**February 5, 2017 8:30 & 10:45**

**5th Sunday After Epiphany**

“Peer pressure” – it affects us throughout the various stages of life, both for good and for ill. The people around us can inspire us to do the right thing, or they can cause us to do the wrong thing, or to quit altogether. The Pharisees did all of the right things for all of the wrong reasons. Jesus calls us to follow him along another path.

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music**

**Hymn 620**  **One bread, one body** (seated) O*ne bread, one body*

**Hymn 497 Send me, Lord** (Leader: Rev. Strandburg) *Thuma Mina*

**Greeting**

 Leader: O magnify the Lord with me,

 **People**: **and let us exalt God’s name together!** Psalm 34:3

**Announcements**

**Introit** 10:45 *John Ness Beck*

 I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live. I will sing praise while I have my being;

 bless thou the Lord, O my soul; praise ye the Lord!

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Look, here is our God, the One we have waited for.

**People:** **Let us be glad and rejoice in our salvation.**

Leader: Come feast on the bread and the cup.

**People:**  **Enjoy the blessings of the Lord, the vindication from our God.**

Leader: Come! Let us worship the Lord.

 *Adapted from Isaiah 25 and Psalm 24*

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Worship & Song 3019 Bidden, unbidden\*** (standing) *Jewel*

**Opening Prayer of Confession (in unison)**

Merciful God, you call us to be salt and light and to live as your righteous, holy people. We want to, but we often fall short! We confess that there is good and bad, light and dark within our own hearts. We want to do what is right, but our fears and anxieties lead us to self-protection rather than vulnerability, to hoarding rather than freely sharing, to self-righteousness rather than compassion. Forgive us, O God. Restore us by your mercy that having received the gift of your infinite love, we might turn to our neighbor and give your love away. For the sake of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Pastor: God’s forgiveness is freely extended to all who in faith repent. Hear and believe the Good News: Jesus Christ forgives all your sins!

People: Hallelujah! Amen.

**… TO CELEBRATE THE FAMILY OF FAITH …**

**The Sign of Peace** *Please pass the peace to your neighbors as a sign of reconciliation and love.*

 Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
 People: And also with you.

Gathering Song *James Ritchie*

 This, this is where children belong,

 welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.

 Water, God’s Word, bread and cup, prayer and song:

 This is where children belong.

 WORDS AND MUSIC: James Ritchie ©1999 Abingdon Press

**Message for Young Disciples** Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

 (All children are invited. Please sing as children come forward.)

After the children’s message at the 10:45 service, children ages 3 - 3rd grade may attend **Kids Praise** in the Welcome Center. Children will be escorted to and from Kids Praise by teachers. They will return to the Sanctuary near the end of the service, and parents may meet them.

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

**Hymn 640 Take our bread** (seated) *Take our bread*

Scripture Reading 8:30 Scott Miller

 10:45 Sally Munro

 A Lesson from the New Testament

 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 Paul defines the content of his preaching

**Hymn 497 Send me, Lord** (Leader: Rev. Strandburg) *Thuma Mina*

**Pastoral 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

 A Lesson from the Gospel

 Matthew 5:13-20 The call to be “salt and light”

 **Response**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

**… TO OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TO DEDICATE OUR LIVES …**

**Offertory Solo** 8:30 O Master, let me walk with thee *arranged by Dale Wood*

**Offertory Anthem** 10:45 True Light\*\* *Keith Hampton*

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine. Almighty God is light. He lives in us as

True Light.

 In the beginning, out of the darkness, God created Light.

 Everywhere I go, I want the world to know. God gave the world True Light.

**Doxology 94**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Sermon** “Peer Pressure” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**Hymn 620 One bread, one body** (refrain only, seated) *One bread, one body*

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

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

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God..

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

 Leader: *(The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following words. . . )*

Therefore, with all your faithful people from every time and place we join the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

 (Musical Setting E, U.M. Hymnal, p. 25)

**People:** **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. Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: *(The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following words . . .)*

As we affirm the mystery of faith.

**People: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Leader: *(The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following words . . .)* Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, who lives in unity with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, to all eternity.

**People: Amen.**

**Giving the Bread and Cup**

Sung by the men of the Chancel Choir during the distribution of the elements at 10:45:

The King of Love and Grace *arranged by Christopher Aspaas*

Rise up, o men of God *arranged by Kenneth Jennings*

**Prayer following Communion**

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Hymn 430 O Master, let me walk with thee** (standing) *Maryton*

**Benediction**

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers in the Chancel** are given by Beth, Pete and Trevor Santore in loving memory of Marilyn Santore and Linda McKendry.

**The flowers on the altar** are given by Dolores Kortlandt in loving memory of her parents, loved ones and her son, Fred Kortlandt, Jr.

**Special music at 10:45** is provided by Linda Minnotte and Scott Ullman, guitar; Rick Minnotte, drums; the Chancel Choir, accompanied by pianist Mary Paine, a member of the church who teaches piano in the area; and the men of the choir, accompanied by Kathy Whittaker.

