**October 7, 2018 8:30 & 10:45**

**2018 Fall Worship Series**

*Be Opened!*

Mark 7:35 tells the story of Christ’s healing of a man born deaf. As he placed his hands upon the man, Jesus exclaimed, “Be opened!” Throughout our fall worship series, we will hear the command of Jesus to open our lives to God’s transforming power through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, as a concrete expression of our thanksgiving to God.

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music**

 **Hymnal 629 You satisfy the hungry heart** (seated) *Gift of finest Wheat*

**Greeting**

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made.

**People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**Announcements**

**Choral Introit** 10:45 Psalm 95:1 *Richard C. Baker*

 O come let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise unto the rock of our salvation.

**Call to Worship** (standing)

Pastor: The world belongs to God, the Earth and all its people.

**People: Today and every day, Christians in many places are praying and lifting songs of praise to God.**

Pastor: Let us join our hearts and voices with theirs.

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymnal 339 Come, sinners, to the gospel feast** (standing) *Hursley*

**Opening Prayer** (in unison, standing)

**Living God, today as we come to the table of the Lord with Christians from around the world, we are visited by recollections of the many tables where we have felt welcomed, seen, known, and loved; where we have savored every bite and lingered with the others gathered there. From the busy routine of our lives we come to this gathering. Be with us, Lord Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

**Silent Prayer**

**Worship & Prayer 3131 Hear my prayer, O God** (stanza 1, standing)*Hymn Chant*

 **Hear my prayer, O God, and listen to my plea;**

 **faithful, righteous One, give ear and answer me.**

 **Judge me not, I pray; no merit dare I claim;**

 **knowing my own faults, I trust in your just Name.**

**… 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 & MUSIC: James Ritchie ©1999 Abingdon Press

**Message for Young Disciples** Mr. Scott Miller

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 Asbury Center near the end of the service.

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

**Hymnal 620 One bread, one body** (seated)*One Bread, One Body*

Scripture Reading 8:30 Joeta D’Este 10:45 Hazel Cope

A Lesson from the New Testament

 Hebrews 10:19-25 The habit of meeting together

**Response**

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Gospel Acclamation: Hymnal 486 Alleluia** (standing) *Chant Mode VI* **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Scripture Reading

 A Lesson from the Gospel

 Matthew 18:15-20 When two or three are gathered

**Response**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

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

**Offertory anthem** 10:45 *Douglas E. Wagner*

 Let us in the Lord rejoice, lifting hands and hearts and voice.

 For His steadfast love and grace, let the Lord, our God be praised,

 with our thanks forever raised.

 Those who look to God above will be filled with all His love;

 source of faithfulness and strength, may we find truth in His Word,

 seeking justice undeterred.

 When we share the Holy Feast, yet withhold grace from the cup,

 turn our blindness toward the least, heal our schisms as we sup,

 God, through mercy, lift us up.

 Through the witness we proclaim, may it honor Jesus’ name;

 sharing Christ, the Word of Life, spreading hope that sets all free to live in eternity.

**Hymnal 94 Doxology** (standing)*Lasst uns erfreuen*

 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** “Outgrowing the Secret Service” Mr. Scott Miller

 Assistant to the Pastor

**Hymn of Preparation Worship & Song 3167** “**Feed us, Lord**” (stanza 1, seated)

**Sacrament of Holy Communion** Rev. Strandburg and Mr. Miller

**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. . . )*

“And so, with our people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:”

 (Musical Setting 3172-a, *Worship & Song*)

**All: 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.**

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

 *“*As we proclaim the mystery of faith.”

(Musical Setting 3172-b *Worship & Song*)

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

 Leader: *(The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following words. . . )* “Through your son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.”

 (Musical Setting 3172-c *Worship & Song*)

**All: Amen**

**Giving the Bread and Cup**

*During the distribution of the elements you are invited to join the choir singing the first two stanzas of hymns beginning with 612.*

**Prayer following Communion** (in unison)

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Open Our Hearts (**standing, sung to the music of “Open My Eyes,” Hymnal 454) *Open My Eyes*

