



Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church

900 Country Club Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
www.shupchurch.org

10:15 am WORSHIP
January 22, 2023

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Paul, in his conversion, is moving toward a space where he will always need help, always need friends, and always look for community. He is moving toward church.

- The Rev. Dr. Willie J. Jennings

So then you are no longer strangers, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

- Ephesians 2:19-20

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Prayer of Preparation

Call to Worship (based on Acts 9)

Liturgist: Bev Knasko

Leader: Jesus Christ, you are eternally trustworthy.

People: In you, we place our trust.

Leader: Jesus Christ, you are eternally forgiving.

People: Like you, we will forgive.

Leader: Jesus Christ, you welcome all.

People: For you, we will welcome others.

*Hymn: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

No. 464

*Call to Confession

From the beginning, Christ Jesus was in God. When he came to live among human beings, he made the humble, trusting of faith accessible. He gave us the greatest of gifts, the costliest of presents. In preparation to receive that gift, let us pray together with the prayer of confession.

*Unison Prayer of Confession (based on Acts 9)

The miracle of faith is not our faith in you, Triune God. It is the miracle of your faith in us. We have repeatedly hurt others, and yet you still love us. We have frequently spoke without thinking, and yet you show us compassion. We have had thoughts we'd be embarrassed to share, and yet you have mercy on those thoughts. Forgive us, Lord, for our broken ways. Create a loving, compassionate, and forgiving spirit within us. We as this in Jesus' holy name.

(Silent Confession)

*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: It is true and worth of full acceptance that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners in his body on the cross. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks 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.**

*The Passing of the Peace, American Sign Language

Speaker: Peace be with you.

Respond: And also with you.

Anthem: *I Surrender, Lord* (Choir Ladies)

Ovokaitys & Austin

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Story Time

New Testament Reading: Acts 9: 19b-30

For several days he was with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰ And in the synagogues immediately he proclaimed Jesus, saying, "He is the Son of God." ²¹ And all who heard him were amazed, and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called on this name? And he has come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests." ²² But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

²³ When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, ²⁴ but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night, to kill him; ²⁵ but his disciples took him by night and let him down over the wall, lowering him in a basket.

²⁶ And when he had come to Jerusalem he attempted to join the disciples; and they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸ So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, ²⁹ preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists; but they were seeking to kill him. ³⁰ And when the brethren knew it, they brought him down to Caesare'a, and sent him off to Tarsus.

Leader: The Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Laura Strauss

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Affirmation of Faith: The Larger Catechism, Q.188, 189

Leader: Of how many parts doth the Lords' Prayer consist?

People: The Lord's Prayer consists of three parts: a preface, petitions, and a conclusion.

Leader: What doth the preface of the Lord's Prayer teach us?

People: The preface of the Lord's Prayer (contained in these words, "Our Father which art in heaven") teacheth us, when we pray, to draw near to our God with confidence of his fatherly goodness, and our interest therein; with reverence, and all other childlike dispositions, heavenly affections, and due apprehensions of his sovereign power, majesty, and gracious condescension: as also to pray with and for others.

Joys & Concerns

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.**

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.**

DEPARTING TO SERVE

Hymn: Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord

No. 392

*Benediction

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

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

A Special Thank You to Dave Petty for leading the music this morning while Shelby is on vacation.

Happy Birthday to Lori Matson (24th), & Shelby Gracey (27th)!

The Chancel Flowers were given today by Evelyn Lape in memory of Kevin Lape, Bob Lape, and Helen & Bob Seibert.

The Flower Delivery will be made by Jenn Kennedy and Tori Vernacchio.

Our Greeters today were Jenn Kennedy and Tori Vernacchio.

Deacon Food Drive Donations for January: Tuna

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 – David & Carla Greenfield and David & Karen Heim

January - The family of Joe Pencosky (Taylor's friend), The family of Werner Kurz (Chip McCoy's father-in-law), Carla & Mike Robinson, Carol Noonan, Pat Ellis, Fritz Strauss, Danny Hensel (friend of Taylor Strang), Dee Borman

December – Matt Fako, Carole McCullough, The family of Chuck Barnett (Mike Duffner's grandfather)

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)



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. Laura E. Strauss

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. William Gracey

Website: www.shupchurch.org

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sun, Jan 22

9:00 am Adult Sunday School - Library
10:15 am Worship – Sanctuary
10:45 am Children’s Church
11:15 am Congregational Meeting – Sanctuary
11:30 am Book Fair – Findley Hall
1:00 pm Odyssey of the Mind – Crystal Hall
5:00 pm AA Meeting – Findley Hall

Mon, Jan 23

11:30 am J.A.M. – Children’s Church
1:00 pm Findley Hall Bible Study
6:00 pm Troop #46920 – Room 110

Tues, Jan 24

1:00 pm Wilson Hall Bible Study
7:00 pm Square Dance Class – Crystal Hall

Wed, Jan 25

6:30 pm Tai Chi – Crystal Hall
7:30 pm Sunset Hills Book Club - Zoom

Sun, Jan 29 – Ordination/Installation of Officers

9:00 am Adult Sunday School - Library
10:15 am Worship - Sanctuary
10:45 am Children’s Church
11:15 am Deacon Training – Findley Hall
1:00 pm Odyssey of the Mind – Crystal Hall
3:00 pm English Pilgrimage Meeting – Cort Room
5:00 pm AA Meeting – Findley Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **Congregational Meeting:** SHUP will hold their annual congregational meeting after the worship service today in the sanctuary.
- ❖ **Nursery School Book Fair:** The NS will have their book fair set-up in Findley Hall after worship today. Please feel free to stop and shop in support of their fundraiser.
- ❖ **Bells & Chancel Choir:** There is no rehearsal this week for our Bells or Chancel Choir. Rehearsals will resume as normal on the 31st of January.
- ❖ **Sunset Hills Book Club:** Everyone is invited to join Pastor Laura via Zoom at 7:30 pm this Wednesday to discuss this month’s book, *The Girl with the Louding Voice* by Abi Dare.
- ❖ **Ordination/Installation of Officers:** Ordination/Installation of new Session and Deacon members will take place during the worship service next Sunday, January 29th.
- ❖ **Deacon Training:** Pastor Laura will hold Deacon training after the worship service next Sunday, January 29th. Lunch will be provided.
- ❖ **Cookie Tins:** Please donate any clean Christmas cookie tins (or plastic/cardboard) that are in good condition to be used at the next Deacon cookie sale. A collection box will be in the pantry off Findley Hall during the month of January. Call Lee Cepits with any questions at (412)770-6785.