**\*Our hymn of the month** is “Bidden, unbidden.” Note the poignant words in the refrain, “Bidden, unbidden, I know you are there.”

**\*\*This morning’s anthem**, “True Light,” was written for one of Penn State University’s choirs, Essence of Joy, conducted by energetic and inspiring Dr. Tony Leach.

**Acolytes** Cary Young and Luke Grabowski

**Greeters 8:30**  Kathy and Rich Tremblay **10:45**  Lesley Troy

**Worship options for children** We encourage children to participate in the **Children’s Sermon** at both services, and in **Kids Praise** during the 10:45 service. **Nursery services** are offered in Room 204 of the Education Building. Ask ushers or greeters and follow signs for direction.

**Honor or remember a loved one with a flower donation.** To donate an arrangement for the altar, Chancel or Columbarium, contact Sharon Slater, 412-343-1137.

**Podcasts of Sunday Sermons** Would you like to share this morning’s sermon with a friend or did you miss a Sunday? Catch up on the messages from MLUMC with a podcast of Pastor Tom’s and others’ Sunday sermons. A month’s sermons are at <http://mlumc.buzzsprout.com> or navigate to the site from the link on our webpage, [www.mlumc.org](http://www.mlumc.org). Sermons older than a month will be posted to iTunes. Full recordings of the service are available upon request.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**1 Corinthians 2:1-12**

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. 2For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. 3And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. 4My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

6Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. 7But we speak God’s wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. 8None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him”— 10these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God. 12Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

**Matthew 5:13-20**

13“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. 14“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

17“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. 18For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. 19Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

**Keep in Prayer**

**Hospitalized**

Lynne Beck, Allegheny General

David Lewis, Jefferson Regional

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Leila Berkey, Asbury Heights

Ed Clarke, Asbury Place

May Frederick, Concordia Health Care

Ann Swartz, Asbury Heights

Tim Watters, Baptist Homes

**Convalescing at Home**

Jean Boyer, Mary Caldwell,

Jean George, Earl Killian ,

Susan Lichtenfels, Dawn Lonsinger,

Morgan May Shotsberger

**In the Military**

Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown

**Capt. Zachary Allen Finch, USMC**James Iantelli, 1st Lt. Jaskiewicz
S. Sgt. Keith Kimmell, Adam Kmick
PFC Brendan Lamport
Sgt. Matthew McConahan

Sgt. Richard Okello, Thomas Orda
Lt. Col. Mark Patterson

Lt. Com. Scott Patterson

Lt. Col. Sean Patterson
David Poncel, Sgt. Steven Reitz
Capt. Scott B. Rushe, Pastor Rick Townes
Maj. Azizi Wesmiller

Maj. Matthew C. Wesmiller
Sgt. Keith Scott Winkowski

Sgt. Michael Zimmerman

**In Sympathy**

The church sends its condolences to the family of Esther Davis, who passed away on Thursday, January 26, 2017, at the age of 105. Prayers and sympathy may be sent to the family in care of her niece:

 Becky Rock

 185 Roscommon Place

 McMurray, PA 15317

Expressions of sympathy are offered to church member Judy Moeller, whose stepson William Moeller died in a car accident on Friday, January 27, 2017. The church community may send words of comfort to the following address:

 Judy Moeller

 62 Pond Court S.

 Bridgeville, PA 15017

Condolences may be expressed to the husband and family of church member Janice Fife, 76 years old, who died on Saturday, January 28, 2017:

Mr. William Fife, Jr.

1783 Sillview Dr.

Pittsburgh, PA 15243

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5 THRU SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

**SUNDAY 2/5**

 8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

 9:30 am Sunday School for All Ages/Coffee Café Various/Brookline Parlor

 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

 Kids Praise Welcome Center

 12 pm Youth Souper Bowl Mission Meal Asbury Center

 12 pm Blood Pressure Screening Brookline Parlor

 12 pm Faith for Today Meeting Welcome Center

**MONDAY 2/6**

 6:30 pm Tiger Cub Scouts Epworth

 7 pm Chapel Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

**TUESDAY 2/7**

 6 pm Terrific Tuesday Asbury Center

 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #23 Wesley Hall

 7 pm Boy Scout Parents Meeting Epworth

 7:30 pm SPRC Library

**WEDNESDAY 2/8**

 6:30 pm Wolf Cub Scouts Epworth

 7 pm Tiger Den Pack 870 Room 105

 7:30 pm Finance Wesley Hall

**THURSDAY 2/9**

 6:30 pm Promise Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 6:30 pm Webelo I Wesley Hall

 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**FRIDAY 2/10**

 9:30 am Women’s Bible Study Room 102

 1:30 pm Memoirs Group Wesley Hall

 6:30 pm Bear Den Cub Scouts Epworth

**SATURDAY 2/11**

 8 am Men’s Reveille Breakfast Asbury Center