

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Piedmonte, Pastor
Music Director – Gregory Fraser

** Congregation please stand as you feel comfortable*

PRELUDE with SILENT PRAYERS: Chopin Mazurka

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – We are all aware of the increase in COVID cases in Worcester County and the rapid spread of the Delta Variant across our nation. In light of this and our church's responsibility to the health and safety of all our members and guests, we ask everyone's cooperation with following the guidelines listed in the bulletin insert **for the month of September**. We thank everyone for their cooperation – now and in the days to come as Session continues to discern the best way forward. For now, let us pray every day for the end to this pandemic, and let us remember that we are all a part of God's family – in this together.

SEPTEMBER MISSION MOMENT: Clothing for Nurse Angie's Closet at Buckingham Elementary

INTROIT: "My Lord! What a Morning" (PH #449)

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Jeremiah 33:14–16)

Leader: The days are surely coming, says the Lord,

All: when I will fulfill my promise to my people.

Leader: Justice and righteousness will fill the land

All: and all will live in peace and safety.

OPENING PRAYER:

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Holy One, you have promised us that the day of our salvation is near. Keep us faithful in love and watchful in prayer, so that we may stand with confidence and joy at the coming of Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN: "Signs of Endings All Around Us" (See insert)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Jesus says: 'Do not let your hearts be weighed down by the sins and worries of this life, but watch and pray for the grace of God, who will save you in your time of trial.' With confidence in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

All: Lord, have mercy on us. We live in sin, as though there were no justice. We live in fear, as though there were no grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven. Now, may the Lord guide your way, strengthen you in all holiness, and make you abound in love for one another and for all.

All: All glory, thanks and honor be to God! Amen.

RESPONSE: GLORIA PATRI - **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.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE: Leader: May the Peace of Christ be with all of you. **All: And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: "Alive, Alert, Awake, Enthusiastic...for Jesus!"

Rev. Mark Piedmonte

*SONG OF PRAISE: "Our God Is an Awesome God" (See insert)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Sung)

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path; Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path - When I feel afraid, Think I've lost my way, Still you're there right beside me. And nothing will I fear, As long as you are near, Please be near me to the end

SCRIPTURE READING:

Mark 13:1-8; 24-27; 32-37

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God!**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Sung)

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path; Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path - I will not forget, Your love for me and yet, My heart forever is wandering. Jesus be my guide, And hold me to your side, I will love you to the end

SERMON: "Awake and Alert"

Rev. Mark Piedmonte

*HYMN: "O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!" (PH #476)

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed

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.

PRAYERS FOR JOYS AND CONCERNS (Please be seated)

PASTORAL PRAYERS

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

*DOXOLOGY / DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN: "Christ Is Coming!" (See insert)

*BENEDICTION / RESPONSE: : "Go Now in Peace"

Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true. Know He will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see. God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen. Amen. Amen.

POSTLUDE: Mozart Sonata in Bb 3rd Movement

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY, September 19 2021

17th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00am	CONTEMPORARY Worship Service – Kortright Chapel Kid’s Church School
11:00am	TRADITIONAL Worship Service – Sanctuary

THIS WEEK: September 20 - 25, 2021

Monday, Sept 20	Share & Care 6:30pm
Tuesday, Sept 21	Trustee Meeting 6:30pm
Wednesday, Sept.22	Pastor Hrs. 10am-3pm; High School Youth 5:30-6:30pm
Thursday, Sept 23	Bible Study w/Pastor Mark 6pm; Choir rehearsal 7:30pm
Friday, Sept 24	Pastor hrs. 10am – Noon

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday, October 3	World Communion Sunday (Peace & Global Witness Offering)
Tuesday, October 5	Session 6pm
Wednesday, Oct 6	Deacons 1:30pm
Tuesday, October 12	Men’s Breakfast 8:30am @ Rayne’s Reef
Sunday, October 17	Pastor Mark away; Rev. Kerry Shull in the pulpit

