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

Sunday, August 13th, 2023, 10am

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost



*“Weak people revenge. Strong people forgive. Intelligent people ignore” ~-* ***Albert Einstein***

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**PRELUDE**

Greeting and Reply

Opening Hymn: **Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah (New Baptist Hymnal- 232)**

*Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,  
pilgrim thru this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me til I want no more.*

*Open now the crystal fountain,  
whence the healing waters flow.  
Let the fiery cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through.  
Strong Deliverer, Be thou still my strength and shield.*

*strong Deliverer, be thou my strength and shield,*

*When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside.  
Bear me thru the swelling current,  
land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, I will ever give to thee, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee.*

**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: The work of the creator is visible.

**Many: Let us respond with praise.**

One: The example of Jesus is apparent.

**Many: Let us respond with service to others.**

One: The wind of the Spirit is blowing.

**Many: Let us respond with joy.**

One: The word of God is calling.

**Many: Let us respond with worship in spirit and in truth!**

**Hebrew Reading:** **1st Samuel 17:55-58; 18:1-9**

*When Saul saw David go out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the*

*commander of the army, “Abner, whose son is this young man?” Abner said,*

*“As your soul lives, O king, I do not know.”****56****The king said, “Inquire whose*

*son the young man is.”****57****On David’s return from killing the Philistine, Abner*

*took him and brought him before Saul, with the head of the Philistine in his*

*hand.****58****Saul said to him, “Whose son are you, young man?” And David*

*answered, “I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.”*

*18:1-9*

*When David had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was bound*

*to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.****2****Saul took*

*him that day and would not let him return to his father’s house.****3****Then*

*Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as his own*

*soul.****4****Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that he was wearing and gave it*

*to David and his armor and even his sword and his bow and his belt.*

***5****David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him; as a result,*

*Saul set him over the army. And all the people, even the servants of Saul,*

*approved.****6****As they were coming home, when David returned from killing the*

*Philistine, the women came out of all the towns of Israel, singing and*

*dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with*

*musical instruments.****7****And the women sang to one another as they made*

*merry,*

*“Saul has killed his thousands and David his ten thousands.”*

***8****Saul was very angry, for this saying displeased him. He said, “They have*

*ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands;*

*what more can he have but the kingdom?”****9****So Saul eyed David from that*

*day on.*

**Gospel Reading: John 7:37-44**

***37****On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me,****38****and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’ ”****39****Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive, for as yet there was no Spirit because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

***40****When they heard these words, some in the crowd said, “This is really the prophet.”****41****Others said, “This is the Messiah.” But some asked, “Surely the Messia does not come from Galilee, does he?****42****Has not the scripture said that the Messia is descended from David and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?”****43****So there was a division in the crowd because of him.****44****Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.*

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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: “Woke Up Dis Mornin” (Songs of Zion-146)

Woke up dis morn-in wid mah min stayed on freedom

Woke up dis morn-in wid mah min stayed on freedom

Woke up dis morn-in wid mah min stayed on freedom

Hal-le-lu Hal-le-lu Hal-le-lu jah

Hal-le lu Hal-le-lu, Hal-le-lu. jah

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: **I Must Tell Jesus (New Baptist Hymnal Hymnal-340) Verses 1- 3**

*I must tell Jesus all of my trials;  
I cannot bear these burdens alone;  
In my distress He kindly will help me;  
He ever loves and cares for His own.*

*Refrain:  
I must tell Jesus!  
I must tell Jesus!  
I cannot bear my burdens alone;  
I must tell Jesus!  
I must tell Jesus!  
Jesus can help me, Jesus alone.*

*I must tell Jesus all of my troubles;  
He is a kind, compassionate friend;  
If I but ask Him, He will deliver,  
Make of my troubles quickly an end. [Refrain]*

*Tempted and tried, I need a great Savior,  
One who can help my burdens to bear;  
I must tell Jesus, I must tell Jesus;  
He all my cares and sorrows will share. [Refrain]*

MESSAGE: Doing Nothing is not an Option – Deuteronomy 32:15-20

*Jacob ate his fill; Jeshurun grew fat and kicked. You grew fat, bloated, and gorged! He abandoned God who made him and scoffed at the Rock of his salvation.*

*16They made him jealous with strange gods; with abhorrent things they provoked him.17They sacrificed to demons, not God, to deities they had never known, to new ones recently arrived, whom your ancestors had not feared.18You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you; you forgot the God who gave you birth.*

*19The Lord saw it and was jealous;  he spurned[[i](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2032&version=NRSVUE" \l "fen-NRSVUE-5778i" \o "See footnote i)] his sons and daughters.  
20He said, ‘I will hide my face from them;  I will see what their end will be,  
for they are a perverse generation, children in whom there is no faithfulness.*



RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD: **Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken (Green Hymnal-598)**

Glorious things of thee are spoken,  
Zion, city of our God;  
he whose Word cannot be broken  
formed you for his own abode.  
On the Rock of Ages founded,  
what can shake your sure repose?  
With salvation’s walls surrounded,  
you may smile at all your foes.

See, the streams of living waters,  
springing from eternal love,  
well supply your sons and daughters  
and all fear of want remove.  
Who can faint while such a river  
ever will their thirst assuage?  
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver,  
never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hovering,  
see the cloud and fire appear,  
for a glory and a covering,  
showing that the Lord is near!  
Thus deriving from their banner  
light by night and shade by day,  
safe they feed upon the manna  
which God gives them on their way.

Savior, since of Zion's city  
I through grace a member am,  
let the world deride or pity,  
I will glory in your name.  
Fading are the world's best pleasures,  
all its bloated pomp and show;  
solid joys and lasting treasures

none but Zion's children know.

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 Rev. Dr. James L. Mills, Sr.*

*MONDAY: 8/14*

*AA Group -- 6:30pm*

*TUESDAY: 8/15*

*Journey Band Practice – 5:45pm*

*AA Living Sober – 7:30pm*

*WEDNESDAY: 8/16*

*AA - 8pm*

*THURSDAY: 8/17*

*Book and a Beverage 1pm (Timeout Sports Bar, Skippack, Pa)*

*AA Meeting – 7:30pm*

*FRIDAY: 8/18*

*AA Meeting (Men’s) – 7:30pm*

*Saturday: 8/19*

*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*

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.

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Wentz’s United Church of Christ

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Matt MacDonald- Technology