

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, March 3, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY IN
LENT

1235 Summer Hill Road, Auburn, PA 17922

Pastor: Rev. Ken McDowell, cell phone: 610-207-4783

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**Third Sunday in Lent
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 **St. John, Tamaqua** from our Schuylkill Association Prayer Calendar.

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.)

LENTEN CANDLES

Pastor: In the days of Noah, the LORD saw that the wickedness of humankind was great in the earth.

People: And the LORD was sorry that he had made humankind on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.

Pastor: So the LORD said, "I will blot out from the earth the human beings I have created

People: Together with animals and creeping things and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

[Extinguish one candle. Do not light it again until Easter]

Pastor: But Noah found favor in the sight of the LORD.

People: And God did not totally destroy his creation. He showed us his mercy, through Noah.

(Genesis 6:5-8)

HYMN OF REPENTANCE NO. 354....."Just As I Am" (Verse 3)

*Just as I am, though tossed about, With many a conflict many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

INVOCATION

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE

The congregation may stand.

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung "Amen"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Called by Christ,

People: We gather as one.

Pastor: Blessed by God's wisdom,

People: We gather to learn.

Pastor: Amazed by God's love,

People: We gather to worship.

Pastor: Let us sing praises to our Crucified and Risen Lord. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 264....."In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

*In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.*

*When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me. Lo! it glows with peace and joy.*

*When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.*

*Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure, joys that thro' all time abide.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

God of love and truth, we long to walk in your paths. We yearn to follow you in the ways that lead to life and wholeness. Yet it is hard to know if we are taking the right paths on our journey of faith. We worry that we will wander off, even when we don't mean to. May your love set us right, forgive our mistakes, and show us where we should go. 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

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, Brook Koch-Guers

Old Testament: Exodus 20:1-17 (Page 63)

Psalm: Psalm 19 (Read Responsively)

Lector: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

People: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

Lector: There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

People: Yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

Lector: Which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

People: Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.

Lector: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

People: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;

Lector: The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

People: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

Lector: Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

People: But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

Lector: Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

People: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Epistle: I Corinthians 1:18-25 (Page 991)

Gospel: John 2:13-22 (Page 923)

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.*”

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM.....“My Redeemer” by Kyle Hill

SERMON.....“Speak Lord, for Your Servants are Listening”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD
The congregation may remain seated.

HYMN NO. 51.....“How Great Thou Art”

*O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed.*

Refrain: *Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee: How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee: How great thou art, how great thou art!*

*When through the woods and forest glades I wonder and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur, and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze. [Refrain]*

*And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin. [Refrain]*

*When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, “My God, how great Thou art.” [Refrain]*

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 PRAYER

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: Holy are you, and blessed is your child, Jesus Christ.....We praise you and give thanks for all that we have received, offering our whole selves to you, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: Christ was. Christ is. Christ will be.

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):

O God, who in Jesus Christ called us out of darkness into marvelous light, enable us now strengthened by this meal to declare your wonderful deed.

Thank you, O God, for your steadfast love and may we praise you now and forever with heart, mind, soul and strength. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

COMMISSION

Pastor: God's foolishness is wiser than we will ever know,

People: And God's weakness is stronger than anything we can imagine.

Pastor: Go forth with joyful hearts in the foolishness and the weakness of God.

People: We go to be a blessing to God's creation.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 255.....“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

*Beneath the cross of Jesus I gladly take my stand— the shadow of a mighty Rock within a weary land,
a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way, from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.*

*Upon that cross of Jesus my eye at times can see the very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
and from my smitten heart with tears two wonders I confess— the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.*

*I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place; I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face,
content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss, my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.*

SILENT MEDITATION

POSTLUDE

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*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 Mary Petrina Boyd
from the 2024 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu.*

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-The bulletins are in honor of Jeremiah Nagle's Birthday (Feb. 24) and Abram Nagle's Birthday (March 3) by grandparents, Tom and Lucinda Nagle.

-Offering on Sunday, February 25, 2024: \$2,284.00

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

- The March Communion offering will support the Joe and Tamara Nagle Family (medical expenses). The April Communion offering is designated to the Schuylkill Association Ministries.

