

Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church  
419 Bossardsville Road  
Stroudsburg, PA

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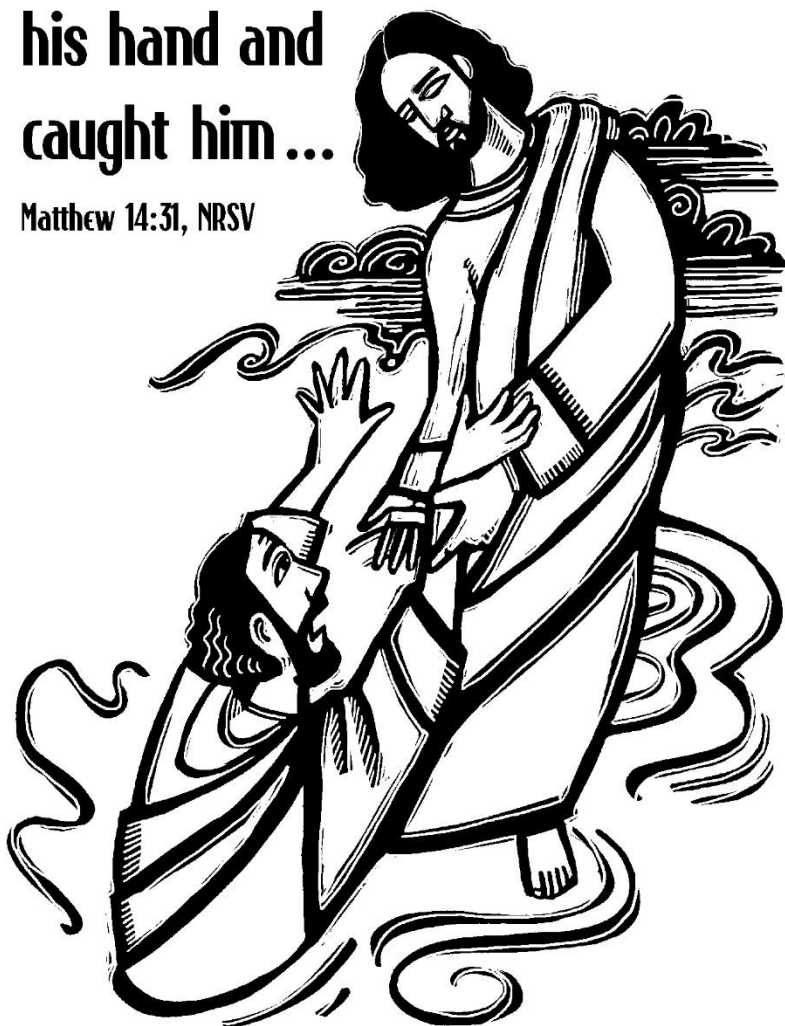
The 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

August 13, 2023

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**Jesus immediately reached out  
his hand and  
caught him...**

Matthew 14:31, NRSV



**Welcome to Christ Hamilton!** Thank you for joining with us in worship in whatever manner you can. This service is also available anytime on Facebook or our website along with a bulletin at [www.chrighthamilton.org](http://www.chrighthamilton.org). Please share in the responses, sing the hymns, and pray the prayers. Call us and connect with us whenever you need. Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Please know that all are welcome at Christ Hamilton! Life is difficult enough and shouldn't be when you come to church. Regardless of how you got here, we are glad you did. If you don't know your neighbor please welcome them. **All are welcome here!**

