

**McKEESPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WORSHIP SERVICE**

25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 19, 2023

THE GATHERING
WE ENTER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

PRELUDE

"Let All Things Now Living"

Candice Holsinger, Organist

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH

OPENING PRAYER

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

(L) We come to worship God, and we take a deep breath.

C: Our hectic, violent world requires us to stop and catch our breath.

L: The breath of God binds us together.

C: We encourage each other, and give thanks to God, because God intends for us to lift each other up.

L: We come dressed in faith, love, and hope,

C: Looking for Jesus Christ to lead us into whole life.

L: We gather and open our senses to the Love of our Savior.

All: Open our eyes, Lord; our ears, and our hearts. We hear Your Word, and we sing Your praise.

***HYMN**

"Open My Eyes, that I May See"

No. 563, brown

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

O Lord, there never seems to be enough time to do all the things that are demanded of us. Schedules become crowded; we live by the clock. We think we are ready for all the events that come our way but we are rarely ready for You. We would like for You to come to us at planned times, as a scheduled event. But You want ALL of us. You are the Lord of every moment of our lives. Forgive us for "fitting you in". Forgive us for trying to control You. Help us to learn that You are always with us and ready to lead us. Help us to trust and surrender more of our lives to You knowing that with You as our foundation, an abundant life awaits us. Hear our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

*** WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

In the deepest darkness, in the times when all seems lost, we are never lost from God. God calls us to be ready for a new Kingdom. Through all of this, God is with us! Hear the Good News! In Jesus Christ our sins have been forgiven! AMEN.

***GLORIA PATRI**

No. 813, brown

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

JOYS

Leader: "For _(joy)_, Gracious God ..."

All "we give you thanks."

CONCERNS

Leader: "For _(concern)_, Merciful Lord ..."

All: "hear our prayer."

Let's pray together the Lord's Prayer:

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Please contact the church by email or phone with your prayer requests during the week.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (Hunter Steinitz)

Please welcome the children to the front of the sanctuary by singing, "Jesus Loves the Little Children".

ANTHEM

"O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"

**Chancel Choir
Arr. L. Mason**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 25: 14-30

Matthew 25: 14-30 "Hunter Steinitz's Translation"

"For the coming of the kingdom of heaven is like a man going away on a journey, who called to his own servants and entrusted to them his life savings. And to one servant he gave five talents, to another he gave two, to another he gave one; to each according to their own strength. And he went away immediately. The servant who received five talents went and traded with it and gained five more. Likewise the servant who received two talents gained two more. But he who received the one talent went dug a hole in the ground, and hid the money of his master. Now after a long time the master of the servants came and settled affairs with them. And he who had received the five talents approached and brought the five more talents saying, "Master you entrusted to me five talents. See here, five more talents I have gained." His master said to him, "Well done good and faithful servant. You were faithful with little. I will put you in charge of much. Enter into the joy of your master. And also the one who had received two talents approached and said, "Master you entrusted two talents to me. See here, two more talents I have gained." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You were faithful with little. I will put you in charge of much. Enter into the joy of your master." And also the one who had received one talent approached and said, "Master, I knew that you are a harsh man; reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter seed. So I was afraid, went away, and hid your talent in the ground. See here, you have what is yours." But his master responded and said to him, "Troublesome and backward servant! You have seen that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no seed. Then you should have thrown my money in the bank and when I came, I would have gotten back my money with interest. Therefore, take the talent from him and give it to the servant who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has received more will be given and he will have an abundance. But from the one who does not have, even what he does have will be taken away from him. Now throw out the good for nothing servant into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

SERMON

Hunter Steinitz, Guest Preacher

THE RESPONSE

WE COMMIT TO THE WORK OF GOD

OFFERTORY

"At the Name of Jesus"

**Edward Moore, Soloist
Arr. Mountain**

***DOXOLOGY**

***HYMN**

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

No. 686, brown

THE EXIT
WE ENGAGE THE WORLD OF GOD

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“Give Thanks”

Candice Holsinger, Organist
Arr. Smith

All those who are able, please stand



ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 19, 2023

PLEASE WELCOME HUNTER STEINITZ, GUEST PREACHER:

Hunter Steinitz, MDiv. is a graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, a Candidate for Ordination, and Ruling Elder at Riverview Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh. She is also a contributor to the Presbyterian Outlook and Disability Liberation Theologian. She serves as the Vice Chair of Presbyterians for Disability Concerns and she works as a Youth Engagement Specialist for the Pennsylvania Bureau of Special Education. Hunter is the oldest woman in the United States with her rare genetic skin condition, and she advocates for the diverse beauty of all beloved children made in the Image of God. Please come welcome and get to know Hunter Steinitz after church today.

FELLOWSHIP II:

Please join us for a time of food and fellowship directly after Sunday's service.

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE, please contact the church office.

TAKE CARE, THE FLU AND COLD SEASON HAS STARTED:

Please help keep everyone healthy. If you have a cold or flu, please utilize the masks available at the entrances. We all thank you.

PER CAPITA:

The 2023 per capita amount is \$35.70 per church member. These funds are sent to the Presbytery and are used by the Presbytery to provide services to local churches. Please make your checks payable to the church and note "per capita" in the memo line.

GIVING TREE:

We have **5 tags** left and Sunday November 19th is the last day the Giving Tree will be up. Please drop off your unwrapped gift with your tag by November 22, 2023. We appreciate all of your donations.

PORTABLE GROCERY CARTS:

We need 2 or 3 portable grocery carts to be use each month for the Food Pantry. If you can donate one or more, please let Carol Lasch know or Robin in the church office, Thank you.

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR!

The nominating committee will be looking for officers to fill positions for Elder and Deacon in the coming weeks. Elders and Deacons play an important role in the church. Elders are part of the Session which governs the church. They lead the congregation in its fellowship (its ministry to one another) and in its mission (its ministry to the world). Elders seek the will of God for the congregation so they can lead it in the direction they believe Jesus would have it go. They seek to model themselves after Jesus as they listen to people and serve the church. Deacons are called to be servants to others. They visit and pray for church members who are sick or bereaved and are bridge-builders between the church and the community. If you feel that you are being called to serve, please reach out to Pastor Michael or the nominating committee. If you are contacted by the committee to serve, please pray to God for guidance! We are always looking for servants.

We are called to work out the meaning of our own lives and to find our true vocation in the love and service of God. In God's service, true freedom is found.

BASKETS OF KINDNESS:

The Deacons are preparing our yearly, Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. They collect Giant Eagle gift cards and/or monetary donations to provide for families in need during the holidays. All donations can be given to Luann Castro, Carol Lasch or left at the Church Office with Robin. We are grateful to all of our congregation for all of your heartfelt help.

LAP BLANKETS:

Each year at Christmas the Deacons receive donations of lap blankets for the local nursing home and personal care home residents. The residents greatly appreciate the blankets. If you would like to donate a blanket or two, please give to Luann Castro, Carol Lasch, or Robin in the office. Please have your lap blankets, donated by December, 8th so that we can take a photo of them in the church and ready them for delivery. We are thankful for all of your support and many blessings.

MCKEESPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastor-Rev. Michael Stanton

Director of Music-Edward R. Moore

Organists-Candice Holsinger & Millie Kistler

Office/Financial Assistant- Robin Enright

Maintenance Manager -Brock Cochran

412-678-2000

www.mckpres.com

mckeesportpresbyterian@gmail.com