-The Adult Sunday School Class started a Lenten study based on the book “The Third Day” by Tom Berlin. We will explore the ways Christ's resurrection transformed the lives of the first apostles and how we too can experience that power today. All are welcome to join us in room B-1 at 9:15 AM each Sunday. Please speak to Pastor Ken.

-The final deadline for Easter lilies is TODAY. Each lily is \$7, and orders and money can be given to Ardith Moyer, Verna Ebling or the church office. Order forms are available on the table by the bulletin basket.

-There will be a fundraiser for the Cub Scout Pack 651 at the Friedensburg Country Restaurant this Tuesday, March 5. The Scouts will receive 20% of your total bill and the fundraiser will go through the day: breakfast, lunch and dinner. There are tickets on the table by the bulletin basket. You can also contact Lorna Palerino/church office.

-Anyone interested in learning more about our Sunday School program is welcome and invited to attend the Board of Christian Education Meeting this Tues., March 5 at 7pm. The meeting will take place downstairs in room B1. Please speak to Laura Carll, any Sunday School teachers, Pastor Ken or the church office for more information.

-There will be a **VBS Planning meeting this Tuesday, March 5** at 7:30 pm. Anyone is invited to attend. Please speak to Bill Reber for more information.

-Lenten Schedule: Our **Wednesday evening Lenten service** will take place this **Wednesday, March 6 through March 20** at 7pm in the sanctuary. Please join us as we journey with Jesus to the cross. A **Palm Sunday Service**, with the Blessing of the Palms, will be held on **Sunday, March 24** at 10:30am. On **Maundy Thursday, March 28**, at 6:00pm, we will gather in the fellowship hall for our version of the **Seder meal**. A **Good Friday Tenebrae Service** will be held on **March 29** at 7:00pm. **Easter Sunday, March 31:** We will rejoice and celebrate Christ's resurrection beginning with our Sunrise Service at 6:30am on Easter morning. An Easter Breakfast will be held in the fellowship hall at approximately 7:15am followed immediately by a Worship Service with Holy Communion around the breakfast table (8:15am). Sunday School will be held at 9:15am, followed by the 10:30am Easter Worship Service with Holy Communion. Although it is not necessary, if you plan on attending either or both, **please sign up for the Seder Meal and/or Easter Breakfast to help in our food preparation planning.**

-A Blood Drive hosted by the Sch. Haven Council of Churches will be held at Jerusalem Lutheran Church of Dock Street in Sch. Haven **this Thursday, March 7**. You can donate blood between 1-6pm. There is dire need for blood donations. Walk-ins are once again welcome. Please give!

-Next Sunday, March 10, we will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. OGHS, the refugee, relief and development offering of the UCC, transforms lives through health, education, agricultural, and emergency relief initiatives in 138 countries. Special envelopes are available on the bulletin table.

-Join us for Fellowship Time (aka, coffee hour) next Sunday, March 10. Enjoy conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments, following our 10:30am worship service. We will gather in the rear of the Sanctuary the second Sunday of each month. Catch up with old friends, make new ones, and stay up to date on everything happening at St. Paul's. And best of all, it's free of charge!! Help is needed: If you would be interested in helping to assist in hosting a fellowship hour, please contact the church office/ speak to Pastor Ken.

-The Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry is in great need and accepts all non-perishable food items/ 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 **Monday, March 11** at 8:30am and **Friday, March 15** at 1pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling or the church office if you would like to help or donate items.

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

-This year we are doing plastic egg donations for our annual Easter Egg hunt on Sunday, March 24 during the 9:15 Sunday School hour. They may be filled or not and you can place them in downstairs room B-1. **PLASTIC EGGS ONLY-** please no real eggs. **Plastic eggs will need to be here by March 17.** Thank you!! Please sign up with your name and how many dozen of eggs on the sheet by the bulletin basket.

-Please note that the fresh altar flower sponsorship price will be going up in price from \$30 to \$35, effective on April 1. The silk flowers will still be \$12, and bulletin sponsorship will be \$10.

