

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

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**Celebrating the 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost September 6, 2020**

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**For where two or three are gathered in  
my name, I am there among them.”**

**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](http://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](http://christhamilton.org) and check out our Facebook page.

**Today's service:** *Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.*

## **PRELUDE**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME**

## Confession & Forgiveness

Minister: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
whose faithfulness endures  
from generation to generation.

**All: Amen.**

Minister: Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Minister: Reconciling God,

**All: We confess that we do not trust your abundance,  
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves  
and rely on our own efforts.**

**We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.**

**We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.**

**We fear difference and do not welcome others  
as you have welcomed us.**

**We sin in thought, word, and deed.**

**By your grace, forgive us;**

**through your love, renew us;**

**and in your Spirit, lead us;**

**so that we may live and serve you in newness of life.**

**Amen.**

Minister: Beloved of God,

by the radical abundance of divine mercy

we have peace with God through ✝ Christ Jesus,

through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.

Our sins are forgiven.

Let us live now in hope.

For hope does not disappoint,

because God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

**HYMN**

## 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,

*Refrain*



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

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo-ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of

*Refrain*



vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Minister: Let us pray. . . . O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## **FIRST READING**

## **EZEKIEL 33:7-11**

Reader: A reading from the 33<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Ezekiel.

<sup>7</sup>So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

<sup>10</sup>Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

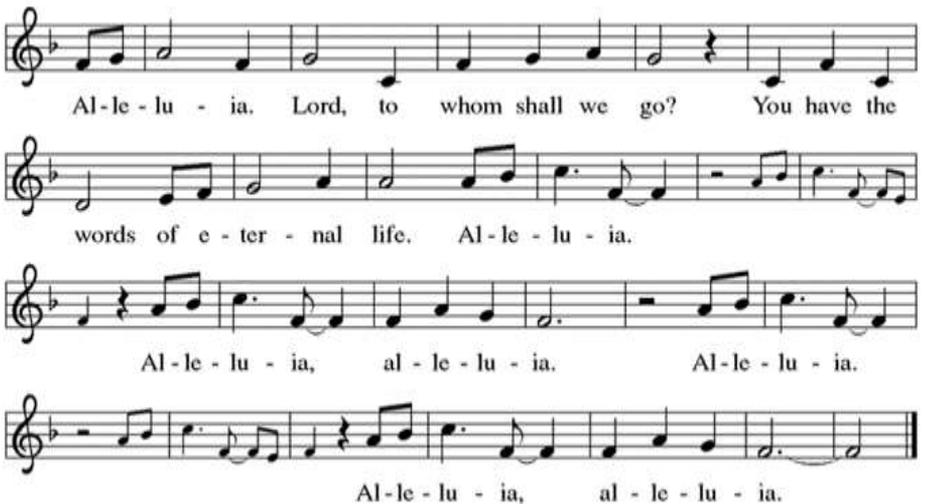


word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

### 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****Matthew 18:15-20**

Minister: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**SERMON**

# Hymn

## **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.**

Unite your church, O God. Grant us the gifts of repentance and reconciliation. Bless the cooperative work of churches in this community. Strengthen ecumenical partnerships; guide the work of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Protect your creation, O God. Teach us ways that do not harm what you have entrusted to our care. Renew and enliven places suffering from drought, flood, storms, or pollution. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Turn nations and leaders from ways that lead to death. Shape new paths toward peace and cooperation, teaching us to recognize one another as neighbors. Guide legislators, civil servants, judges, and police toward laws that protect the well-being of all.

Lord, in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Tend to all in need of your compassion. Hear the cries of those awaiting justice and those yearning for forgiveness. Give community to the lonely and neighbors to the outcast. Shelter all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit especially those in need that we lift to you now . . . . Lord, in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Sustain us in our work, O God, and give work to those who need it. Shape societies to ensure fair treatment for all who labor. Help us to love our neighbors in and through our work. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in faith. As you equipped them, equip us with your protection and power, until with them we see your salvation. 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**

**PEACE**

Minister: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**All: And also with you.**

**BLESSING**

Pastor: Almighty God, Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

# Hymn

**Dismissal:**

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**Worship Leaders**

Minister                      Rev. Steven C. Claycomb

Assistant Minister      Tassy Gilbert

Reader:

Cantor:                      Ann Super

Announcements      Amanda Balas

Videographer              Ed Jones

Organist: \*\* please note the musical pieces were shared previously  
with us by Donna Molan, Amber Quinn, and  
Courtney Collins.

**Flowers for today's service** are given in memory of Richard Lee,  
by Sandy Lee.

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

**Thank you to Pastor Peter Kuritz** for leading worship for us  
today while Pastor Steve is away.

**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Community Take-Out Meal!** We will be providing a Take-Out meal on September 20<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-5:30. **Please call the church office and give them your name and number of meals you will need, all meals will be packaged individually.** On the day of pickup just drive through the Lighthouse driveway and we will bring your packaged meal to your car.

**Stephen Ministry Commissioning!** On September 27th our congregation will commission two new Stephen Leaders, Kathy Houtz and Theresa Quinn, and five new Stephen Ministers, Ed Jones, Maureen Wenck, Deb Huber, Amy Leap 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.

## **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](mailto:adsuper@ptd.net) or Bonnie Claycomb 484-824-9637.

## Altar Flower List for Fall 2020

September 13—Debbie Kolb

September 20—Joan Eilenberger

September 27—Marleen Dymond, Denise DeVivo

*We will begin ordering from Miller's Flower Shop in October. Flowers are \$35, if you haven't already please make checks out to CHULC with "flowers" in the memo line.*

October 4—The Boyers

October 11—The Balas

October 18—Shirley Frable

October 25—The Hubers

November 1—The Reeders

November 8—Kathy Koch

November 15—John Meyer

November 22—Lisa Weiss

Thanksgiving—Debbie Kolb

**Advent**—For the 4 Sundays of Advent Pastor Steve would like the cost of the Altar Flowers to be donated to **PATH (Pocono Area Transitional Housing)**. If you would like to donate to PATH for an Advent Sunday, please let the office know and your gift will be acknowledged in the bulletin in memory or honor of a loved one.

Advent 1, November 29—Debbie Kolb

Advent 2, December 6—Marleen Dymond

Advent 3, December 13—OPEN

Advent 4, December 20—OPEN

Christmas Eve—George Kitchen

December 27--OPEN

