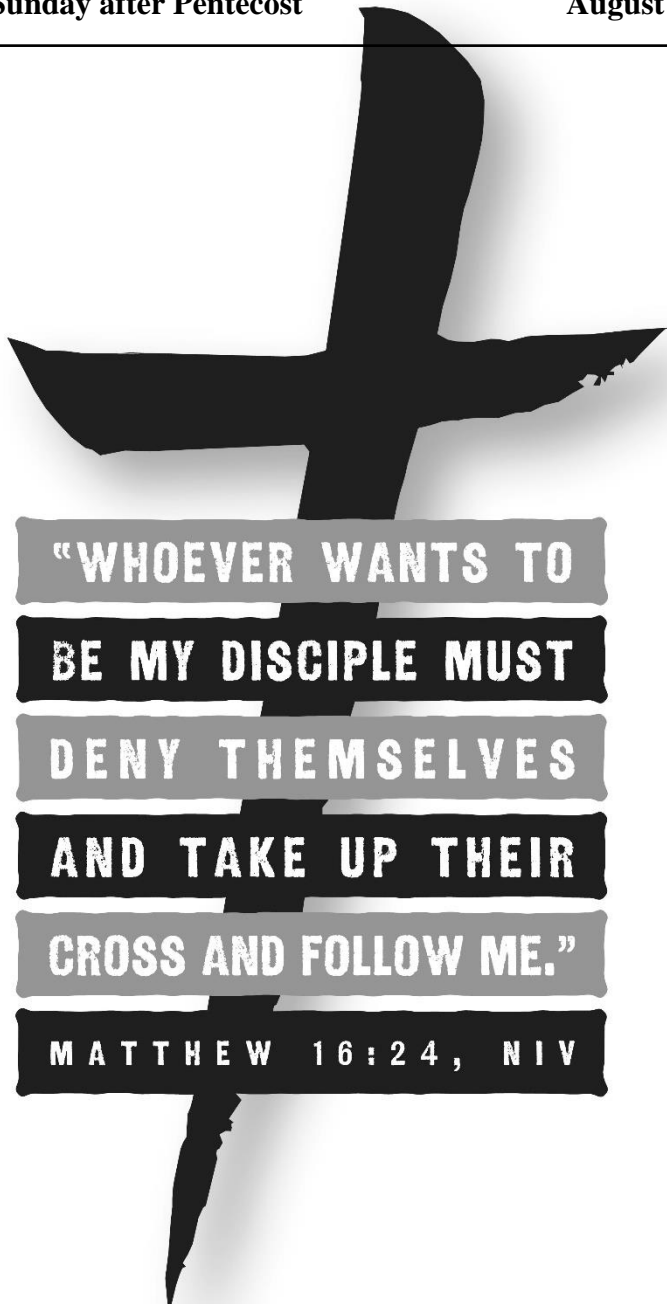


**Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church
419 Bossardsville Road
Stroudsburg, PA**

The 13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 27, 2023



"WHOEVER WANTS TO

BE MY DISCIPLE MUST

DENY THEMSELVES

AND TAKE UP THEIR

CROSS AND FOLLOW ME."

MATTHEW 16:24, NIV

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.christhamilton.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: *In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.*

Altar flowers given in loving memory of Barb Wiegand and Dale Popovich by Rich and Rosanne.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

PRELUDE

Malaguena

Alessandra Borzio

HYMN

THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.



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 - migh - ty 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;



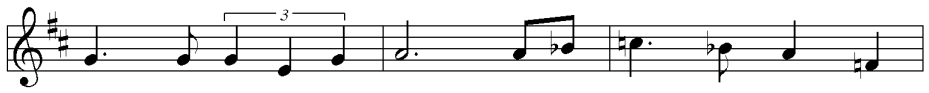
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



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, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

FIRST READING**ISAIAH 51:1-6**

Reader: A reading from the 51st chapter of Isaiah.

¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. ²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope.

⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON**LIZ MARSHALL**

Prayer Partner (*find a friend*) & **Blessing of the Backpacks**

Minister: God of fresh starts and new beginnings, we bring ourselves, our big feelings, and our backpacks to you.

In our backpacks, we carry blank pages, sharpened pencils, and pointy crayons, and in our hearts, we carry big feelings, unanswered questions, and hopeful expectations.

There are endless possibilities of what this new year might bring— of what we might learn, who we might meet, and who we might become.

God, you are always with us, be with us through it all. Be with us as we ride the bus. Be with us as we walk. Be with us as we buckle seat belts, zip-up jackets, and tie shoes.

However we get there, and whatever we wear, bless this journey into something new. For the grown-ups going back to school, be with them too. Thank you for our teachers, helpers, caregivers, and leaders, and for all they do to help us learn and grow. God, who's full of wonder, fill their hearts and bless their hands.

All: Amen

Prayers

Minister: With you O God, every transition and new start is a reminder of your goodness, for you are always creating fresh, amazing things in us and through us. Though we are sad about the summer ending, we are grateful for this school year. We appreciate the opportunity to learn and grow, knowing it is one of the biggest privileges we have. With thanks and love, we now offer everything we are to you, asking for your blessing.

