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Growing Faith, Sharing Hope, Living Love!
September 8, 2024
Children's Lovefeast
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

*Enter expectantly, pray reverently, greet each other warmly,
listen thoughtfully, sing joyfully, and leave faithfully.*

Chief Elder and Head of the Church: Jesus Christ
Pastors: Rev. Mark V. Breland, Rev. Sayward E. G. Lippincott
Director of Music Ministries: Dr. Jeffrey S. Gemmell
Trombone Choir & Handbell Choir Director: Marilyn Winfield
Children's Ministry Coordinator: Allyson Miller
Lay Ministry Assistant: Greg Bomberger
Office Manager: Courtney Hackman
Administrative Assistant: Jaime Weik
Sexton: Josh Bailey
Custodian and Security: Dan Turnbull
Treasurer: Barbara McKenney
Financial Secretary: Mary Sweger
Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

**Stand, if you are able.*

Scripture for Meditation:

The fear (*to be in awe of*) of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. Proverbs 9:10

Prelude: *Three Hymn Preludes*

Hal Hopson

Welcome, Announcements & Greeting

Due to Covid and flu concerns, it's okay not to shake hands. Just greet your neighbor with a smile, a word of greeting, fist or elbow bump. Please pass prayer request cards to the aisle for the ushers during the first hymn. Please sign the Friendship Register and pass it through the pew. Please see an Usher or Sacristan if you would like: headphones to assist the hearing-impaired, large print bulletins, walker, wheelchair, or activity bags to help busy young children.

***Earth and All the Stars:**

(See Insert)

***Liturgy for Education**

Page 127

Shared Joys and Concerns

(10:30) Death Announcement - David Heckel

Trombone Choir

Pastoral Prayer

275th Anniversary Pastoral Video Sharing:

Derek French 1995-2001

Scripture: Matthew 19:13-15

Then children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them, but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

***Hymn: 632**

God Renew Us by Your Spirit!

Message: Unhindered

Pastor Sayward Lippincott

The Offering of Tithes, Gifts & Second Mile Offering:

Warwick Release Time

*Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!
Let all with heart and voice, before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!
Sing alleluia, O sing alleluia!
Come, lift your hearts on high; Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!
He is our Guide and Friend; to us He'll condescend;
His love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!*

C.H. Bateman

***Offertory Response: 817** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

***Offertory Prayer**

Children's Lovefeast:

Help Us, O Lord, to Learn

666

Help us, O Lord, to learn
the truths your word imparts:
to study that your laws may be
inscribed upon our hearts.

Help us, O Lord, to live
the faith which we proclaim,
that all our thoughts and words and deeds
may glorify your name.

Help us, O Lord, to teach
the beauty of your ways,
that all who seek may find the Christ,
and sing aloud his praise.

Bless all those who nurture children, sharing knowledge,
Showing love, who by faithful words and actions lead young lives to God
above!

Bless all those whose voice and presence,
Deep devotion, dignity, motivate the church to rev'ence guiding Christ's
community.

Jesus taught both by example and with words of
Lasting worth; Christ has given ways to sample hints of heaven
Here on earth! In the same way Christian teachers
Model true humanity, demonstrating
In their witness glimpses of eternity!

Bless these lives of dedication—days and seasons,
Weeks and years, spent in serving congregations, spreading joys and
soothing tears!
Bless these lives so firmly planted in the grace the Savior brings, flourishing
As God has granted, soaring high on Spirit wings.

Little Children, Welcome

679

Little children*, welcome!
Earth is yours to live in;
Arms of love protect you,
little children, welcome!

Little children, welcome!
Jesus cares about you;
Jesus now enfolds you,
little children, welcome!

Little children, welcome!
We, the Church of Jesus,
we will help your growing,
little children, welcome!

Little children, welcome!
God will make you happy,
Jesus save and keep you,
little children, welcome!

