

Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church
419 Bossardsville Road
Stroudsburg, PA

Celebrating the 16th Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of Word & Sacrament

9.20.2020



**So the last will be first,
and the first will be last.”**

Welcome to Christ Hamilton! Worship is much different now. Thank you for joining with us in worship in whatever manner you can. If you are at home you can find a print copy of this service available on our website at www.christhamilton.org. Please print a copy of this bulletin so you might follow along with the video of our service if worshipping at home: share in the responses, sing the hymns, and pray the prayers.

Know that we are praying for you, our community, nation and world as we wander the wilderness this virus has caused us to walk together. Call us and connect with us whenever you need. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Visit us on our website: christhamilton.org and check out our Facebook page.

Today's service: *Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.*

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

Confession and Forgiveness

Minister: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Minister: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires
known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse
the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your
Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and
worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus
Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Minister: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the
truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just
will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all
unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Minister: Most merciful God,

**All: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free
ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by
what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not
loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in
your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

Minister: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to
die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As
a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and
by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire
forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and
of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 There is wel-come for the sin - ner, and a prom-ised grace made good;
3 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our mind;
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some-thing more than all:



there's a kind-ness in his jus-tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is mer - cy with the Sav-ior; there is heal-ing in his blood.
and the heart of the e - ter - nal is most won-der - ful - ly kind.
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;
There is plen-ti - ful re - demp-tion in the blood that has been shed;
If our love were but more sim - ple, we should take him at his word;



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
there is joy for all the mem-bers in the sor - rows of the head.
and our lives would be all sun - shine in the sweet-ness of our Lord.

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.

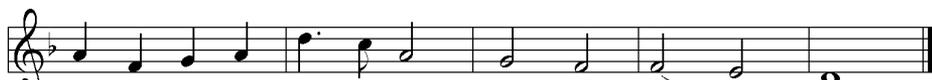
KYRIE



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **G** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **G** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **G** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God



☐ 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.



☐ 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;



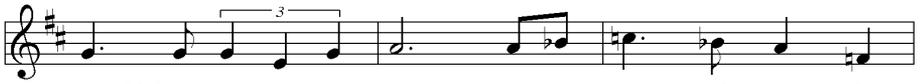
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - susChrist, 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.



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.



For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho-ly



Spir- it, in the glo- ry of God the Fa-ther, A - men.



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,



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Minister: Let us pray. . . . Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

FIRST READING

JONAH 3:10--4:11

Reader: A reading from the 3rd chapter of Jonah.

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

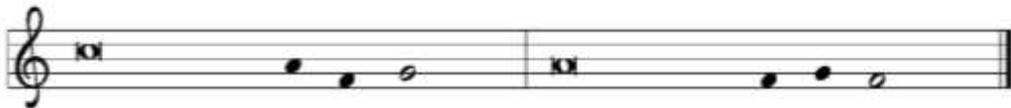
⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

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

Sung responsively.

PSALM

Psalm 145:1-8



Cantor: I will exalt you, my | God and king,
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.

**All: Every day | will I bless you
and praise your name forev- | er and ever.**

Cantor: Great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised!
There is no end | to your greatness.

**All: One generation shall praise your works | to another
and shall de- | clare your power.**

Cantor: I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty
and all your | marvelous works.

**All: They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,
and I will re- | count your greatness.**

Cantor: They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.

**All: The Lord is gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.**

SECOND READING

PHILIPPIANS 1:21-30

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

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

Minister: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 20th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’

⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of

the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner,¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’

¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?’¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Great Is Thy Faithfulness



1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear



shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright



pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.
man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy



hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

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: Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

God, our peace and our strength, we pray for our nation and the world as we continue to deal with the coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Generous God, you make the last first, and the first last. Where this gospel challenges the church, equip it for its works of service. Strengthen those who suffer for Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Sun and wind, bushes and worms, cattle and great cities—nothing in creation is outside your concern, mighty God. In your mercy, tend to it all. Give us a spirit of generosity toward all you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Where we find envy and create enemies, you provide enough for all. Bring peace to places of conflict and violence. Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Reveal yourself to all in need as you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, ready to relent from punishing. Accompany judges and lawyers, victims of crime and those serving sentences. Give fruitful labor and a livelihood to those seeking work. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Even beyond our expectations, you choose to give generously. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need especially those we lift to you now Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

We praise you for the generations that have declared your power to us. Give us faithfulness to follow them, living for Christ, until you call us to join them in the joyful song around his throne.

Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; and we share in the prayer Jesus taught us.

**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**

If you have not done so and would like to leave an offering please do so at this time or as you exit the service in the bins provided.

Offering

We Are An Offering

The musical score is written on six staves of music. It begins with a treble clef and a 7/8 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some triplets indicated by a '3' above the notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words aligned under specific notes. The lyrics are: "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." The score ends with a double bar line.

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. . . . Blessed are you,

All: Lord our God, maker of all things.

Through your goodness

you have blessed us with these gifts.

With them we offer ourselves to your service

**and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all
that you have made,**

for the sake of him who gave himself for us,

Jesus Christ our 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.