**Today's service:** *Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.*

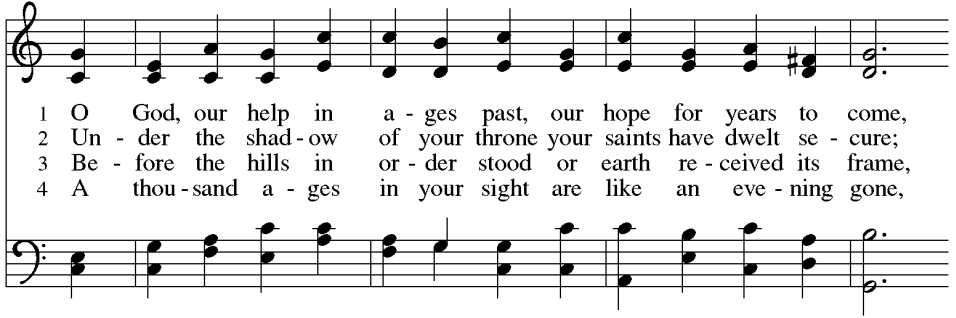
**Altar flowers** given in loving memory of Paul and Carl Frable and Chet Zarbunicky, by Shirley Frable.

**PRELUDE**

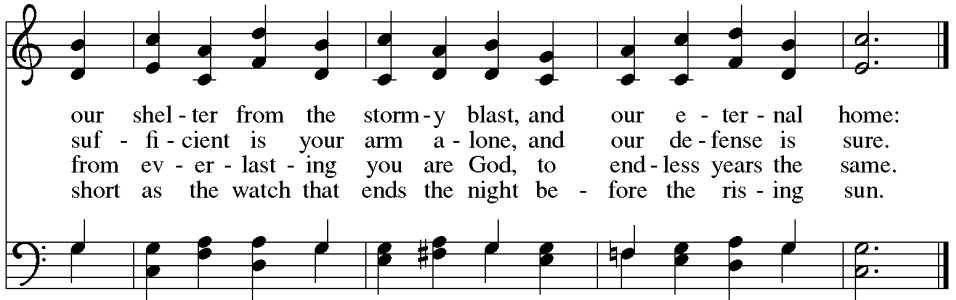
**ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME**

## HYMN

## O GOD OUR HELP IN AGES PAST



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.  
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
bears all our years away;  
we fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
still be our guard while troubles last  
and our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.  
Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678-1727

## GREETING

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

## HYMN OF PRAISE



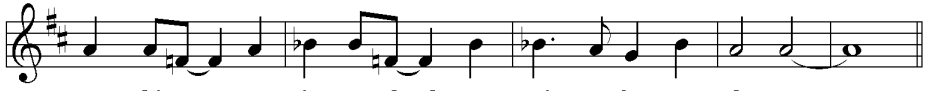
☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



① Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



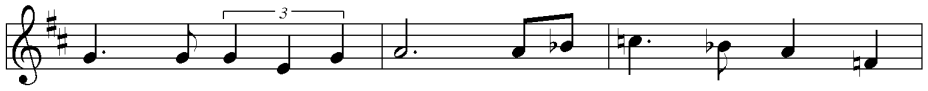
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



② Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Minister: O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**All: Amen.**

**FIRST READING****1 KINGS 19:9-18**

Reader: A reading from the 19<sup>th</sup> chapter of First Kings.

<sup>9</sup>At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” <sup>10</sup>He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.”

<sup>11</sup>He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; <sup>12</sup>and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. <sup>13</sup>When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

<sup>14</sup>He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” <sup>15</sup>Then the LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. <sup>16</sup>Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. <sup>17</sup>Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. <sup>18</sup>Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.     **All: Thanks be to God.**

*Sung responsively.*

PSALM

Psalm 85:8-13



Cantor: I will listen to what the Lord | God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people  
and to those who turn their | hearts to you.

**All: Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell | in our land.**

Cantor: Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;  
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

**All: Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**

Cantor: The Lord will indeed | grant prosperity,  
and our land will | yield its increase.

**All: Righteousness shall go be- | fore the Lord  
and shall prepare for | God a pathway.**

SECOND READING

ROMANS 10:5-15

Reader: A reading from the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans.

<sup>5</sup>Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” <sup>6</sup>But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ <sup>7</sup>or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’”. <sup>8</sup>But what does it say?

