

**November 4, 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 thru 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**

8:30 **Hymn 710 Faith of our fathers** (seated)*Pass it on*

10:45 **Piano Duet** For all the saints*arranged by Mark Hayes*

**Greeting**

 Leader: O magnify the Lord with me,

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

**Announcements**

**Choral Introit** 10:45 Psalm 100: 1-2 *Karle Erickson*

 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, and come into his presence with singing!

**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 & Psalm 24*

**… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymnal 711 For all the saints** (stanzas 1, 2, 4, 6, standing) *Sine nomine*

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

**God of new beginnings, you are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end of all things. Remove the shroud that separates us from your mighty presence that we may see you as you are. Wipe away our tears and take away our disgrace that we may come before your throne with hearts full of song and souls ablaze with joy. Help us to live as those who are prepared to die, and enable us to die as those who go forth to live, so that whether living or dying, our hearts will always belong to you. Amen.**

*Mary J. Scifres*

**Silent Prayer**

**Worship & Song 3094 Come to me** (stanza 1, standing)*Come to me*

 **Come to me, come to me, weak and heavy laden;**

 **trust in me, lean on me. I will give you rest.**

 **… 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: James Ritchie 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 through 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.

**Act of Remembrance**

 Leader: Everliving God, this day revives in us memories of loved ones who are with us no more. What happiness we shared when they walked among us. What joy when, loving and being loved, we lived our lives together.

 **People: Their memory is a blessing forever.**

 Leader: We see them now with the eye of memory, their faults forgiven,
 their virtues grown larger. So does goodness live, and weakness fade from sight. We remember them with gratitude and bless their names.

 **People: Their memory is a blessing forever.**

 Leader: We give you thanks that they now live and reign with you. As a great cloud of witnesses, they surround us with their blessings and offer you hymns
 of praise and thanksgiving.
 **People: They are alive forever more. Amen.**

**In Memoriam**, **All Saints Sunday 2018**

Following are the names of members who have died since All Saints Day 2017. Let us remember them now in love and gratitude:

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| --- | --- |
| Ron Dagg | 11/03/2017 |
| Carol S. Vockel  | 12/09/2017 |
| William Lewis | 1/23/2018 |
| Gerald Raubaugh | 1/24/2018 |
| Dr. Charles C. Hohing | 2/20/2018 |
| Marjorie Lewis | 2/20/2018 |
| Milton R. Lutes | 2/25/2018 |
| Rev. Earl C. Killian, II |  3/15/2018 |
| Harry Daniel “Dan” Van Sickle |  4/2/2018 |
| Julie Dean |  4/12/2018 |
| Marda M. Katshir |  6/20/2018 |
| Jean E. Sutton |  8/6/2018 |
| Grace E. Hoellein |  9/12/2018 |
| Leila Berkey |  9/22/2018 |
| Grace Gullborg |  10/27/2018 |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

Scripture Reading 8:30 Kathy Tremblay 10:45 Chuck Vogel

 A Lesson from the New Testament

 Acts 8:26-38 Philip and the Ethiopian

**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.**

**Gospel Acclamation:** **Celtic Alleluia** (standing) *James Chepponis*

 **Alleluia** (repeat 6 times)

Scripture Reading

 A Lesson from the Gospel

 John 1:35-51 Jesus calls disciples

**Response**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

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

**Symbolic First Pledge** Mr. and Mrs. Rob Spicher

**Offertory Anthem** 10:45 *text by Isaac Watts; music by Grayston Ives*

There is a land of pure delight where saints immortal reign;

infinite day excludes the night and pleasures banish pain.

There everlasting spring abides and never with’ring flowers;

Death a narrow sea divides that heav’nly land from ours.

Sweet fields beyond the swelling flood stand dressed in living green;

so to the Jews old Canaan stood while Jordan rolled between.

But timorous mortals start and shrink to cross the narrow sea,

and linger shiv’ring on the brink, and fear to launch away.

O could we make our doubts remove, those gloomy doubts that rise,

and see the Canaan that we love with unbeclouded eyes.

Could we but climb where Moses stood and view the landscape o’er;

not Jordan’s stream, nor death’s cold flood should fright us from the shore.

**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** “Can We Get a Witness?” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

Worship & Song 3169 **You feed us, gentle Savior** (stanza 1, seated) *Merle’s Tune*

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.**

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

As we affirm the mystery of faith.

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

**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**

**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*

**1. 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.**

**2. 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)**

 **Silently now we wait for thee**

 **Ready our God your will to see**

 **Open our *minds*, illumine us**

 **Spirit divine.**

**3. Open our lives and freely give**

**So that your loved ones freely live.**

**And as our gifts spread through all the Earth**

**May the receivers gain new birth.**

 **(Chorus)**

 **Silently now we wait for thee**

 **Ready our God your will to see**

 **Open our *lives*, illumine us**

 **Spirit divine.**

**4. Open our hands to serve you, Lord,**

**Serving the church on your accord.**

**And while we work for those so in need,**

**Our faith in Christ will grow indeed.**

 **(Chorus)**

 **Silently now we wait for thee**

 **Ready our God your will to see**

 **Open our *hands*, illumine us**

 **Spirit divine.**

**5. Open our *mouths* to witness love**

 **Spreading the news of God above.**

 **Give us the strength to glorify you,**

 **In all our conversations, new.**

 **(Chorus)**

 **Silently now we wait for thee**

 **Ready our God your will to see**

 **Open our *mouths*, illumine us**

 **Spirit divine.**

**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 Fifth Vow – Witnessing*** *Today we will be singing the last stanza of the hymn, “Open Our Hearts.” This verse emphasizes our membership vow of witnessing. Although the words encourage us to open our mouths and witness for our church and faith, there are other ways to witness for our Lord. Attending worship is a way we demonstrate that we are faithful followers of Jesus. As we sing the final stanza, may we be reminded of the various ways we can witness to the world that Jesus is our Lord and Savior.*

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers on the altar** are given by the Straitiff family and Candace in loving memory of Lynne Beck in remembrance of her birthday which was today.

**The flowers in the chancel** are given in honor of the wonderful work done by the rummage sale volunteers.

**Special Music at the 10:45 service** is provided by pianists Kathleen Whittaker and Gretchen Franz; and the Chancel Choir, conducted by Ryan A. Keeling.

**Acolytes** Cary Young and Lydia Slater

**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.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**Acts 8:26-38**

26Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) 27So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” 30So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 32Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. 33In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” 34The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” 35Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 36As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” 38He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

**John 1:35-51**

35The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, 36and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”

37The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?”39He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. 40One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.41He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). 42He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

43The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” 44Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” 46Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” 47When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” 48Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” 49Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” 50Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” 51And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

**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.

**At this time, the church is accepting flower donations for the month of December.** Consider the unique gift of honoring or remembering a family member or dear friend with an Advent, Christmas or holiday flower donation. To donate 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.