

Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church
419 Bossardsville Road
Stroudsburg, PA

Celebrating the 17th Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of Word & Sacrament

9.27.2020



Which of the two did the will of his father?

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.chrighthamilton.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: chrighthamilton.org and check out our Facebook page.

Today's service: *Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.*

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

Dearest Jesus, at Your Word



1 Dear-est Je - sus, at your word we have come a - gain to
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est dark - ness
3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of light from God pro -
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and ad - o -



hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred and in
shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night, fill - ing
ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light; help our
ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most: your blest



glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is - es here
us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and all good
hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and songs may
gos - pel's con - so - la - tion, while we here on earth a -



giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.
wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

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;



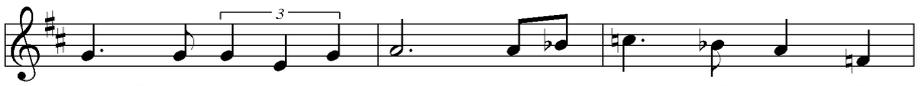
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ 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. . . . God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

FIRST READING

EZEKIEL 18:1-4, 25-32

Reader: A reading from the 18th chapter of Ezekiel.

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me,

and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

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

Sung responsively.

PSALM

Psalm 25:1-9



Cantor: To | you, O Lord,
I lift | up my soul.

**All: My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

Cantor: Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

**All: Show me your | ways, O Lord,
and teach | me your paths.**

Cantor: Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all | the day long.

**All: Remember, O Lord, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

Cantor: Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your good- | ness, O Lord.

**All: You are gracious and up- | right, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

Cantor: You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way

SECOND READING

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

Reader: A reading from the 2nd chapter of Philippians.

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

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 21:23-32

Minister: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went

to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than
2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,

Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are
may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -

own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
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.

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: Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. . . . In all the world, give your church unity. Inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ. Where the church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be at work in us. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Your Son took on all of bodily life in our world, even to death. Preserve and keep your creation, O God. Mend and redeem places that are polluted and damaged, so that all of creation confesses you as Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Turn the nations toward life. Where our ways are unfair, give us new hearts and new spirits. Where sin permeates our cultures and institutions change our minds and teach us to trust your authority. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Our lives are yours, O God. Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit. Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or lonely. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Turn this congregation away from our own interests toward the interests of others. Fill us with your compassion and sympathy. Bless ministries of care in our community make us into signs of your mercy and justice for our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Thank you for those who have gone into the kingdom ahead of us—tax collectors and prostitutes, likely and unlikely, obedient and slow to learn. By their witness, teach us to confess Jesus Christ as Lord in life and in death. 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.

We Are An Offering

The musical score is written on six staves of music. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some triplets indicated by a '3' above the notes. The lyrics are: We lift our voice-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voice-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 voice-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

We lift our voice-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voice-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 voice-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.

COMMISSIONING OF STEPHEN MINISTERS AND LEADERS

PRESENTATION

Leader: Kathy and Theresa, you have been trained at a Stephen Series Leader's Training Course and have been asked to serve as Stephen Leaders at Christ Hamilton. You are a gift of God to us, to lead us in this ministry of equipping and caring.

ADDRESS

Leader: As Christians who are a part of the priesthood of all believers, all of us are called to offer ourselves to our Lord in Thanksgiving for what God has done and continues to do for us in Jesus Christ. But it is also our privilege to recognize and support those who are trained for specific ministries in this congregation, especially today as we recognize and affirm Stephen Ministry and those Stephen leaders who will direct this ministry.

Leader: Because of your gifts, your calling, and your training, we charge you with these responsibilities:

- To build awareness of our growing Stephen Ministry
- To solicit the commitment of this congregation to Stephen Ministry at every opportunity.
- To recruit, select, and train thoroughly as Stephen Ministers those members of this congregation whose gift is to share one-to-one caring ministry
- To use the resources of community as appropriate to enrich the training and ongoing supervision of Stephen Ministry in this congregation
- To work with Pastor Steve in identifying members who could benefit from confidential caring ministry
- To assign the trained caregiver who most appropriately fits a person's need
- To supervise these confidential caring relationships and offer regular opportunities for growth in the skills and practice of caring ministry

PRESENTATION

Leader: Dear brothers and sisters, you have been equipped to serve as Stephen Ministers at Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church.

