

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Piedmonte
Music Director – Gregory Fraser
** Congregation will stand*

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE with SILENT PRAYERS: Grieg Peer Gynt – “Morning Mood”

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS - During Covid, masks are required. There will be no singing other than by the minister and organist. At this time there is no need to stand during designated hymns except for the GLORIA PATRI and the DOXOLOGY out of worship and honor. Hymn lyrics are provided as inserts so you may participate spiritually. We do not touch hymnals, friendship pads, Bibles, or offering plates. Offering is to be placed in plate when exiting.

INTROIT: “Be Unto Your Name” (*See Insert to follow along*)

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Leader/**People**)

One: We come to worship a generous and loving God. **All: Praise the Lord, O my soul!**

One: We will praise the Lord as long as we have breath. **All: Praise the Lord, O my soul!**

One: Our hope is in our Lord, our God. **All: Praise the Lord, O my soul!**

One: We give thanks for the gift of all of God’s creation. **All: Praise the Lord, O my soul!**

One: We give thanks for God’s help in times of need. **All: Praise the Lord, O my soul!**

One: We give thanks for God’s mercy in times of trouble. **All: Praise the Lord, O my soul!**

One: We know that God will be with us always. **All: Praise the Lord, O my soul!**

*OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray:

All: We praise you God for the gift of your Son. He is the life-changing treasure that is truly beyond all value. Your generosity and goodness astound us! Inspire us to follow you and share your gospel with the world so all may enter into the joy of Christ. Amen.

*HYMN: “Signs of Endings All Around Us” (*See Insert*)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Together we confess that a generous spirit does not always accompany our acts of giving. Let us pray:

All: Forgiving God, you already know our efforts to love you with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength often fall short. Our lack of trust in you hinders our ability to give ourselves completely to you. We stubbornly deny that you know what is best for us. Our misunderstandings and quickness to judge keep us from loving our neighbors and ourselves. Forgive us, God. Make us holy and wholly ready to both receive your grace and share our joy of loving you. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Sisters and brothers, hear this great news again: You are freed of your sins, forgiven by the mercy of Christ.

All: Thanks you God! Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI (**Please stand**)

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.

*WORDS & GESTURES OF PEACE: (*turn to extend signs of peace to neighbors from a distance*)

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you. **All: And also with you.**

*SONG OF PRAISE: “Holy God, We Praise Your Name” (*See Insert*)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE: “Talent Show!!!!”

Rev. Mark Piedmonte

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Leader: Let us pray

All: Come, Holy Spirit, open our minds and hearts this day, that we may be illumined by your living Word and walk together as children of light. Amen.

READING OF THE WORD

2 Corinthians 8: 7-15

Matthew 25: 14-30

SERMON: “Buckingham’s Got Talents!”

Rev. Mark Piedmonte

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles’ Creed (Traditional)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*HYMN: “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” (*See Insert*)

SHARING OF PRAYERS for JOYS and CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER (**Responsive**): Leader: God of grace; **All: hear our prayer**

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Unison)

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.

OFFERTORY

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Remember your Stewardship Pledges

*SONG OF DEDICATION: (**Doxology – Please stand**) “Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.” Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION – LITANY for UNSING OUR GIFTS (*See Insert*)

Rev. Mark Piedmonte

*CLOSING HYMN: “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past” (*See Insert*)

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE: Go now in peace . . .

