

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

Somerset, PA

Friday, October 15, 2021

Our Ministry Team

Rev. J. Matthew Deal: *Pastor*

Mrs. Jenn Boland: *Director of Programming for Children, Youth, & Families*

Mr. Dave Neimiller: *Organist & Director of Music*

Mrs. Cindy Lambert: *Administrative and Financial Secretary*

Ms. Marcy Shellenberger: *Children's and Youth Choir Director*

Church Council Officers:

President – Pam Webreck

Vice President – Mike Boyer

Secretary – Angie Brumbaugh

Treasurer – Henry Cook

Church Office: 814-445-4534

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here!

Dear St. Paul's Friends & Family,

*"Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all."
(Mark 10:43b-44)*

I've always been amazed at James' and John's boldness in asking to sit at the right and left hand of Jesus in heaven. It's unclear what is motivating their request; however, their assumptions and possible outcomes are striking. Not only do they assume that Jesus has the authority to set the seating chart in heaven, but they also assume that they have what it takes to deserve such choice seats. We don't know how this pans out for them from an eternal standpoint, but we do know that their request didn't go down well with the other 10 disciples.

Jesus quickly sets the record straight. Pecking orders may be the way in which some leaders organize their followers, but in Christ's body there's no room for a privileged few to lord it over everybody else. Greatness is not measured by proximity to power or any pretenses of importance. Rather, those who wish to become great must serve others.

Jesus is the ultimate model of greatness and of service. Despite all the power and trappings that comes with being God, Jesus serves humanity by becoming one of us. He gives up any assumed power and prestige of being God's Messiah and serves the suffering and lost. His descent from power is the very thing that empowers us to take part in his saving work. Whether it's life in the world or life in the church, there are too few examples of how a leader shares power and authority so that others can be empowered to make a positive difference in the world.

James, John, and the other disciples learned that having their eternal seating reservation accepted was not the point. Rather, closeness to Jesus meant that they had a greater obligation to follow Christ's pattern and serve. As we may ponder heavenly things from time to time, let us not forget that such eternal things are not just reserved for the world to come, but lived out in our abiding together in this world. Whether you aspire to rest with Christ, rule with him, or just plain old hang around with him, service to God and others is the mark of the Christ-life; in such a seat rests true power.

Blessings for your journey!
Pastor Matt

Here are our worship opportunities for the week ahead:

Gathered Worship with Children's Church in the Sanctuary at 9:30am.

Online Worship at 9:30am on Facebook and YouTube.

Telephone Worship at 11:00am.

For telephone worshippers: the toll-free conference call number is 1-844-855-4444.
The automated service will then ask for your access code or PIN.

Please enter: 512013#.

Worship Resources for this Week

The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, October 17, 2021

Call to Worship & Welcoming Children *The Worship Sourcebook*

One: We may come here for a glimpse of glory,

Many: But Jesus asks us: "Can you drink the cup that I drink?"

One: The cup of Jesus' own life: struggle and joy; suffering and hope. Fullness of life! We may come here to get close to Jesus,

Many: And Jesus asks us: "Can you be baptized with my baptism?"

One: Baptized into the reign of God, where the Spirit breaks down barriers among all people and creates new relationships! We may come here for honor or fame,

Many: But Jesus challenges us: "To become great you must serve!"

One: Why are we here?

Many: To drink the cup of fullness of life; to immerse ourselves in Jesus' struggle for justice and peace; to learn how to serve so that the world may be healed.

*Opening Hymn: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" #2

*The Greeting

Call to Confession *Rev. J. M. Deal*

L: We are standing on holy ground.

All: With Jesus as our advocate we may approach God with boldness.

L: Let us make our confession to God

All: In God we receive mercy and find grace.

Prayer of Confession *Rev. J. M. Deal*

Gracious God, we confess that the allure of power, popularity, and greatness are strong. Examples of fame and fortune abound in the world as our culture seems to worship the cult of celebrity and

fame. Please forgive us when we find ourselves distracted by trendy fads and the social gossip of the moment. Help us to focus on Christ's saving works, so that we might be a source of healing, love, and hope to those who are struggling for wholeness and acceptance. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

a time for personal reflection and confession

Kyrie

Leader: Congregation: Leader: Congregation:

Lord have mer - cy Lord have mer - cy Christ have mer - cy Christ have mer - cy

Leader: Congregation:

Lord have mer - cy on us Lord have mer - cy on us

Words of Assurance *Rev. J. M. Deal*

L: God wants us to be whole, to live an abundant life free of fear. God seeks relationship with us. In God's grace, you are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

The Passing of the Peace

L: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Today's Scripture Lesson Mark 10:35-45