Listen now to the words we find in Scripture.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." (Colossians 3:23-24).

REQUESTS

Leader: Brothers and sisters, each of you has been comforted by God with the Good News of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection for you. We ask you now to join in serving our Lord and those in our congregation and neighborhood who need to be comforted.

As the Lord Jesus has responded to your needs, we ask you to strive to be responsive to the needs of others.

As the Lord Jesus took the burdens of the world on his shoulders and has been a friend to you in troubled times, we ask you to be a friend to those who are burdened under the stress of daily life.

As the Lord Jesus patiently listens when you turn to him, we ask you to be a patient listener in a hurried world.

As the Lord Jesus has broken down the barriers that separated you from God, we ask you to heal divisions wherever you find them and strive to make people whole.

As the Spirit of Christ has given you gifts for service, we ask you to use your skills and talents to help those people whom you serve and to pray for them.

As the Lord Jesus has shown his care to you, we ask you to help this congregation grow as a caring community through your own caring ministry.

As the Lord Jesus has revealed his presence to you through faith, we ask you to share your personal experiences of faith with those around you so that they too may celebrate the presence of Christ in our world today.

Vows

Leader: Are you prepared to meet those requests that we ask of you?

Answer: Yes, with the help of God.

Leader: Are you prepared to nurture the skills you have learned and use them in service to others—to support, encourage, build up, and comfort people in all their needs?

Answer: Yes, with the help of God.

Leader: [addressing the congregation] Now, we ask you, members of Christ Hamilton to open your hearts to the ministry of these people and to pray for them, that they may be effective servants of Christ. Are you prepared to meet this request? If so, answer, "Yes, with the help of God."

Congregation: Yes, with the help of God.

Leader: We also ask you to accept their ministry when you need help, to allow these individuals to work with you as you face struggles in your life, that you might receive support and help from your Christian brothers and sisters. If you are prepared to meet this request, answer, "Yes, with the help of God."

Congregation: Yes, with the help of God.

Leader: Are you prepared to serve as Stephen Ministers at Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church

Answer: Yes, with the help of God

Leader: Come forward now and receive a blessing. (The Leader may direct the trainees to stand near the altar or some other equally appropriate place.

COMMENDATION

Leader: Because you have promised faithfully to serve the Lord Jesus and his people as Stephen Ministers, I commend you to the care and guidance of the Holy Spirit as you in turn care for others. Work hard. Use the skills you have learned, releasing the gifts and talents the Spirit of God has given you so that you might be a blessing to the people you meet and care for. Continue to study. Reflect upon the situations you encounter. Pray for the people whose lives you are privileged to share. Be free to share your own personal frustrations and needs with others so that you might receive the same kind of care and love you offer others. Act boldly and without fear, for Christ is with you. And "may the God of peace sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

PRAYER

Pastor: O God, we ask you to take our sisters Debbie, Maureen, Kathy and Theresa into your care. You have blessed them with particular gifts and talents and have provided them with an opportunity to learn more about helping people.

Congregation: May they serve you with the power of the Holy Spirit; may they be quick to serve, patient in listening, willing to share themselves with people.

Pastor: Give to us thankful hearts for them, and show them in times of stress and satisfaction a special measure of your mercy and joy. Keep them strong in the faith you have given them for the sake of Jesus, who cares for all of us in every way forever. Amen.

BLESSING

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

All: Amen.

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises
Haleluya! Pelo tsa rona

Refrain – sung twice each time



Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -
 Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our



bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa
 hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your



ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la.
 prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.

End



1 Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,
 2 Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,

Repeat stanza, then sing refrain



I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger.
 strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful gos - pel.

Dismissal:

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Worship Leaders

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

Flowers for today's service are given in honor of our CHULC Stephen Ministers and Leaders.

Flowers are given in memory of Arlene Martz, by Marleen Dymond

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!