Liz: We pray for students of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. We pray for our hearts and all they hold—excitement and nervousness, disappointment, and hope. We give you all our loves and fears. We pray for steady self-esteem and deepening resilience.

ALL: Loving God, hold us and hear our prayers.

Women: We pray for minds, that they will expand in wonder and celebration, learning not just from the books studied but the people beside us. Open our minds with a willingness to be changed in unexpected ways.

ALL: Loving God, hold us and hear our prayers.

Minister: We pray for hands that they will reach out to help and to welcome and care. Bless Ark 2 staff and all those teaching at Christ Hamilton, give them patience and dedication as they grip pencils and type on keyboards, swish paint brushes and clap in song.

ALL: Loving God, hold us and hear our prayers.

Men: We pray for mouths, that they will speak words bringing life and connection. Mouths that honor the dignity and belovedness of all. Remind us to open our mouths for deep belly breaths when we're feeling anxious or afraid.

ALL: Loving God, hold us and hear our prayers.

Women: We pray for feet, that they will move toward those different from us and help others in safe ways. Plant feet next to those who feel alone, and bless our steps down hallways and sidewalks. We know you are with us wherever our feet go or stay.

ALL: Loving God, hold us and hear our prayers.

Minister: We pray for eyes, that they may see ourselves and others with compassion. Point our eyes toward those who are forgotten or struggling..

ALL: Loving God, hold us and hear our prayers.

Men: We pray for ears, that they will genuinely listen to all voices, especially those that haven't been listened to much. When things get noisy, help us listen extra carefully for your voice.

ALL: Loving God, hold us and hear our prayers.

Liz: We say a special prayer for parents, as the start of a new school year is always another leap of faith. Wrap them with your reassuring love as they entrust their children and trust in you. When questions remain unanswered, bless them with peace and the promise you are right there with their child, whether heading to preschool or driving to college.

ALL: Loving God, hold us and hear our prayers.

Minister: We also pray for teachers, staff and administrators.
Bless these faithful servants with courage and confidence, knowing you are in their classroom with a steady hand on their shoulder. Give them peace, patience, and balance in their lives.

**ALL: We pray for health and wholeness,
fun and growth,
surprise and amazement,
for this school year ahead,
knowing you will hold us all the way through. Amen**

SECOND READING**ROMANS 12:1-8**

Reader: A reading from the 12th chapter of Romans.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL**Matthew 16:13-20**

Minister: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 16th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Stephen King

John Lennon

Dorothy

Nietzsche

The Godfather

Lincoln

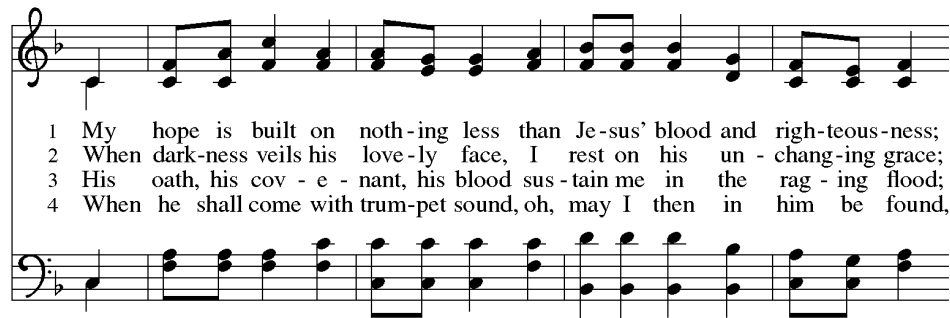
Jaws

Ghandi

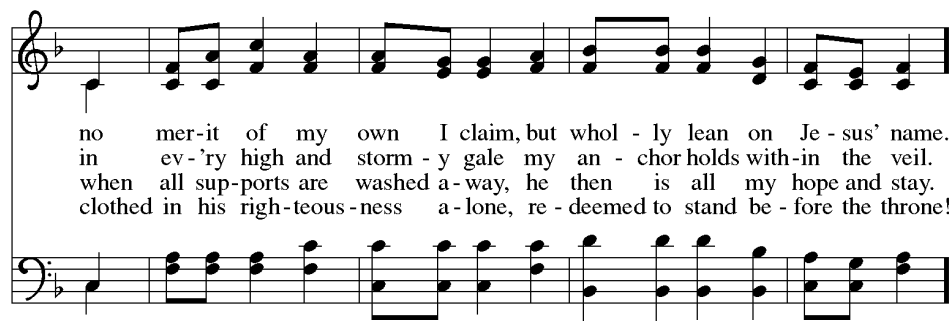
Robin Williams

HYMN

MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS

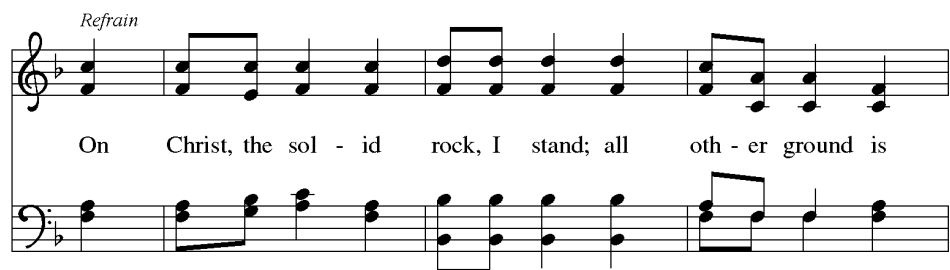


1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
 2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,

