



# Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church

900 Country Club Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15228  
[www.shupchurch.org](http://www.shupchurch.org)

10:15 am WORSHIP  
July 7, 2024

**The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

## IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

---

*Church can't be a place where we feel like a visitor, or somewhere we're afraid to let others see our messes. It's got to feel like home.*

- Ross Langley, author of *Messy Church*

*But God said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.*

- 2 Corinthians 12:9

## ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

---

Prelude

Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Prayer of Preparation

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Marla Bruschi

**Leader:** God the Creator, you show your power in whirling galaxies and unseen forces.

**People:** **You show your love in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

**Leader:** Drive out the evils that threaten to break our spirits and help us to rely on your all-sufficient grace.

**People:** **By the power of the Holy Spirit, speak to us through Jesus Christ, your living Word!**

\*Hymn: *Today We All are Called to Be Disciples*

No. 434

\*Call to Confession

Leader: Threats to life pierce us and cause us to doubt God's love. But God shows love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Let us confess our sins and receive new life by praying together the prayer of confession.

\*Unison Prayer of Confession

**Holy three, Holy One, triune God, we confess that we do not believe you have overcome sin and death. We are more in touch with the pangs of our own weakness than we are with the power of your love. In despair, we collapse in hopelessness. In rage we seek to dominate others. O God of David, forgive us. O Son of David have mercy on us. O Spirit of the Living God, grant us peace. We ask this in Jesus' name.**

(Silent Confession)

\*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Jesus, the Christ, son of Mary, Son of the Most High God, was broken and poured out for the love of the world.

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.**

\*Response: The Gloria

**Now let our voices raise; Alleluia! Amen!  
To give to God our praise; Alleluia! Amen!  
Mercy and grace abound! In God our lives are found!  
Long may our joy resound; Alleluia! Amen!**

\*The Passing of the Peace, American Sign Language

Speaker: Peace be with you.

**Respond: And also with you.**

Special Music: *You Gave Me Love*

B.J. Thomas

(Shelby Gracey & Keith Yanda)

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

---

Hymn: *Jesus Loves Me!*

No. 304

Children's Story Time

New Testament Reading: 2 Corinthians 12

<sup>1-5</sup> You've forced me to talk this way, and I do it against my better judgment. But now that we're at it, I may as well bring up the matter of visions and revelations that God gave me. For instance, I know a man who, fourteen years ago, was seized by Christ and swept in ecstasy to the heights of heaven. I really don't know if this took place in the body or out of it; only God knows. I also know that this man was hijacked into paradise—again, whether in or out of the body, I don't know; God knows. There he heard the unspeakable spoken, but was forbidden to tell what he heard. This is the man I want to talk about. But about myself, I'm not saying another word apart from the humiliations.

New Testament Reading: 2 Corinthians 12

<sup>6</sup> If I had a mind to brag a little, I could probably do it without looking ridiculous, and I'd still be speaking plain truth all the way. But I'll spare you. I don't want anyone imagining me as anything other than the fool you'd encounter if you saw me on the street or heard me talk.

<sup>7-10</sup> Because of the extravagance of those revelations, and so I wouldn't get a big head, I was given the gift of a handicap to keep me in constant touch with my limitations. Satan's angel did his best to get me down; what he in fact did was push me to my knees. No danger then of walking around high and mighty! At first I didn't think of it as a gift, and begged God to remove it. Three times I did that, and then he told me,

My grace is enough; it's all you need.

My strength comes into its own in your weakness.

Once I heard that, I was glad to let it happen. I quit focusing on the handicap and began appreciating the gift. It was a case of Christ's strength moving in on my weakness. Now I take limitations in stride, and with good cheer, these limitations that cut me down to size—abuse, accidents, opposition, bad breaks. I just let Christ take over! And so the weaker I get, the stronger I become.

Gospel Reading: Mark 8:27-37

<sup>27</sup> Jesus and his disciples headed out for the villages around Caesarea Philippi. As they walked, he asked, "Who do the people say I am?"

<sup>28</sup> "Some say 'John the Baptizer,'" they said. "Others say 'Elijah.' Still others say 'one of the prophets.'"

<sup>29</sup> He then asked, "And you—what are you saying about me? Who am I?"

Peter gave the answer: "You are the Christ, the Messiah."

<sup>30-32</sup> Jesus warned them to keep it quiet, not to breathe a word of it to anyone. He then began explaining things to them: "It is necessary that the Son of Man proceed to an ordeal of suffering, be tried and found guilty by the elders, high priests, and religion scholars, be killed, and after three days rise up alive." He said this simply and clearly so they couldn't miss it.

<sup>32-33</sup> But Peter grabbed him in protest. Turning and seeing his disciples wavering, wondering what to believe, Jesus confronted Peter. "Peter, get out of my way! Satan, get lost! You have no idea how God works."

<sup>34-37</sup> Calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, "Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; *I* am. Don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to saving yourself, your true self. What good would it do to get everything you want and lose you, the real you? What could you ever trade your soul for?"

Leader: The Word of the Lord!