**Open our hearts that we might pray,**

**Asking our Lord to show the way.**

**Give us the strength to follow your will**

**Bid us your calling while we’re still.**

**(Chorus)**

**Silently now we wait for thee**

**Ready our God your will to see**

**Open our hearts, illumine us**

**Spirit divine.**

**Open our minds to see your way,**

**Making our presence on this day.**

**And as we worship in this great church**

**Realizing this is where to search.**

**Chorus**

**Benediction**

**Hymnal 665 Go now in peace** (standing, sing as a canon with pulpit side first)  *Go in peace*

**Go now in peace, go now in peace,**

 **may the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.**

***Our Second Vow – Presence*** *The hymn “Open Our Hearts” was introduced last week with the emphasis on prayer. Today’s stanza states how important it is for us to be present in worship and at our church’s activities which is one of the vows we took upon joining the United Methodist Church. Our church offers over 100 ministries to our members, the local community and beyond, and they need our presence in order to thrive. The hymn encourages us to open our minds to being present in church. Hopefully, as we sing the second stanza of “Open Our Hearts,” we will be reminded of the vow we took to support our church with our presence. This is in addition to the first stanza that reminds us of our vow to pray for our church. The words of the second stanza also coordinate with the message Scott Miller is presenting to us today.*

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers on the altar** are given by William Timmons in loving memory of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert G. Timmons.

**The flowers in the chancel** are given by Gerry Oelschlager in honor of James D. Oelschlager.

**Special Music at the 10:45 service** is provided by the Chancel Choir.

**Greeters 8:30** Joeta D’Este **10:45** Hazel Cope **Acolytes** Abigail and Rachael Nagle

**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.** The flowers that grace the sanctuary each week are generously donated by our church family members. This is a great way to honor or memorialize a special person, event, or milestone in your personal life or in the life of the church. If you are interested in donating flowers on a particular Sunday, contact Lizzie Diller , 412-860-3614. The cost is $30 for the altar, narthex, or columbarium, and $60 for the chancel.

**Podcasts of Sunday Sermons**  Catch up on messages from MLUMC with a podcast of Pastor Tom’s and others’ Sunday sermons. Sermons can be found at http://mlumc.buzzsprout.com or navigate to the site from the link on our webpage, [www.mlumc.org](http://www.mlumc.org). Sermons also will be posted to iTunes. Full recordings of the service are available upon request.

**Blood Pressure Screenings Today** Stop in Brookline Parlor after the 10:45 service for a blood pressure check from the MLUMC Health Ministry (WHOM) The ministry team nurses offer screenings the first Sunday of every month.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**Hebrews 10:19-25**

19Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, 20by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), 21and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. 24And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, 25not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

**Matthew 18:15-20**

15“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. 16But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

**Keep in Prayer**

**Hospitalized**

David Lewis, Allegheny General

Olivia Woods, Mercy

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Bonnie Amos, Providence Point

Ed Clarke, Asbury Place

Grace Gullborg, Providence Point

John Katshir, Asbury Heights

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Carol Van Sickle, Marian Manor

**Convalescing at Home**

Jean Boyer, Mary Caldwell,

Mark Cleveland, John Dean, Joseph Festor,

Leon Grant, Jr., Susan Lichtenfels,

George Lindow, Sandy McPhee,

Bill Merchant, Diane Shaw,

Jinny Sheppard, Betty Trout

**In the Military**

Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown,

**Maj. Zachary Allen Finch, USMC,**James Iantelli, 1st Lt. Jaskiewicz,
S. Sgt. Keith Kimmell, Adam Kmick,

Sgt. Brendan Lamport,
Sgt. Matthew McConahan, Thomas Orda,
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**

Condolences are offered to the family of Leila Berkey, who died Saturday, September 22, 2018, at the age of 92. Words of sympathy can be posted for the family under Leila Berkey’s name on the Slater Funeral Service website: slaterfuneral.tributes.com.

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7 THRU SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13**

**SUNDAY 10/7**

 8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

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

 10:45 am Worship Asbury Center

 Kids Praise Welcome Center

 11:50 am Youth Choir Choir Room

 12 pm Blood Pressure Screening Brookline Parlor

**MONDAY 10/8**

7 pmChapel Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

**TUESDAY 10/9**

 6 pm Terrific Tuesday Asbury Center

 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #23 Wesley Hall

 7 pm Boy Scout Board of Reviews Room 105

 7 pm Cub Scout Planning Epworth

**WEDNESDAY 10/10**

1:30 pm Faith Circle Asbury Kitchen

7 pm Bear, Tiger, Wolf, Lion, Webelos Den Meetings Various

7:30 pm Finance Welcome Center

**THURSDAY 10/11**

 9:30 am UMW Executive Board Meeting Room 105

 11 am UMW Meeting Wesley Hall

 6:30 pm Promise Bells Bells Room

 7 pm Education Meeting Brookline Parlor

 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**FRIDAY 10/12**

 1:30 pm Memoirs Group Wesley Hall

 7 pm Arrow of Light Epworth

**SATURDAY 10/13**

 8 am It’s a Guy Thing Wesley Hall

 4 pm Community & Family Fall Festival Wesley Hall & Parking Lot