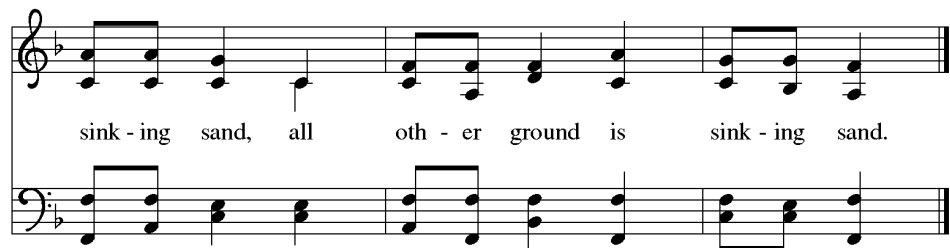


no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 in ev - ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.
 when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.
 clothed in his righ-teous-ness a-lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

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 Sarah and Abraham, inspire your church to pursue righteousness in its ministry. Equip us to share your compassion that unites us as one family of faith. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Remind us that from the beginning of creation, you knit together a world meant for harmony. Protect and restore the wasted places to joy and gladness. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Stir the leaders of nations and towns, militaries and courts, to respond to your teachings. Let your call for justice reach all people and bring deliverance where there is oppression. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Show your steadfast love and faithfulness to those in despair especially those in need of prayer to you now Increase their strength, care for all who feel low, keep safe any in the midst of trouble, and protect vulnerable people from harm. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Encourage those who offer their gifts and talents in service to your church. Energize this congregation's leaders, musicians, teachers, greeters, and administrators so they may be transformed in sharing your grace. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

God of all the saints, death is overcome in Christ's resurrection. We rejoice with the faithful departed. Sustain us in hope until we come at last to our heavenly home. Hear us, O God.

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

Give Me Jesus

Deb Booth

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

Faith of Our Fathers

1 Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,
 2 Faith of our moth - ers, dar - ing faith, your work for Christ is
 3 Faith of our sis - ters, broth - ers too, who still must bear op -
 4 Faith born of God, oh, call us yet, bind us with all who

fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
 love re - vealed, spread - ing God's word from pole to pole,
 pres - sion's might, rais - ing on high, in pris - ons dark,
 fol - low you, shar - ing the strug - gle of your cross

Refrain

when-e'er we hear that glo - rious word. Faith of our fa - thers,
 mak - ing love known and free - dom real. Faith of our moth - ers,
 the cross of Christ still burn - ing bright. Faith for to - day, O
 un - til the world is made a - new. Faith born of God, O

ho - ly faith, we will be true to you till death.
 ho - ly faith, we will be true to you till death.
 liv - ing faith, we will be true to you till death.
 liv - ing faith, we will be true to you till death.

O Master, Let Me Walk with You

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - ning way, in peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836–1918, alt.
Music: MARYTON, H. Percy Smith, 1825–1898

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

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 10th. All are welcome to attend!

Hymn

Built On A Rock

1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are
 2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not
 3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -
 4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is

fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
 dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly
 ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us
 bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our

chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the
 tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -
 life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their
 Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with

souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
 bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
 midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
 us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.

Dismissal:

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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Worship Leaders

Minister: Rev. Steven C. Claycomb

Keyboard: Gail Derrer

Assisting Minister: Bonnie Claycomb

Greeters: Dan & Wanda Courtright

Lector: Brian Powers

Coffee Hour: Paula Hallock, Donna Davis

Videographer: Steve Metzgar, Craig & Anson Cassidy

9am services will resume on September 17th in the church!

Thank you! Alessandra Borzio & Deb Booth for sharing their musical gifts with us today!

Happy Birthday! Kathy Conville 8/29, Alyssa Borger-Smith 8/30, Nancy Veety 8/2

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.**

Financial Update:

Jan 1 thru July 31 Income = 192,071

Expenses = 188,367

+ 3,704

Congregational Gathering September 10th—Please mark your calendars and join us on 9/10/23 for a special congregational gathering 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 – thank you to the choir for hosting our community meal last Sunday over \$300 was raised for PVEN.

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 23rd. You can join the group anytime.

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 to leave your name and amount of attendees so we will have enough books

Upcoming Events!

September 3rd—Outdoor service at 10am & picnic – bring a covered dish to share.

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