“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart”  
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup>because if you confess

with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. <sup>11</sup>The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup>For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup>For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

<sup>14</sup>But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? <sup>15</sup>And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.     **All: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**





## GOSPEL

## Matthew 14:22-33

Minister: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup>[Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], while he dismissed the crowds.<sup>23</sup> And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,<sup>24</sup> but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.

<sup>25</sup>And early in the morning Jesus came walking toward them on the sea.<sup>26</sup> But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.<sup>27</sup> But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

<sup>28</sup>Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."<sup>29</sup> He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.<sup>30</sup> But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"<sup>31</sup> Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"<sup>32</sup> When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.<sup>33</sup> And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

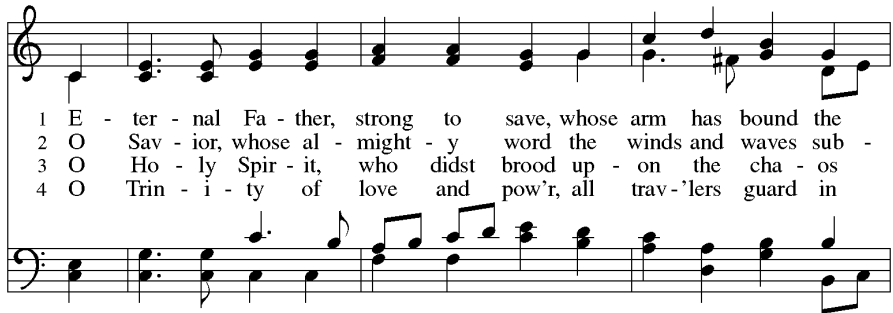
Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

