

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Sunday, March 24, 2024**



**1235 Summer Hill Road, Auburn, PA 17922**  
**Pastor:** Rev. Ken McDowell, cell phone: 610-207-4783  
**Church Office Phone:** 570-754-7225  
**Office Hours:** Monday – Thursday 9am–2pm; Closed Friday  
**Church Email:** [summerhillucc@gmail.com](mailto:summerhillucc@gmail.com)  
**Website:** [www.summerhillucc.com](http://www.summerhillucc.com)  
**Livestream:** [www.facebook.com/summerhillucc](http://www.facebook.com/summerhillucc)

**Sixth Sunday in Lent  
Palm/Passion Sunday; Blessing of the Palms;  
Recognition of Confirmation Class of 1974**

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director and Pianist- Rae Ann Borger

**CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

This morning we remember in prayer, from our Schuylkill Association Prayer Calendar, **Palm/ Passion Sunday**. 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.

**Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 1974:**

Nancy (Bartolet) VanDeest, Karen Berkheiser, Steve Brown, Debra Ebling, Debra (Fessler) Bailey, Roger Fessler, Deborah (Peiffer) Heffner, Michael Santella, Connie Reber, Kenneth Smith, Daryl Zimmerman and Johannah Wallace \*\*Glenn Krause, Randy Morgan, Brian Peiffer (Deceased Members of the Class of 1974)

**LENTEN CANDLES**

Pastor: Jesus was in the wilderness forty days.

**People: “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”**

Pastor: The King has arrived, triumphant and victorious.

**People: Arise, Jerusalem! Sing, O Zion! Let hosannas fill the skies, greet our humble King!**

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

Pastor: Greet the humble King. Greet the one who humbled himself all the way to the cross.

**People: O gracious God, draw us near with Christ’s love. Let you Holy Spirit cheer and bring blessings from above. Amen.**

HYMN OF REPENTANCE.....“Just As I Am” (Verse 6)

*Just as I am, Thy love unknown, has broken every barrier down;  
now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, 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: In joy, we gather this day.

**People: Hosanna to Jesus, the Christ.**

Pastor: In remembrance, we gather this day.

**People: Hosanna to the son of David.**

Pastor: In festive celebration and quiet reflection, we gather to worship and pray.

**People: Hosanna to the Son of God. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN NO. 265.....“All Glory, Laud and Honor”

*Refrain: All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

*You are the King of Israel, and David’s royal Son,  
now in the Lord’s name coming, our King and blessed One! [Refrain]*

*The company of angels are praising you on high,  
creation and all mortals in chorus make reply: [Refrain]*

**Refrain:** *All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

*The people of the Hebrews with palms before you went;  
our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present: [Refrain]*

**Refrain:** *All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

*To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise;  
to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise: [Refrain]*

*As you received their praises, accept the prayers we bring,  
for you delight in goodness, O good and gracious King! [Refrain]*

#### BLESSING OF THE PALMS

Pastor: God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

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

Pastor: Let us pray...

#### CELEBRATION OF 50TH CONFIRMATION ANNIVERSARIES

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

**Holy One, humble us as we come to you in prayer. Uncover the masks that obscure our vision and keep us from facing our true selves. Hold us close in our weakness, that we may find the courage to lean on your grace and rest in your forgiveness. Bless us with humility, love, and mercy, that we may be merciful, humble, and loving to everyone we meet, even ourselves. 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's face of love shines upon us.

**People: Christ's eyes of forgiveness gaze upon our souls with mercy and compassion.**

Pastor: The Spirit's sustenance offers us grace and hope. Rejoice, for we are forgiven.

#### 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: Isaiah 50:4-9a (Page 631)

Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (**Read responsively**)

Lector: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

**People: Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."**

Lector: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

**People: This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.**

Lector: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

**People: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

Lector: This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

**People: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Lector: Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

**People: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.**

Lector: The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

**People: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.**

Lector: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11 (Page 1023)

Gospel: Mark 11:1-11 (Page 879)

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....."His Praises We Sing" by Dan McGowan

SERMON....."Something to Cheer About"

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*The congregation may remain seated.*

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 267....."Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

*Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;  
through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang:  
to Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast,  
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.*

*From Olivet they followed 'mid an exultant crowd,  
the victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud;  
the Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,  
nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.*

*"Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing,  
for Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King,  
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,  
and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!*

*The congregation may stand.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)..United Church of Christ Statement of Faith– adapted by Robert V. Moss  
**We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother,  
and to whose deeds we testify: God calls the worlds into being,  
creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.  
God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.  
God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness  
declared through prophets and apostles.  
In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord,  
God has come to us and shared our common lot,  
conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.  
God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,  
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.  
God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,  
to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world  
and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,  
to join him in his passion and victory.  
God promises to all who trust in the gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,  
courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing,  
and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.  
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God. 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

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.**

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

**GOING WITH THE WORD**

COMMISSION

Pastor: Go into God's world, humble and kind.