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.

Communion

*We invite all baptized Christians to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Ushers will bring the prepackaged wafer and grape juice to you. Please indicate how many will be taking communion to the usher and hold out the plate and the usher will place the containers on it. **Please open the packet – but do not take the wafer or juice until the pastor has indicated in order that we might commune together.***

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
 us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

After all have returned to their places.

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, you provide the true bread from
heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who
have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may
abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the
power of his endless life, now and forever.

All: Amen.

BLESSING

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

All: Amen.

On Our Way Rejoicing



1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;



Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;



Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,



who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain



On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,



hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

Dismissal:

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Worship Leaders

Minister	Rev. Steven C. Claycomb
Assistant Minister	Andy Porter
Reader:	Andy Porter
Cantor:	Andy Porter
Keyboard	Gail Haydt
Announcements	Dan Courtright

Flowers for today's service are given in memory of Bob Eilenberger, by Joan Eilenberger.

Thank you! To Randy Peechatka for donating and planting the beautiful mums around our church sign.

Please Remember in Prayer: Gary Kapostas, Bob Conville, Joan Gumm, Joseph Polacek, Sandy Haney, Henry McCool and Ruth Ann Helriegel.

Tune in to CHULC FM 87.9 to hear the worship service on the radio for those of you remaining in your cars during the service. Thanks to Ed Jones and Steve Metzgar for the technological support that allows us to worship together once again!

Medical Equipment Needs? If you or someone you know are in need of a walker, cane, shower seat etc. please call the church office. We have many gently used items of this nature that can be utilized by those in need.

Sunday School Kick-Off event on October 4th following the 9am service. It will be held in the Lighthouse parking lot, parents encouraged to attend!

The newly formed Christian Education Committee is working on plans for a fun and safe Sunday school year as well as developing a plan for our first communion students.

If you are interested in joining the Christian Education Committee or helping out with any aspect of Christian Education here at CHULC please contact the church office at 570-992-4085.

Volunteers Needed! If you would like to volunteer to be a Sunday School teacher's aide or substitute please let the church office know 570-992-4085

Confirmation Class is coming!!!!

Christ is so important in our lives and so important in COVID times!!!!

Who: All Confirmation Students and Parents...and
New Confirmation Students and Parents 😊

What: Confirmation Kick Off Discussion and information about Confirmation program and activities!

Where: Light House parking lot...Bring your chairs!

When – The end of September - Date to be announced...soon..
Look for a letter in the mail. 😊

Also – Confirmation will be moving from a 2 year program to a 3 year program. Helping with our weekly services will be one of the requirements.

Stephen Ministry Commissioning! On September 27th our congregation will commission two new Stephen Leaders, Kathy Houtz and Theresa Quinn, and three new Stephen Ministers, Maureen Wenck, Deb Huber, and Theresa Quinn. Throughout history, when God has called people to special ministry, members of their community have commissioned them for the important work they will do. Now we invite you to help carry on that biblical tradition by being a part of commissioning those who have responded to God's call to be part of our congregation's Stephen Ministry.

THANK YOU!!! Words cannot express how thankful we are to Mr. Steve Metzgar, our very own CHULC "roadie," who has been working tirelessly these past few months to get our outside service up and running. Last week he was able to get our service on Facebook Live! Now are fellow church members who are more comfortable staying at home can worship with all of us in real time. We are so very blessed to have Steve as a devoted member of Christ Hamilton, please thank him when you see him!

Lectoring Opportunities: If you would like to read the lessons for one of our church services please call the office. In order to be safe and follow CDC guidelines you will be using a dedicated "lector microphone" that only the lector will use during the service. If you are comfortable and feel this is something you would like to do please contact the church office to let Amanda know and she will put you on the schedule. 570-992-4085

Bear Creek Woman's Retreat!

We are so excited to be able to offer a day event alternative to our usual weekend long, over-night Women's Retreat. This retreat on October 3rd will provide the perfect opportunity to enjoy an outing in the wonders of fall in a safe environment. We will be offering adventurous outdoor activities like boating, nature talks, and guided hikes and indoor activities like crafts and time to relax with a book. We will have a chaplain at camp leading us in devotions, delving deeper into faith. Check in will be at 9am and the activities for the day will last from 9am to 8pm. The event will include a delicious lunch and dinner provided by our cook, Joyce. Except for times with the chaplain, activities will intentionally overlap so participants can "choose their adventure" for the day!

The cost of the event is \$45, cost includes two meals and staff led programs.

In order to follow the Governor's guidelines for safe socializing and keep all participants as healthy as possible we will take extra precautions including a health screening and temperature check upon arrival. While doing indoor activities all participants will be required to wear a mask and we will be doing as many activities as possible outside.

There is already a group of lovely Christ Hamilton ladies signed up for this event, you can do so online at:

<https://www.bearcreekcamp.org/womens-retreat>.

If you would like more information please contact Ann Super adsuper@ptd.net or Bonnie Claycomb 484-824-9637.