- **THINKIN’ ABOUT BECOMING A DEACON?** Have you ever thought about becoming a Deacon or had questions about what this special ministry is all about? If so, our Deacons invite you to join them along with Pastor Mark for informational sessions on **Oct. 6, Nov. 3, and Dec. 1 at 1:30pm**. Sessions will be interactive and conversational. Questions? Contact Carol Neal or Pastor Mark.
- **COMMUNITY OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES:**
 - **Berlin Intermediate School Math Fact Challenge Celebration** - Friday, September 24th from 8am -11am. The Math Fact Challenge is used to encourage students to practice their multiplication tables throughout the summer. Last Friday, September 10th, students were given math facts and 5 minutes to complete the challenge. Those who received 100% will be rewarded on the 24th with a special celebration. To help them celebrate, we will set up our snow cone machine and carnival games. All are invited to come help and just be present to recognize and give a well-deserved “congrats” to these young math wizards! For more info call Kristen Parker
 - **“We Heart Berlin” Ribbon Cutting and Community Festival** - Sunday, September 26th - at Henry Park. Efforts have recently been underway by this new community non-profit to renovate the basketball courts at Henry Park with new paint, new rims, new backboards and pads. Our church has been invited to join in taking part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the courts. Afterward there will be a community celebration (and hopefully a little one-on-one ball!) Our Deacons will be providing hot dogs and hamburgers for the event. We will also run a raffle for a brand new basketball! All are invited to join with our Deacons and others in helping out and showing support for our great Berlin community. For info contact Carol Rose.

Stewardship: Sunday, September 12, 2021 - **Weekly Giving:** \$1,793.00; **Weekly Attendance:** 35
Cemetery: \$100.00; **Memorial:** \$35.00

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Hymn 721: "Signs of ending all around us"

Ton-y-Botel

1. Signs of end-ings all a - round us—dark - ness, death, and win - ter days
 2. Can it be that from our end - ings, new be - gin - nings you cre - ate?
 3. Speak, O God, your Word a - mong us. Bar - ren lives your pres - ence fill.

shroud our lives in fear and sad - ness, numb - ing mouths that long to praise.
 Life from death, and from our rend - ings, realms of whole - ness gen - er - ate?
 Swell our hearts with songs of glad - ness, ter - rors calm fore - bod - ings still.

Come, O³ Christ, and dwell a - mong us! Hear our cries, come set us free.
 Take our fears, then, Lord, and turn them in - to hopes for life a - new:
 Let your prom - ised realm of jus - tice blos - som now through - out the earth;

Give us hope and faith and glad - ness. Show us what there yet can be.
 Fad - ing light and dy - ing sea - son sing their Glo - ri - as to you.
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SONG OF PRAISE: OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD

Our God is an awesome God
Who reigns from heaven above
With wisdom, power, and love;
Our God is an awesome God!

CLOSING HYMN: CHRIST IS COMING!

1. Christ is coming! let creation
from its groans and labour cease;
let the glorious proclamation
hope restore and faith increase:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Come, O blessed Prince of peace.

2. Earth can now but tell the story
of your bitter cross and pain;
we shall yet behold your glory,
Lord, when you return to reign:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Let each heart repeat the strain.

3. With that blessed hope before us,
flutes are tuned and harps are strung;
let the mighty advent chorus
onward roll from tongue to tongue:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Let each heart repeat the song.

4. Long your exiles have been pining
for your promised rest and home,
but in heavenly glory shining,
soon the risen Christ shall come.
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Joyful, shout the victory psalm.

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NOTE: COVID SAFETY GUIDANCE FOR SEPTEMBER 2021 –

- (1) Masks are required for everyone when walking throughout the building at any time
- (2) Masks are required when gathering or working in groups indoors (e.g. kitchen, Bible study, meetings, children's time, office visits, etc.)
- (3) Masks are optional for outdoor activities
- (4) **In worship – Masks are highly recommended** for all regardless of vaccination status; however, masks may be removed once seated in worship, as long as social distancing of 6 feet is maintained between individuals and groups. Masks must be worn when singing
- (5) **It is okay to touch bulletins, Bibles and hymnals**, as long as hand sanitizer is used often
- (6) We will maintain touchless passing of the peace, offertory, and communion services.

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