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Laura Strauss

Hymn: *Be Thou My Vision*

No. 339

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

---

Affirmation of Faith: The Confession of 1967, 9.07

**In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself. Jesus Christ is God with man. He is the eternal Son of the Father, who became man and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. This work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the foundation of all confessional statements about God, man, and the world. Therefore the church calls men to be reconciled to God and to one another.**

Minute for Mission

Jody Colby

Joys, Concerns, & Testimonies

Presenting Gifts, Tithes and Offerings

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Response: *Doxology*

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

The Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastoral Prayer

People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

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 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.**

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Bread

The Sharing of the Cup

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

---

### **DEPARTING TO SERVE**

---

Hymn: *They'll Know We Are Christians*

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.  
We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

**Chorus:**

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our Love.**

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand.  
We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand.  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

**Chorus**

We will work with each other; we will work side by side.  
We will work with each other; we will work side by side.  
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.

**Chorus**

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come.  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.  
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.

**Chorus**

CCLI #1065469

\*Benediction (from the Northumbria Community)

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you: wherever he may send you: may he guide you through the wilderness: protect you through the storm: may he bring you home rejoicing: at the wonders he has shown you: may he bring you home rejoicing: once again into our doors.

\*Response

\*Postlude

*\*If you are able to do so, please stand.*

**A Special Thank you** to Keith Yanda for sharing his special musical talents with us today.

**Happy Birthday** to Carole McCullough (7<sup>th</sup>), Francine Brown (8<sup>th</sup>), Harriet Rickard (10<sup>th</sup>) & Carl Moeller (13<sup>th</sup>)!

**The Flower Delivery** will be made by Karen Heim and Carol Noonan.

**Our Greeters** today were Karen Heim and Carol Noonan.

**Deacon Food Drive Donations for July:** Shelf Stable Milk/Juice

*Special Items Needed for Refugees & Immigrants:* Dried Beans, Lentils, Rice, Flour, Cooking Oil, Sugar, Spices (Salt, Pepper, Garlic Powder, Chili Powder, Turmeric) & Disposable Diapers

**Hospital visits** by Pastor Laura can be scheduled through the church office. If you or someone you know is having surgery or is in the hospital, please let us know so that Pastor Laura can be there to visit and pray with you and your loved ones.

### **PRAYER LIST**

**Prayer Circle** – Ray & Ginny Bowman and Francine Brown

**July -**

**June** – Betty Coffey, Rev. Dr. Bill Gracey, Evelyn Lape, Tim Slater (Jeff Allison's friend)

**Ongoing** - Nancy Brumfield, Eneless Frank, Mya Kelly, Joanna, Becca, our Mission Co-Workers: Rev. Mark Adams & Miriam Maldonado Escobar and their children; Cindy Anna Flor & Nathan who serve at the U.S.-Mexico Border, our sister church, Litchenza CCAP in Malawi, Africa, Pabatso Makhalanyane, Healthcare and all Essential Workers, Jon Weaver (Sarajane's friend), all those who continue to be affected by the fires, storms, hurricanes, excessive heat waves and other natural disasters



# WELCOME TO SUNSET HILLS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

**CONNECT with us!**

Phone: 412-561-6261

Office hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Address: 900 Country Club Dr. Pgh, PA 15228

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Laura E. Strauss

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. William Gracey

Website: [www.shupchurch.org](http://www.shupchurch.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/shupchurch/>

## CHURCH CALENDAR

### Sun, July 7

9:00 am Adult Sunday School – Findley Hall  
9:00 am Children’s Sunday School - Library  
10:15 am Worship – Sanctuary  
10:45 am Children’s Church  
11:30 am Days for Girls – Wilson Hall  
5:00 pm AA Meeting – Findley Hall

### Tues, July 9

7:00 pm Square Dance Class – Crystal Hall

### Wed, July 10

10:00 am Days for Girls - Wilson  
4:00 pm Quilting Group – Findley Hall  
6:30 pm Tai Chi – Crystal Hall

### Thurs, July 11

9:00 am Quilting Group – Findley Hall  
6:45 pm Yoga – Crystal Hall

### Fri, July 12

5:00 pm AA Meeting – Findley Hall

### Sun, July 14

9:00 am Adult Sunday School – Findley Hall  
9:00 am Children’s Sunday School - Library  
10:15 am Worship – Sanctuary  
10:45 am Children’s Church  
5:00 pm AA Meeting – Findley Hall

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **Vacation Bible School:** The CE Commission will hold VBS on July 29<sup>th</sup> through August 2<sup>nd</sup> (M-F/9:30 am – Noon). If you would like to register your child(ren) or learn more, please visit our website at [VBS | Mysite \(shupchurch.org\)](#). The cost for the week is \$25/child. There are scholarships available. Please contact Taylor Strang at [sunsethillsce@gmail.com](mailto:sunsethillsce@gmail.com) with any questions.
- ❖ **Pastor Away:** Pastor Laura will be away from July 8<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup>. She will be serving as the Champlain at Camp Crestfield for the week.