POSTLUDE: Grieg Lyric Piece – “Album Leaf”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY, November 15, 2020

24th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00am 11:00am	STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY... SHOEBOXES DUE! CONTEMPORARY Worship Service – Taylor Hall TRADITIONAL Worship Service – Sanctuary – Families and kids are encouraged to remain the entire time
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THIS WEEK: November 16 - 21, 2020

Monday, November 16 Tuesday, November 17 Wednesday, November 18 Thursday, November 19 Friday, November 20	Sharing & Caring 6:30pm Kids Group 5-6pm YA Group 6-7pm AA 6pm; Inductive Bible Study 6:30-8pm Inductive Bible Study 10-11:30am
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS – SEE ALSO “SCHEDULE OF EVENTS”

Thursday, Nov. 26 Sunday, Nov. 29 Sunday, Dec. 6	Annual Thanksgiving Breakfast 9am First Advent Communion Sunday – both services Combined Worship Services 10am followed by Annual Congregational Meeting
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- **THANKSGIVING BREAKFAST** Thursday, **November 26th** 9-10am – break bread with your church family and give thanks for your many blessings.
- **BACKPACK PROGRAM f/OC Elementary Middle School:** Only \$10 feeds a child for an entire weekend; \$300 feeds them for an entire year! If you receive BJ's coupons, please bring the leftover coupons in. We shop at BJ's for the backpack program – it's a great way to help our dollars stretch a little further!
- **SPECIAL THROUGHOUT ADVENT – SHEEP TRAIL!** Can you spot the sheep in our local stores? Between November 27 – December 25, local businesses will display sheep figures in their windows. Children will have a chance to find them scavenger hunt style for special prizes! How fun and what a great way for the community to feel blessed by a spirit of Christmas.!
- **ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS/ READERS NEEDED FOR ADVENT SERVICES AT 9 & 11AM** – These will be short and simple readings coupled with candle lightings each week. Dates: **Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, and 20.** Who wants to help out? **See Pastor Mark.**
- **BLUE PIANO** – There is a Blue Piano in the upstairs Sunday School room that Trustees have decided to confiscate. If anyone has an attachment to it, speak up to any member of the Trustees before November 30th or the Blue Piano will be playing off-key somewhere else.

STAFF HOURS:

Pastor: Tuesday 3-5pm, Wednesday 1-3pm, Friday 10am-Noon
 Secretary: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10am – 3pm
 Custodian: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday (hours flexible and as needed)

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Schedule of Events

***Friday, December 4 – TREE LIGHTING & MOVIE – 5 PM on the church front lawn** - All are invited for an outdoor twist on our annual tree decorating and lighting. We will meet outside to decorate a beautiful tree. Then we'll light it up in anticipation of our celebration of the birth of Jesus, the light of the world. Stay for warm treats and the Christmas movie "The Star" to follow. The movie will be drive-in style outdoors, so come dressed nice and warm. **A free-will offertory of clean and gently used shoes for the *Got Shoes* program will be accepted.**

***Friday, December 18 – Nativity Pageant - 5 PM on the church front lawn** – In lieu of our annual play, all are invited instead for this special presentation as we place the figures in the creche while the story of Jesus's birth is read. Bring a chair and a blanket and come get ready for the most holy night of the year.



NOTE ON BPC COVID RESPONSE: We are watching COVID news very closely and taking it very seriously. As a result, the Christian Education Committee has made some tough decisions. We've decided to scale our original plans way back and will make any needed adjustments accordingly. Let's all please be in prayer daily for a cure to COVID and the day when we can look back and say: *That was tough but we will make it through – with God's help!*

NOTE ON IN-PERSON WORSHIP – LIMIT OF 25 ATTENDEES: In-person worship will continue for the moment. Attendance at both services remains at or below the state guidelines for 75% attendees. We will also make every effort to assure services are taped and uploaded to Facebook and our website in a timely manner for folks who choose to worship from home instead. We are paying close attention to daily updates. For now, let's do all we can to stay – and help others to stay – healthy and safe. Please, when on church grounds for any reason, wear masks and wash your hands often. And if you feel sick in any way – please stay home, see the doctor, and call Pastor Mark for healing prayers. 610-428-3135

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INTROIT: BE UNTO YOUR NAME

We are a moment, You are forever
Lord of the Ages, God before time
We are a vapor, You are eternal
Love everlasting, reigning on high

Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain
Highest praises, honor and glory
Be unto Your name, be unto Your name

1ST HYMN: SIGNS OF ENDINGS ALL AROUND US

Signs of ending all around us; darkness, death and winter days
shroud our lives in fear and sadness, dumbing mouths that long to praise.
Come, O Christ, and dwell among us! Hear our cries, come set us free.
Give us hope and faith and gladness. Show us what there yet can be.

