

**OLD UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

200 Union Church Road, Mars, PA 16046

724-538-8672

www.OldUnionChurch.com

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Peter d.

Choir Director/Organist

Shelley Z.

Pianist

Mitchell K.

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

November 20, 2022

Thank-Offering Sunday

PRELUDE (Time for preparation)

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 81:1-2

\*HYMN "May Jesus Christ Be Praised"

#87

\*CONFESSION OF SIN: "Holy Father, we confess that we have not lived as your grateful children nor loved as Christ loved us. We forget that all life comes from you and that all life returns to you. We have not sought to do your will. Only your grace can sustain us. Lord, in your mercy, forgive us, heal us, and make us whole. Though we are unworthy of you grace, see us as we are, and set us free from our sin. Amen."

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

John 6:37-40

\*GLORIA PATRI (Song of Praise)

#623

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

NEW TESTAMENT (Unison):

Matthew 13:24-30

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:

2 Kings 11:1-4, 12-16

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

\*HYMN "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

#559

SERMON "Good Seed, Bad Seed"

\*HYMN "Rescue the Perishing"

#299

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Thank-Offering

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

TIME FOR PERSONAL PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(back cover of hymnal)

OFFERING

\*DOXOLOGY (Song of Dedication)

#626

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Brief Statement of Faith (Bulletin Insert)

\*BENEDICTION (Closing Blessing)

Psalm 97:10-12

(Response: "...And build each other up.")

\*CLOSING SONG

"This Is the Day"

#590

(\* If you are able, please stand.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is Thank-Offering Sunday, when we express our gratitude to God with a special offering and worship service led by our Women's Association. If paying by check, please make it out to Women's Association of Old Union Church.

Leading worship this morning:

Candle Lighter: Becky G.

Call to Worship: Mary Rae T.

Confession of Sin & Assurance of Pardon: Sue C.

Scripture Reader: Becky M.

Children's Time: Mary Rae T.

Minute for Mission: Mary Rae T.

Offering: Teresa K.

Prayer of Dedication: Becky M.

Today's affirmation of faith, A Brief Statement of Statement of Faith, was written after the reunion of two Presbyterian denominations in 1983, to express the Reformed faith in a time of religious diversity. It is designed to be used by congregations during worship.

Stop by the table in the lobby to sign this week's card.

Join us in the fellowship hall after worship to pack food for the students of Longmore Academy!

Speak with the pastor if you'd like to be the head "elf" for a Christmas card exchange.

We will decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season on Saturday at 9:00.

Christmas poinsettias can now be ordered. Sign-up sheet is in the church lobby. Please indicate color (red, white, pink, marble) and, if applicable, for whom it is being memorialized or honored. Order deadline is Dec. 11. Cost is \$8 per plant. Please give your payment to Lorene W. or Becky G..

The Evans City Food Cupboard needs Christmas goodies, cookies, cakes, etc. for the month of November.

The Lighthouse Toy Drive is Nov.-Dec. 11. 0 to 16 yr. old children. Do not wrap any gift. If you don't like to shop, Gift cards are a nice option. Please give cards to a Deacon. Thank you for your generosity.

It is time to think about the Christmas Cookie Sale. Sign-up sheets for bakers and buyers are in the lobby now. Please consider baking for Old Union's last 2022 fundraiser! As a reference for what we may need, collectively, we made 300 dozen cookies last year. Deadline to order cookies is Dec. 2. Costs for cookie trays (4 doz) is \$26, for boxes (2 doz) is \$13.

Special Prayers of Concern:

Bonnie S.

Louise S.

Jim P.

Betty L.

Joan T.

Howard B.

Dolly K.

Rose F.

Josh H.

Mission Co-Workers:

Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather, South Sudan

Military:

Jeremy H.

Matthew David M.

Justin T.

Scott F.

Frank D.

Michael S.

Glen P.

Will B.

Jacob H.

Christian C.

Ryan W.

Hunter M.

Christopher H.

Arthur B.

Kevin E.

Danner C.

Daniel B.

Spencer K.

Alex T.

## A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
preaching good news to the poor  
and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,  
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.  
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,  
Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead,  
vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.  
In sovereign love God created the world good  
and makes everyone equally in God's image,  
male and female, of every race and people,  
to live as one community.  
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.  
Ignoring God's commandments,  
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,  
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,  
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.  
We deserve God's condemnation.  
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.  
In everlasting love,  
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people  
to bless all families of the earth.

Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel  
from the house of bondage.

Loving us still,  
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.  
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,  
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,  
God is faithful still.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free  
to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,  
and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the Church.  
The same Spirit  
who inspired the prophets and apostles  
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
engages us through the Word proclaimed,  
claims us in the waters of baptism,  
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.  
In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage  
to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.  
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.