**People: We will be faithful, courageous, and true.**

Pastor: Go into God's world, gracious and loving.

**People: We will bring Christ's peace to the world.**

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 268.....“Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!”

*Ride on, ride on in majesty! Hear all the tribes hosanna cry;  
O Savior meek, pursue your road with palms and scattered garments strowed.*

*Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die.  
O Christ, your triumphs now begin o'er captive death and conquered sin.*

*Ride on, ride on in majesty! The host of angels in the sky  
look down with sad and wondering eyes to see the approaching sacrifice.*

*Ride on, ride on in majesty! Your last and fiercest strife is nigh.  
The Father on his sapphire throne awaits his own anointed Son.*

*Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die,  
bow your meek head to mortal pain, then take, O Christ, your power and reign.*

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

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-The altar flowers are in loving memory of Skip Clauser by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Clauser and family.

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-The Palms are in memory of Bill and Beaty Spotts, Billy Spotts, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Trumbo, Sr. and Jacques Ebling by Verna Ebling and family, and Donna Spotts and family.

-Offering on Sunday, March 17, 2024: \$2,591.00

-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.**

**-This Maundy Thursday, March 28**, at 6:00pm, we will gather in the fellowship hall for our version of the **Seder meal**. For those attending, a few donations of desserts would be appreciated. If you able to provide a dessert, please let Libby Zimmerman or the church office know. Thank you!

**-A Good Friday Tenebrae Service will be held on this Friday, March 29** at 7:00pm.

**-Easter Sunday, March 31 Schedule:** We will rejoice and celebrate Christ's resurrection beginning with our outdoor 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 in the sanctuary.

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

**-The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Tuesday, April 9** from 10am-12noon in the conference room. 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.

**-Join us for Fellowship Time (aka, coffee hour) on Sunday, April 14 following worship. Enjoy conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments.** We 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 or sign the sheet on the bulletin table.

**-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, April 15** at 8:30am and **Friday, April 19** at 1pm. 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, April 16 at 7:00pm.**

**-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!!

**-There will be a Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting on Tuesday, April 23** at 7pm in Room B1. Speak to Bill Reber for more information. Mark your calendar for VBS 2024...**Monday, June 17-Friday, June 21.** More information and registration material will be forthcoming. We invite all children ages 4 to 12 to join us for Scuba...Diving into friendship with God.

**-PLAY BALL!** Spring is here and with it so comes America's great past time of baseball. **We have once again scheduled a group outing to see the Reading Fightin' Phils on Saturday, June 15th** against the Portland Sea Dogs. First pitch is at 6:45pm. Tickets are \$36.00 each and includes admission to the game, AYCE Buffet supper (starts at 5pm) and incredible fireworks to follow the game! A sign-up sheet is on table as you enter the sanctuary. Payment for tix can be given to Kelly in the church office or paid directly to Mike Fessler. There are 32 tickets reserved for us so tickets will be provided first come, first serve.

**-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](mailto: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, *the family of infant Aiden Wallace Cook (son of Andrew and Sarah (Shane) Cook, Dave Heim, Ernie Jones, Ron Mengel, Tom Toomey, Norman Spotts Sr., Denise Knoblauch, Guy Fessler, Savannah Olsen, Brett Neifert Jr., Harold Berkheiser, Kenneth Smith, 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 24**

**Palm/ Passion Sunday, March 24**

**Monday, March 25**

6:00 PM-9:15 PM -Boy Scout Meetings

**Wednesday, March 27**

5:30 PM -Confirmation Class

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

**Maundy Thursday, March 28**

6:00 PM -Seder Meal Service with Holy Communion

**Good Friday, March 29**

7:00 PM -Tenebrae Worship Service

**Holy Saturday, March 30**

**Easter Sunday, March 31**

6:30 AM -Outdoor Sunrise Worship Service

7:15 AM -Breakfast served/ 8:15 AM -Worship with Holy Communion at the table (fellowship hall)

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion (Sanctuary)

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

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

I Corinthians 15:1-11

John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8