Graphical user interface

Description automatically generated with low confidence

**We are an Inclusive Faith Community. All Are Welcomed and All Really Means ALL!**

Sunday, August 20th, 2023, 10am

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost



"The value of love will always be stronger than the value of hate. Any nation or group of nations that employs hatred eventually is torn to pieces by hatred." -Franklin D. Roosevelt

****

**PRELUDE**

Greeting and Reply

Opening Hymn: **O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing (Green Hymnal-96)**

1 O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace!

2 My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread thro' all the earth abroad  
the honors of your name.

3 Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease,  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life and health and peace.

4 He breaks the power of cancelled sin,  
he sets the prisoner free;  
his blood can make the foulest clean;  
his blood availed for me.

5 To God all glory, praise, and love  
be now and ever given  
by saints below and saints above,  
the Church in earth and heaven.

**Our Church’s Mission:**

Welcome all into a loving, inclusive faith community,

Seeking to live out the teachings of Jesus,

Building on our own rich history, actively exploring beliefs and assumptions, and Promoting justice, peace and spiritual growth.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: O God Embodied, the one made flesh who dwelt among us, help us to arrive this morning with a “yes.” A “yes” to our faith that says our bodies are good and holy, just as and however they are.

**All: A “yes” to show up here, even if our minds may be in other places at times.**

One: A “yes” to believing enough in you, this community, and our own call to know this is where we need to be in this moment.

**All: A “yes” to bringing all that comes from and through our hearts to you, O Heart-maker.**

One: Come, let us bring ourselves to God’s table of plenty,  
**All: With our inherent worth and dignity to guide us. Selah. Amen.**

**Hebrew Reading:** **Isaiah 56:1, 6-8**

1Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right,  
 for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.  
  
 6And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—7these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer;  
 their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar;  
 for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

8Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 15: 21-28**

21Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. 22Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” 23But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” 24He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” 25But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” 26He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” 27She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” 28Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

Reader: This is the word of God, to the people of God.

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

INVOCATION

Worship & Praise through Music

Passing the Peace of Christ

THE LORD'S PRAYER: (Singing) **(Green Hymnal-740)**

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 **(Debts),** as we forgive those who trespass against us **(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

Announcements

Offering

Doxology (Praise God from whom all blessings flow)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above the heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost** *(Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost)* **Amen**

Sermonic Hymn: **Pass It On (Green Hymnal-557)**

It only takes a spark to get a fire going,  
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing;  
That's how it is with God's Love,  
Once you've experienced it,  
You spread God’s love to everyone  
You want to pass it on.  
  
What a wondrous time is spring,  
When all the trees are budding  
The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming;  
That's how it is with God's love,  
Once you've experienced it.  
You want to sing, it's fresh like spring,  
You want to pass it on.  
  
I wish for you my friend  
This happiness that I've found;  
On God you can depend,

It matters not where you're bound,  
I'll shout it from the mountain top

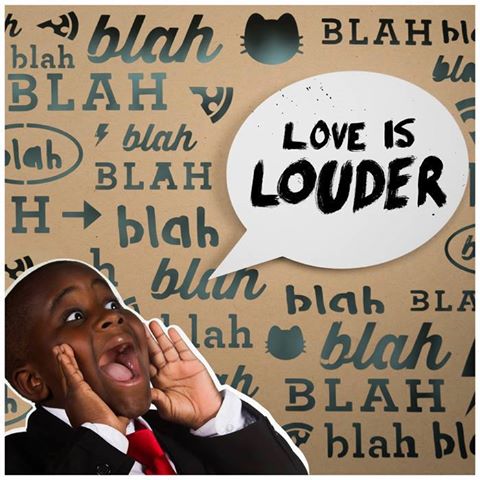
I want my world to know  
The Lord of love has come to me  
I want to pass it on.

MESSAGE: Love Is Louder – Isaiah 42:1-9

**42**Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. **2**He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street;  
**3**a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. **4**He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

**5**Thus says God, the Lord,  
    who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it  
    and spirit to those who walk in it: **6**I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people,a light to the nations, **7**to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

**8**I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. **9**See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.



RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD: **Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (Green Hymnal-358)**

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
into every troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit,  
let us find the promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning,  
Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.

Prayers of the People

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Three-Minute Suggestion:

Please spend the first three minutes with someone who is relatively new to our church family, or new to you. Get to know them like a friend might! THEN take some time with longtime friends. Thanks!

WORSHIP CONTINUES IN FELLOWSHIP:

*Join for Coffee and Connections in the Connections Café sponsored by Frances Fraehlich*

*MONDAY: 8/21*

*AA Group -- 6:30pm*

*TUESDAY: 8/22*

*Journey Band Practice – 5:45pm*

*AA Living Sober – 7:30pm*

*WEDNESDAY: 8/23*

*AA - 8pm*

*THURSDAY: 8/24*

*AA Meeting – 7:30pm*

*FRIDAY: 8/25*

*AA Meeting (Men’s) – 7:30pm*

*Saturday: 8/26*

*Bring a friend with you next Sunday!*

*Take them out to lunch! Have a better day!*

*If you would like to schedule time with Rev either in-person or zoom, please contact Mike via email to be placed on his calendar. office@wentzsucc.org*

*LOOKING AHEAD:*

*September:*

*9/3 – Virtual Labor Day Weekend Worship Service*

*9/9- Rev’s Pastoral Installation 4pm*

*9/17- Car Tour*

*October:*

*10/22-Family & Friends Day*

Wentz’s UCC

Open & Affirming Statement:

We are Wentz’s United Church of Christ, an open and affirming congregation, where your identity and being are cherished. We respectfully welcome all without exception, including those of all races, ethnicities, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, and family structures. Together we create an open and active community. Everyone is invited to walk with us in our journey. You are welcome here. Whomever, wherever, at all times.

You. Are. Simply. Welcomed.

****

**

Wentz’s United Church of Christ

3246 Skippack Pike Lansdale, Pa 19446

[www.wentzsucc.org](about:blank) - [office@wentzsucc.org](mailto:office@wentzsucc.org)

610-584-4855

Rev. Dr. James L. Mills, Sr. – Senior Pastor

rev@wentzsucc.org

Ruth Geisel – Consistory President/Elder

Mike Todd- Deacon/Pastoral Assistant

Corey Taragna- Lead Trustee

Donna Mower – Guild President

June Wright- Organist

Laura McLennan and Jim O’Donnell- Music Dept

Matt MacDonald- Technology