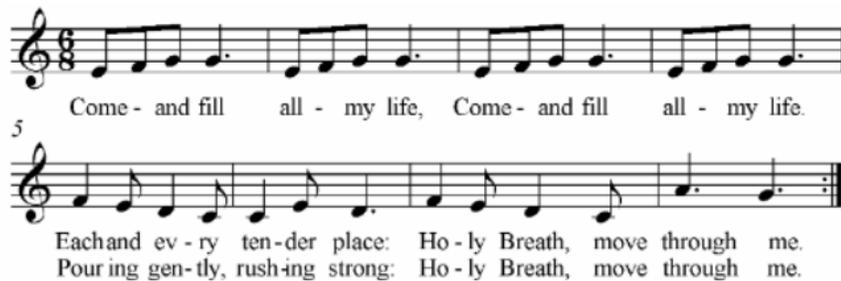
James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

The Sermon

"Who Is the Greatest?"

The Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response

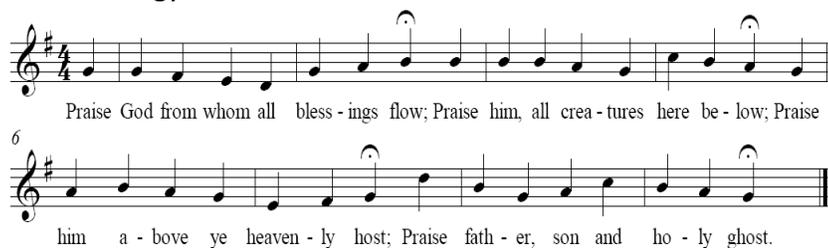


5 Come - and fill all - my life, Come - and fill all - my life.

Each and ev - ry ten - der place: Ho - ly Breath, move through me.
Pour ing gen - tly, rush - ing strong: Ho - ly Breath, move through me.

Invitation to the Offering

*The Doxology



6 Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise him, all crea - tures here be - low; Praise him a - bove ye heaven - ly host; Praise fath - er, son and ho - ly ghost.

The Prayer of Dedication Rev. J. M. Deal

We dedicate to you, Most Holy God, our tithes and offerings. Consecrate our gifts so that they may continue Christ's saving work. Challenge us through the Holy Spirit's council to open our whole lives up to you, so that all that we have and all that we are may serve Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. Amen.

The Prayer of Our Savior

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Recessional Hymn: "Go Into the World"

GO INTO THE WORLD

Tom Booth



Refrain

Go in - to the world, lov - ing the peo - ple that you meet. Let your pres - ence light new light in oth - ers, in their hearts.

*The Benediction

"Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit."

And may the blessing of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit remain with you forever. Amen.

*Organ Interlude and Extinguishing of the Candles

Postlude

Watch Facebook and YouTube for special devotionals and offerings during the week.

Check Facebook and watch your email for changes of services that may have changed from week to week, possibly even day to day.

We are grateful for your continued support of St. Paul's ministry and mission giving!

Please note, we continue to accept offering during our in-person services, USPS mailed in offerings and online with Tithe.ly. If you have any questions, please call the church at 445-4534.

Please check our website periodically throughout the week for updates: www.stpaulsuccsomerset.org

An Invitation for You

Please join us this week in Fellowship Hall following worship for *Pause for Persons*. Drinks and snacks will be provided, but you're needed to help provide the conversation and fellowship! Please contact Andra Snyder or Barb Davies if you'd like to help with our weekly fellowship time. We are thankful for Wynne Sechler and her family for preparing today's refreshments.

October Mission: Neighbors in Need



Neighbors in Need – Working Toward a Just World for All

A just world begins with justice— we commit to supporting and living practices that are grounded in justice within our congregations, communities, governing bodies, networked partnerships, relationships and beyond. When love becomes the lens through which we see the world, justice is possible.

Hope Station Nogales to provide reverse sanctuary to deportees in Mexico

A United Church of Christ sanctuary church offering immigrants refuge in the Arizona borderlands will soon be offering a place of hospitality, support and hope on the Mexican side of the border for people who find themselves deported from the United States. The Shadow Rock UCC Sanctuary Action Team and the Rev. Ken Heintzleman, in an extension of the spirit and intent of their ministry of sanctuary in Phoenix, are in the process of establishing Hope Station Nogales, in Sonora, Mexico.

The thought is Hope Station, which was funded in part by a \$10,000 grant from **Neighbors in Need**, can be a place of transition, a place where people who are deported but have family in the U.S. can find a meal, safe lodging and assistance.

An Invitation for You

If you missed our Fall Celebration last week, no worries! Please join us this week in Fellowship Hall following worship for Pause for Persons. Drinks and snacks will be provided, but you're needed to help provide the conversation and fellowship! Please contact Andra Snyder or Barb Davies if you'd like to help with our weekly fellowship time.

Please consider a donation to the Imagination Library!

Make checks payable to:

St. Paul's UCC – Imagination Library Account. Thank you !



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