-**The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet the second Tuesday of each month** from 10am-12noon in the conference room. The next meeting will be **Tuesday, September 10**. If you are interested in knitting and/or crocheting, we can hook you up! If you know of someone who could use a prayer shawl, please contact the church office.

-Mark Your Calendars for the **One Rock, One Community Free Community Music Festival on Saturday, September 14** from 11 AM-6:00 PM at the Stop ‘N Rock off of Route 895 in Rock. Free admission & parking, FREE live music, FREE children’s area including bounce houses, train, petting zoo, crafts and more! There will be food trucks, a car, truck, tractor & motorcycle show. **There are many volunteer opportunities for anyone who would like to help.** Please contact Pastor Ken if you are able to help in any way.

-**On Sunday, September 15, we will collect the special offering to support the ministries of Bethany Children’s Home.** Special envelopes will be available on the bulletin table.

-**You are invited to a Service of Installation at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church for Pastor Marie Meeks on Sunday, September 15** at 2pm. A luncheon will be provided after the service. Please **RSVP by September 8** to Charity\_Staller@yahoo.com.

-The **Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry** is in great need and accepts all non-perishable food items and paper products. Items can be dropped off at the church during the week or placed in the shopping cart at the back of the sanctuary. **NO OUTDATED FOOD PLEASE.** We will be helping on **Monday, September 16** at 8:30am and **Friday, September 20** at 12pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling or the church office if you would like to help or donate items.

-**The next Consistory Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 17 at 7:00pm.**

-There will be a **Blood Drive** sponsored by the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches on **Thursday, September 19** from 1-6pm at Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Schuylkill Haven.

-**Sunday, September 22 is “Bring your motorcycle to church” Sunday, and a group ride will follow worship that day, and again on Sunday, October 27.** Spread the word, invite your friend, and join us for some fun and fellowship. If you would like to be notified of other rides throughout the year, please notify the church office to have your name added to the “Biker” email list!

-A **Spiritual Council Meeting** of church elders is scheduled for **Monday, September 23, 7pm** in the conference room.

-**The 5th Sunday offering collected on Sunday, September 29 will support the Pastor’s Emergency Relief Fund.**

-**The Thanksgiving Food Drive challenge to our congregation is upon us.** It's time to share our blessings by setting a goal of donating 1000 items to the local food pantry. Our local pantries remain in dire need of food. Families across our county struggle each month to meet their food needs let alone provide the traditional Thanksgiving dinner we all enjoy. We have nearly 50 households within our congregation and we are asking 31 of those households to donate 31 food items in 31 days!!!! We will then provide the remaining items to reach our goal of 1000 items. The list provided

is a guide to help provide three meals as well as the components of Thanksgiving dinner. However, we understand every household budget is different. So do not feel obligated to conform to this list. ANY 31 ITEMS WILL MAKE A HUGE IMPACT! **Our official collection will take place October 1-31.** So start thinking about your donation now. Shop as you see items on sale, then bring your items to church during the month of October! You may leave your donation at the back of the sanctuary or contact Brook Koch-Guers at 570-449-0825 or by email at [bkochguers@comcast.net](mailto:bkochguers@comcast.net) to arrange for one of the boys to pick up your donation at your home. Come on St Paul's, TOGETHER we can do this and provide families with the BLESSING of a Thanksgiving meal!!!

**-The Senior Choir rehearsals have resumed** and will be held each Wednesday evening beginning at 7pm. New members are always welcome! Please speak to our Music Director, Rae Ann Borger if you would like more information.

**-When you know your address (or your child's) and email for the upcoming school year, please share this information with the church office-** call, email at [summerhillucc@gmail.com](mailto:summerhillucc@gmail.com) or just write it down and put it in the mail slot on the secretary's office door. We would like to have your information so we can continue to send the Newsletter, church mail and various emails. Thank you, and have a great school year!!

**-In an effort to keep our records up to date,** please contact the church office if you have had a change to any of your information, to include phone or cell phone numbers, email or home addresses, or any family updates.

**-Sound Board help is needed!!** If you are good with computers, please see Craig Borger or call the church office.

**-When you or a loved one is sick or in the hospital for an extended stay,** do not assume that the pastor will know you are there. Please call or email the church office so that Pastor Ken can provide you with spiritual care!

**-Our church services are livestreamed on Facebook!** When you can't join us in person, please join us on line!

**-Prayer is Powerful!** Please call or email the church office with your prayer concerns. We believe in the power of prayer and want to pray for you. **We have a prayer concerns email group for anyone interested.**

PRAYER CONCERNS: All those earnestly seeking God's help in difficult times, Military personnel & National leaders, **Guy Fessler** Joan Berkheiser, Aiden, Bob Hocker, Mark Ebling, Jonathan Warke, Mabel Edwards, Dick Clauser, Nathan Hibbard, Al Herring, Lori Edwards, Ron Mengel

CANCER PATIENTS: Wayne Alward, Boone, Marie Bleu, Cindy Boyer, Alex DuVee, John Eckert, Yvonne Edling, Glennis Eifert, Joanne Forbes, **Thomas Galligan**, Meg Goodwin, Rebecca Henderson, Sherri Jo Jennar, Deb Kemmerling, Norma Koperna, Holly Koscak, Joan Krause, Lori Krug, Carol Mallory, Carol Mengel, Tom Nagle, **Rich Nickel**, Judy Ohl, Pat Reading, Jim Thompson, Terri Willard

#### **FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1**

**Sunday, September 1 \*Return to normal 10:30am Worship Time**

**Monday, September 2 \*Labor Day \*Church offices closed**

**Tuesday, September 3**

7:00 PM -Board of Christian Education Meeting

**Wednesday, September 4**

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

**Sunday, September 8 \*Rally Day**

9:15 AM -Sunday School Classes resume/ Confirmation Meeting

10:30 AM -Worship with the Blessing of Sunday School teachers, leaders and Confirmands and the Celebration of Baptismal Anniversaries

-Rally Day church wide picnic following worship

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Open House event

#### **\*Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Psalm 125

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Psalm 146

James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17

Mark 7:24-37



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