Jesus loves me, this I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me he who died
heaven's gate to open wide.
He will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in. [Refrain]

Jesus loves me, this I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, "Let them come to me." [Refrain]

Grace: Be Present at our table Lord

816

Lovefeast Choir Anthem: *Come, Come, Come, Christ Jesus Bids*

Austrian Melody

Text may be found at MBW #412

This Little Light of Mine

vs. 1 & 2

This little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine
All around the neighborhood
I'm going to let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine
Hide it under a bushel? No!
I'm going to let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Kumbaya my Lord, kumbaya
Kumbaya my Lord, kumbaya
Kumbaya my Lord, kumbaya
Oh Lord, kumbaya

Someone's singing Lord, kumbaya
Someone's singing Lord, kumbaya
Someone's singing Lord, kumbaya
Oh Lord, kumbayah

Someone's praying Lord, kumbaya
Someone's praying Lord, kumbaya
Someone's praying Lord, kumbaya
Oh Lord, kumbaya x2

I am Jesus' Little Lamb

723 vs 1 & 2

I am Jesus' little lamb;
ever glad at heart I am;
for my Shepherd gently guides me,
knows my need and well provides me,
loves me ev'ry day the same,
even calls me by my name.
Day by day, at home, away,
Jesus is my staff and stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me,
into pleasant pastures leads me;
when I thirst, he bids me go
where the quiet waters flow.

Jesus Makes My Heart Rejoice

662

Jesus makes my heart rejoice,
I'm his sheep, and know his voice;
he's a Shepherd, kind and gracious,
And his pastures are delicious;
constant love to me he shows,
yea, my very name he knows.

Trusting his mild staff always,
I go in and out in peace;
he will feed me with treasure
of his grace in richest measure;
when athirst to him I cry,
Living water he'll supply.

Should not I for gladness leap,
led by Jesus as his sheep?
For when these blessed days are over
to the arms of my dear Savior
I shall be conveyed to rest.
Amen, yea, my lot is blessed.

Benediction

Postlude: *Rondeau*

Jean-Joseph Mouret

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Serving Today:

Sacristan (8:00) Don Stoner (10:30) Jeff Elser

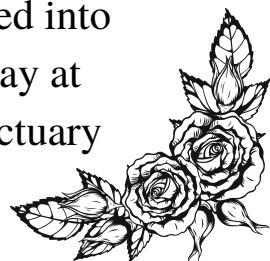
Head Usher (10:30) Darrin Donmoyer

Sound Booth Personnel: Wayne Wolf

Nursery: Pricilla Stoner & Linden Hall Volunteers



The white rose is displayed in memory of David Heckel, who entered into the Church Triumphant on September 2nd, 2024. Visitation is today at 2pm in Eschbach Parlor with a memorial service at 3pm in the Sanctuary
Please keep the Heckel family in your prayers.



Becoming “Opened”

Jesus encounters a woman from Syrophenicia, a Gentile region. Despite her being an outsider, her “otherness,” and the cultural barriers between them, this woman approaches Jesus with an unwavering faith, pleading for her daughter to be healed. At first, Jesus seems to insult her, stating that his mission is primarily to the people of Israel. However, the woman's persistent faith moves Jesus to compassion, and he becomes “opened” to the thought of granting her request.

Like Jesus’ initial seeming rebuff, we too “close” persons off for various reasons. However, embracing openness enables us to confront our biases, prejudices, and preconceptions. It challenges us to examine our assumptions, confront our blind spots, and embrace the diversity of our community. As we embrace openness, we become more compassionate, inclusive, and empathetic toward others, recognizing the inherent dignity and worth of every individual.

Our society is often marked by division, misunderstanding, and fear. Thus the call to embrace openness has never been more needed. Being open is not being inactive; it is an active choice. At its core, embracing openness means being receptive to new ideas, perspectives, and experiences. It requires humility, courage, and a willingness to step outside our comfort zones. It fosters growth and personal transformation; it strengthens relationships and cultivates deeper connections with others.

Embracing openness allows us to align more closely with the values of love, justice, and compassion. It compels us to extend kindness, generosity, and hospitality to all we encounter, regardless of their background or beliefs. It inspires us to advocate for the marginalized, challenge injustice, and work toward a more inclusive and equitable society.

Let us embrace the invitation to “be opened,” opened to God’s love, opened to God’s healing, and opened to God’s transformative power in our lives. Together, let us embrace openness as a guiding principle, illuminating the path toward a brighter, more inclusive future for all.

*Nasel Ephraim, pastor, Redeemer Moravian Church,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

The Moravian Church

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