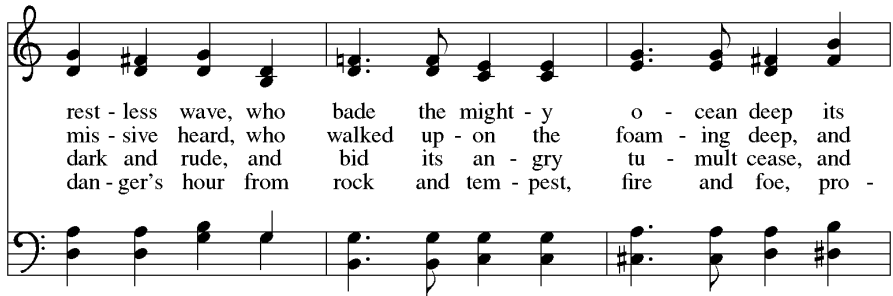
## MESSAGE

## HYMN

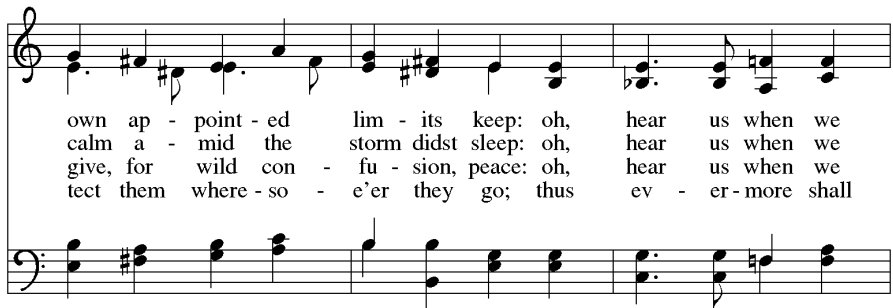
## ETERNAL FATHER, STRONG TO SAVE



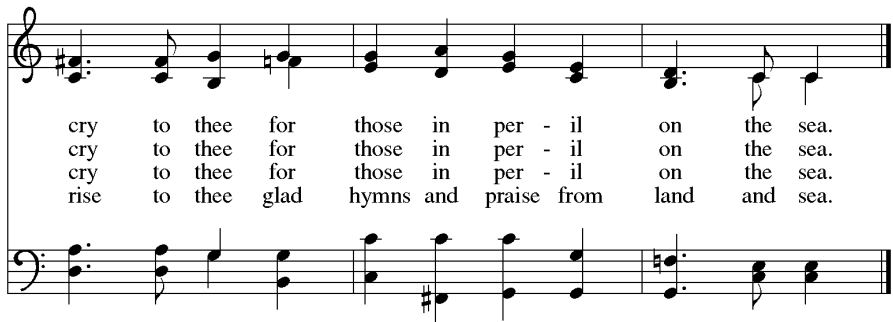
1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the  
 2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -  
 3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os  
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in



rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its  
 mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and  
 dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and  
 dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we  
 calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we  
 give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we  
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall



cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
 rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

## **APOSTLE'S CREED**

Minister: Let us confess our faith together.

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

## **Prayers**

Assisting Minister: Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

God of grace and faith, your faithfulness is never-ending, and your righteousness becomes ours through Christ Jesus. Send the church to proclaim the gospel both near and far, in church buildings and on street corners, in person and through digital means. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

God of sky and sea, the plants, animals, mountains, and plains proclaim your glory. Prosper the work of ecologists as they teach us new ways to care for the environment. Bring relief to areas recovering from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

God of peace and justice, you call us to live as your beloved community throughout the world. Instill in local, regional, national, and global political and civic leaders a desire to work for the well-being of all people. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

God of care and compassion, you bring assurance when we are afraid. Bring calm to any who are anxious or fearful. Bless the work of therapists, nurses, and other health care providers. Comfort all who grieve and soothe any who are sick especially those we lift to you now . . . . Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

God of wonder, you accompany us in both joys and sorrows. We pray for children and teachers preparing for a new school year. Make your presence known in our work and play, in lively conversation and in quiet rest. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you send people to renew both church and society. We give you thanks for their lives of faithful service as examples of following your call. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**All: Amen.**

## **PEACE**

Minister: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**All: And also with you.**

*The Peace is shared with one another.*

## **Offering**

# Offertory

# We Are An Offering

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an  
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our  
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,  
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.  
We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:  
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. . God of field and forest,

**All: Sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things.**

**Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,  
and multiply your graciousness in us,  
that the world may be fed with your love,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

## Great Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

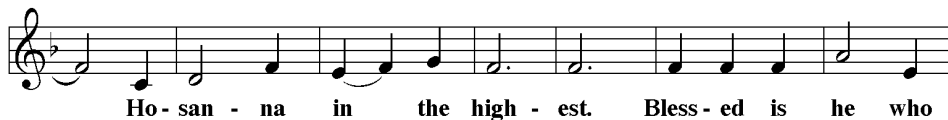
Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

## Preface

Minister: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of  
everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Minister: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness  
of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

### **Lord's Prayer**

Minister: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**All: 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,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

## Communion

We invite all baptized Christians to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Those not communing are invited to come forward for a blessing. For those who would prefer not to have wine, pre-filled glasses of grape juice are available in the tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking the Pastor.

*Please come forward by way of the right hand aisle, receive the bread and wine, and return by way of the left hand aisle.*

Minister: The body of Christ given for you.

Communion Assistant: The blood of Christ shed for you.

*The communicant may respond with the words: Amen*

## Precious Lord Take My Hand



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,  
2 When my way grows . . . drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger near,  
3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws . . . near,



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
when my life is . . . al - most . . . gone,  
and the day is . . . past and . . . gone,



Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.  
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.  
at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.



Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.



# Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

1 Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me o - ver  
 2 As a moth - er stills her child, thou canst  
 3 When at last I near the shore, and the

life's tem - pes - tuous sea; un - known waves be - fore me  
 hush the o - cean wild; bois - t'rous waves o - bey thy  
 fear - ful break - ers roar twixt me and the peace - ful

roll, hid - ing rock and treach - 'rous shoal; chart and  
 will when thou say'st to them: "Be still." Won - drous  
 rest, then, while lean - ing on thy breast, may I

com - pass come from thee. Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.  
 sov - 'reign of the sea, Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.  
 hear thee say to me: "Fear not, I will pi - lot thee."

