

Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church
419 Bossardsville Road
Stroudsburg, PA

The 15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2024

Please tune into 87.9 fm on your car stereo



*Every generous act of giving,
with every perfect gift,
is from above.*

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! LARGE PRINT bulletins available, please ask an usher if you would like one. **Tune into 87.9 fm on your car stereo.**

Today's service: *Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.*

Altar flowers

Altar Flower Delivery:

PRELUDE

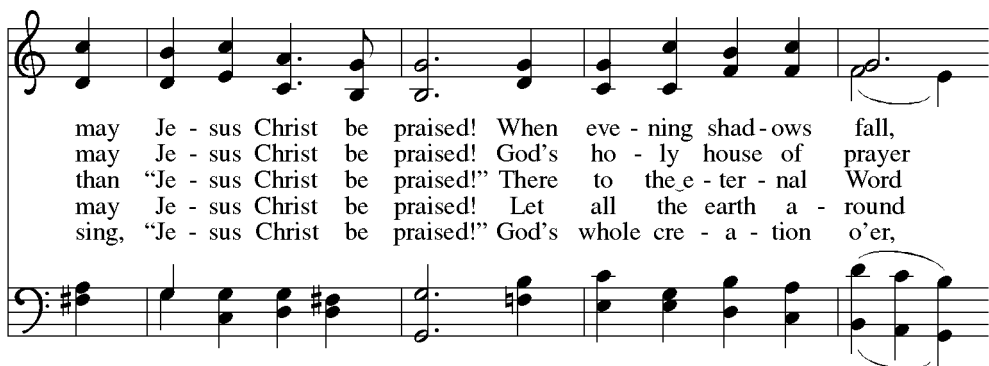
ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

SONG

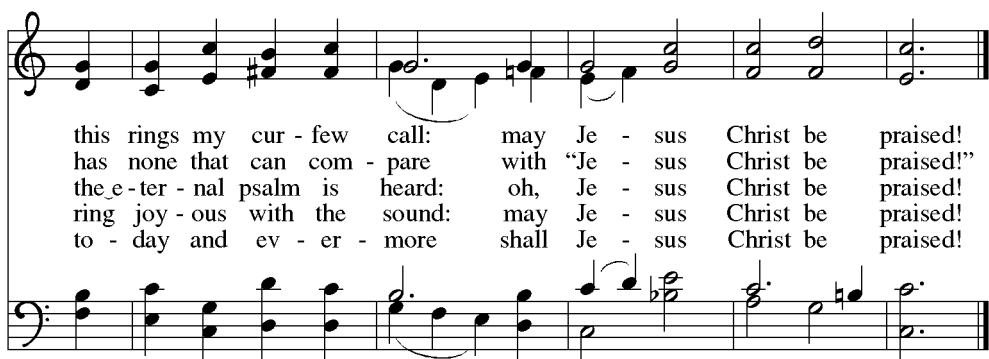
When Morning Guilds the Skies



1 When morn- ing guilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries:
 2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:
 3 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heav'n is known
 4 Let all of hu - man - kind in this their con - cord find:
 5 Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all who see his face,



may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning shad - ows fall,
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer
 than "Je - sus Christ be praised!" There to the e - ter - nal Word
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round
 sing, "Je - sus Christ be praised!" God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,



this rings my cur - few call: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 has none that can com - pare with "Je - sus Christ be praised!"
 the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: oh, Je - sus Christ be praised!
 ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 to - day and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

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.

KYRIE

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Minister: Let us pray. . . . O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

FIRST READING

DEUTERONOMY 4:1-2, 6-9

Reader: A reading from the 4th chapter of Deuteronomy.

¹ So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ² You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

⁶ You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” ⁷ For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸ And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹ But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children.

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

Read responsively.

PSALM

Psalm 15

Reader: Lord, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

**All: Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,
who speak the truth | from their heart;**

Reader: They do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their
friends;

they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

**All: In their sight the wicked are rejected,
but they honor those who | fear the Lord.
They have sworn upon their health
and do not take | back their word.**

Reader: They do not give their money in hope of gain,
nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown.

SECOND READING

JAMES 1:17-27

Reader: A reading from the 1st chapter of James.

¹⁷ Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹ You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹ Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted

word that has the power to save your souls.

²² But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶ If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

GOSPEL

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Minister: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 7th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ² they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³ (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴ and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵ So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶ He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; ⁷ in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ ⁸ You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴ Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵ there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

²¹ “For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²² adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

SONG

Let Justice Flow Like Streams

1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar - kling wa - ter, pure,
 2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
 3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.
 an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.
 and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926

Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776

Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press.

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: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

God of every generation, give the church a sense of purpose and belonging. Sustain and build up leaders and lay people as we accompany one another in our life with Christ. Merciful God,

All: Receive our prayer.

God of all, where the earth cries out in pain, bring wholeness. Guide governments and industry, that environmental laws and practices seek to heal and not harm. Bring relief and justice to people and places suffering from climate catastrophe. Merciful God,

All: Receive our prayer.

Sovereign God, we pray for local communities of every kind: rural and urban; established and new. Lead those in authority to seek the good of all through their words and actions and to mentor others in honest and generous ways. Merciful God,

All: Receive our prayer.

Healing God, you draw near to all who are hurting. Be with all who desire relief from chronic and acute illness, cancer, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Strengthen health care workers, therapists, and caregivers. Tend to those who are close to our hearts especially those we raise to you in prayer at this time . . . Merciful God,

All: Receive our prayer.