Can it be that from our endings, new beginnings you create?
Life from death and from our failings, realms of wholeness generate?
Take our fears, then, Lord, and turn them into hopes for life anew.
Fading light and dying season sing their Glorias to you.

Speak, O God, your Word among us. Barren lives your presence fill.
Life from death, and from our rendings, terrors calm, forebodings still.
Let your promised realm of justice blossom now throughout the earth;
Your dominion bring now near us; we await the saving birth.

SONG OF PRAISE: HOLY GOD, WE PRAISE YOUR NAME

Holy God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we bow before you.
All on earth your scepter claim; all in heaven above adore you.
Infinite your vast domain, everlasting is your reign.

2nd HYMN: I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT

1. I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus
(Refrain) In Him, there is no darkness at all
The night and the day are both alike
The Lamb is the light of the city of God
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus
2. I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father (Refrain)
3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus (Refrain)

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CLOSING HYMN: OUR GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.

Beneath the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received its frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream, Bears all our years away;
They fly, forgotten, as a dream Dies at the opening day.

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PRAYER OF DEDICATION/LITANY for USING OUR GIFTS

Spirit of God, your love is all about us.

Wherever we turn, we are overwhelmed by your bounty.

How can we thank you enough for all your gifts to us?

Your gracious goodness toward us never ends.

We have not earned it.

We cannot repay it.

It flows over us and around us.

It never leaves us, though sometimes we fail to recognize its presence.

We live surrounded by your love.

Just as a fish lives in the sea.

We lose awareness that you give us life.

We so easily take your love as our right.

We forget that relationship with you that keeps our Christian life throbbing.

As if, unlike fish, we had forgotten how to swim!

Loving God, teach us your ways again.

Draw us back into rhythm with your will.

We regret our wandering attention to you.

We know we are living in disharmony with you and with your plan for our world.

Forgive us and restore us again, we pray.

Renew us, restore and reconcile us, we ask....

You call forth from us a total response of every part of our life.

You draw out from us our latent talents, our every gift.

You help us offer our contributions in confidence, in company with other people.

We are excited to discover how our various abilities complement and complete a whole unity. Together we catch a vision of the harmony of every part of creation, knit together according to your will. Use us, Lord. Help us to say "yes" to you. What would you have us do? We pray in the name of Jesus.

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The Christmas season will soon be upon us, and of course, that means it's time to start thinking of ordering the poinsettias that will beautify Buckingham's Sanctuary. This year, we will turn to Parkside High School for our poinsettias. It's a program for future farmers. The cost will be \$5.00 per pot and it will support their continuing education program.

Please complete the order form below and return it along with your check. You can either place the order & check in the offering plate, or mail to Buckingham Presbyterian Church P.O. Box 248 Berlin, MD 21811, or simply leave on the desk in the secretary's office. **Make your check out to Buckingham Presbyterian Church and be sure to designate on the check that it's for your Christmas flower order.** All orders must be in by Tuesday, December 15th, 2020.

I would like to order: _____ TOTAL @ \$5.00each \$ _____

Please dedicate your poinsettias as follows: (To be printed in the Bulletin & January Gram)

PLEASE PRINT -

IN MEMORY OF

IN HONOR OF

Will pick up poinsettia(s) following Christmas Eve Service (please check) _____

Your Name(s)

PLEASE PRINT SO INFORMATION IS RECORDED CORRECTLY

NOTE: Due to COVID, we had no in-house Easter services this year. If you donated money for Easter flowers in April, I will ascribe that donation to Poinsettias and unless I hear otherwise from you, I'll use the same dedication.



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