## **COMMUNION BLESSING**

Minister: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**All: Amen.**

## **PRAYER**

Assisting Minister: Almighty God, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen**

## **BLESSING**

Minister: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

## **Vision Team Update**

*After meeting with the Associate to the Bishop Christ Hamilton has decided to enter intentionally into a time of discernment as to how God is leading us and what our future holds. As you know the role of the church in society has shifted dramatically. The vision team is leading a series of gatherings to engage the congregation in conversation about what's next. The team will be using a book which provides 'a blueprint for congregational vitalization'. Every voice is important and as such we hope you'll make these conversations a priority! Our first gathering will be on September 10<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to attend!*

# Hymn

# My Life Flows On In Endless Song

1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,  
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.  
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.  
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!

I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.  
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?  
 What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.  
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

*Refrain*

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.

Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

**Dismissal:**

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

**Prayer at the Rail - Stephen Ministers will be available for prayer at the altar after the service for any concerns that you might have.**

**Please join us for coffee hour following the service in the Lighthouse which is the building to the right as you exit the church. Coffee hour is hosted by Stephen's Ministry today.**

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## **Worship Leaders**

Minister: Rev. Steven C. Claycomb

Organ: Beth McElroy

Assisting Minister: Janet Catina

Greeters: Shirley Frable, Beth Ross

Lector: Janet Catina

Coffee Hour: Stephen Ministers

Videographer: Steve Metzgar, Craig & Anson Cassidy

**Today!!!** John Field will be giving a historical tour of the church grounds. Everyone is invited! Please meet John in the Covenant House after service today!

**Thank you!** Jeff Gilbert for sharing your gift of music with us!

**Happy Birthday!** Chad Cerrone 8/18

**Happy Anniversary!** Jeff & Lisa Anthony 8/14, Tom & Deb Huber 8/15

**Please Remember in Prayer:** Sandy, Jim, Dumitru and Victoria. **If you, or someone you know has been hospitalized or needs a pastoral visit please let the office know 570-992-4085.**

**Congregational Meeting September 10<sup>th</sup>**—Please mark your calendars and join us on 9/10/23 for a special congregational meeting where we will reminisce about the many good times we have shared here at Christ Hamilton. The vision team would like you to come prepared to share memories of special times you have had at Christ Hamilton. We are having a meal, catered by Little Angels Café, so come hungry! The meeting will follow the 10am worship service.

**Community Meal** – next Sunday the Centennial Band will be having a concert in conjunction with our Community Meal from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Please call in and let us know you're coming at 570-992-4085. All donations will go to PVEN. The menu includes – sloppy Joe, corn on the cob, baked beans, coleslaw, watermelon and deserts.



# BEREAVEMENT *group*

## **Grieving a loved one's death?**

The GriefShare Program is a grief recovery and support group that will be holding meetings at Christ Hamilton starting August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**When:** 8/23-11/14  
Wednesday Nights  
6:30-8:00

**Where:** Lighthouse Rooms E&F

Don't walk alone during this time of grief, you can be with others who will walk with you.

You also can invite a friend or family member to join.  
RSVP 570-992-4085 or [chulcsts@gmail.com](mailto:chulcsts@gmail.com) to leave your name and amount of attendees so we will have enough books



## **Upcoming Events!**

August 20th 4:30pm-6:30pm—Community meal and  
Trinity Centennial Band Concert (5-6pm) in the  
Lighthouse

September 3rd—Outdoor service at 10am & picnic

September 10th—Service at 10am followed by  
congregational meeting and catered meal.

September 17th— 9:00 a.m. Church Service  
4:30-6 p.m. Community Meal