On this Labor Day weekend we remember and give thanks for all who have fought for workers' rights around the world. Continue to improve working conditions and establish fair wages so that all people may thrive. Merciful God,

All: Receive our prayer.

Comforting God, console us as we mourn our departed. We hold fast to the promise that death has been defeated by our Savior Jesus Christ. Merciful God,

All: Receive our prayer.

Into your hands, most Merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

All: Amen.

PEACE

Assisting Minister: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

The Peace is shared with one another.

Offering

Offertory

Accept, O Lord the Gifts We Bring

1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.

We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957

Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune; arr. Alice Parker, b. 1925

Text © 1990 and arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. . . . Jesus, Bread of life,

**All: You have set this table with your very self,
and called us to the feast of plenty.**

**Gather what has been sown among us,
and strengthen us in this meal.**

**Make us to be what we receive here,
your body for the life of the world. 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.

Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection,
you pour out your Spirit,
uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses
of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Minister: 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. Children should have received their first communion instruction before partaking. Ushers will bring the prepackaged wafer and grape juice to you. Please open the packet – but do not take the wafer or juice until the pastor has indicated in order that we might commune together. We will sing the hymn before taking communion at the direction of the pastor.

Minister: The body of Christ given for you.
The blood of Christ shed for you.

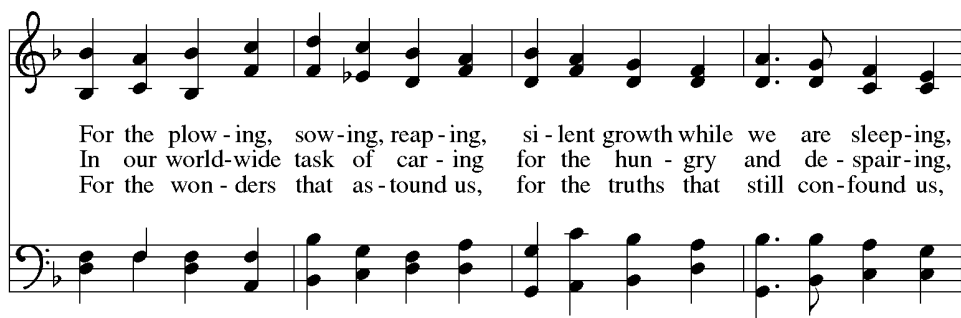
For the Fruit of All Creation



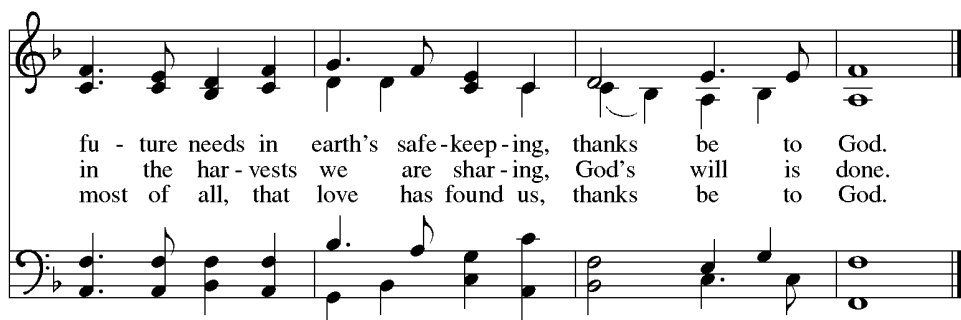
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing, for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

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: We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have
refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life.

In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith
toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the
sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

BLESSING

Minister: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

All: Amen.

Take My Life, That I May Be

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Take My Life, That I May Be'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

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
Organist:	Beth McElroy
Lector:	Janet Catina
Lay Assistant:	John Balas
Greeters:	
Choir Director:	Tassy Gilbert
Announcements:	Amanda Balas, Office Administrator
Videographer:	Steve Metzgar, Craig & Anson Cassidy

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

Service will remain at 10am in an overwhelming three to one margin the congregation voted to keep Sunday services at 10am.

Sponsor-A-Bill—thanks to all who have participated by grabbing a flower off the board in the serving area and donating towards one of our many bills.

Altar Flower deliverers needed! If you would like to deliver flowers to shut-ins and senior homes, please contact the office 570-992-408

Birthday Wishes!: Nancy Veety 9/2, Deb Kolb 9/10, Cara Seese 9/11, Bob Hedgelon, Beth Ross 9/12, Pat Lange 9/13, Dan Courtright 9/14, Theresa Quinn 9/17, George Butts 9/20, Laura Young 9/21, Craig Cassidy 9/22, Jim Butz 9/28, Shirley Frable 9/29 and Chris Bittenbender 9/30.

Happy anniversary Bud and Rhonda Bonser September 14th!!!

We will NO LONGER be accepting aluminum cans for recycling. Please recycle cans through your recycling company.

Children's Church begins Sept. 15! Children can be dropped off in Lighthouse room A before the 10am service and will return to the service during the sharing of the peace. Any students ages pre-K through 5th are invited to attend!

Adult Sunday School begins Sept. 15th in Lighthouse room G from 9am to 9:45. We will be discussing the lessons and gospel reading for that days worship service.

A First communion retreat for anyone entering grades 3 and up will be held on Saturday, November 9th from 9am-12pm in the Lighthouse. First Communion will be held during the service on November 10th.. If you are interested in having your child receive first communion please call the church office. 570-992-4085.

New members if you are interested in becoming a member of Christ Hamilton please contact the church office.