-Your invited to the Everybody's Birthday Party on Friday, April 19 from 6-9pm. It will be a pot-luck style, so you may bring a dinner choice and/or a dessert choice. Please sign your name and what you will be bringing on the sign-up sheet by the bulletin basket. We will have games & provide ice cream and drinks. We hope to see you there!!

-Gofundme to Help Mathias on His Spina Bifida Journey- Friends and family of Joe, Tamara, and baby Mathias- As a lot of you already know, Joe and Tamara recently received a serious diagnosis for their unborn baby. At a routine 20 week pregnancy ultrasound, their baby boy was diagnosed with Spina Bifida, which can come with a wide range of health issues and disabilities. If you would like to donate, you can visit: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-matthias-on-his-spina-bifida-journey> or you may also give to the March communion offering.

-Meals Needed: Tamara and Joe Nagle and their children along with Joe's mother, Lucinda have moved to the Philadelphia area Ronald McDonald House while they await the birth of Mathias. This will be over the course of a few months. Rae Ann Borger is organizing meals for Lucinda's husband, Tom and her mother, Marion. If you would be able to assist, it would be greatly appreciated. Please speak to her or call 739-2311 for more information.

-In an effort to keep our records up to date, we are asking that if you have had a change to any of your information, would like to add a cell phone number or email address, or just want to be sure we have your most current info., please contact the church office.

-Your help is needed!! Now that we have settled into our new sound and video equipment, we are looking for some additional people to help run it on a Sunday morning! Please let us know if you would be willing to help. We will then figure out a good mutual time to “train” those who are interested! Ideally, we will get a few people interested, and then sign up for Sundays either on a weekly or monthly basis, somewhat like the lectors.

-When you or a loved one is sick or in the hospital for an extended stay, please notify the church office. Please do not assume that the pastor will know you are there. We are served by many different area hospitals and do not know which one you may utilize. So please do not hesitate to let us know your condition so that Pastor Ken can provide you with spiritual care! You may call the church office at 570-754-7225 and leave a message 24/7 with your name, number, and what you are calling about. The staff will be notified remotely of your call and will get back to you as soon as possible. You can also email us at summerhillucc@gmail.com.

-Our church services are livestreamed on Facebook! We continue to reach many people who are unable to worship with us in person, giving them God’s message of hope and love. Call the church office if you or someone you know needs help getting online.

-Prayer is Powerful! Please continue to call the church office or email us your prayer concerns to be included on our prayer list. We believe in the power of prayer and want to pray for you. **We have a prayer concerns email group for anyone who would like to join.** Contact the church office and we will be happy to add you to the email distribution list. The Agape Committee continues to send cards to members on the prayer concerns list, so please continue sharing your concerns with us. Thank you!!

PRAYER CONCERNS: All those earnestly seeking God’s help in difficult times, Military personnel & National Leaders, *Tom Toomey, family and friends of Jon Fisher, Norman Spotts Sr., Denise Knoblauch,* Guy Fessler, Savannah Olsen, Brett Neifert Jr., Harold Berkheiser, Kenneth Smith, Ron Mengel, Joesph & Tamara Nagle and unborn son Mathias Joseph, Shirley German, Dick Clauser, Cassie Wolfe, Marion Bartolet, Mabel Edwards

CANCER PATIENTS: Boone, Marie Bleu, Alex DuVee, John Eckert, Glennis Eifert, Rebecca Henderson, Sherri Jo Jennar, Deb Kemmerling, Norma Koperna, Joan Krause, Carol Mallory, Carol Mengel, Tom Nagle, Judy Ohl, Pat Reading, Jim Thompson, Terri Willard

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, MARCH 3

Sunday, March 3 *Final Lily Order Deadline

5:30 PM -Cub Scout Den Meetings

Tuesday, March 5

7:00 PM -Board of Christian Education Meeting/ 7:30 PM -VBS Planning Meeting

Wednesday, March 6

7:00 PM -Lenten Worship Service / Senior Choir Rehearsal following worship

Sunday, March 10 *Daylight Savings Time begins *One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship with the Celebration of Baptismal Anniversaries/

-Fellowship Time (aka Coffee Hour) following worship

4:00 – 7:30 PM -Cub Scout Meetings

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21