



Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church

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

10:15 am WORSHIP
September 25, 2022

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

The first word of judgment to the elites has come: You do not have the power of God to heal the broken. You cannot raise the dead, only Jesus can.

- The Rev. Dr. Willie Jennings

With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, and much grace was upon them all.

- Acts 4:33

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Prayer of Preparation

Call to Worship (based on Acts 4)

Liturgist: Bev Knasko

Leader: Sovereign Lord, you made heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.

People: You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David.

Leader: Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.

People: Amen and Amen.

*Hymn: *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

No. 263

*Call to Confession

Let us now approach God's throne of grace, praying together the prayer of confession.

*Unison Prayer of Confession (based on Psalm 82)

Triune God, every person we meet is someone whom you love. We confess that we do not see others in the same way. We do not look upon the world, upon communities, and upon individuals with love. We do not see your face in the face of the oppressed. We do not look for your reflection in the people who challenge us. Forgive us, we pray, in Jesus' name.

(Silent Confession)

*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

*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 Will Sing Praise*

J. Martin

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

New Testament Reading: Acts 4:1-37

And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sad'ducees came upon them, ² annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³ And they arrested them and put them in custody until the morrow, for it was already evening. ⁴ But many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

⁵ On the morrow their rulers and elders and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶ with Annas the high priest and Ca'iaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷ And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a cripple, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰ be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹ This is the stone which was rejected by you builders, but which has become the head of the corner. ¹² And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they wondered; and they recognized that they had been with Jesus. ¹⁴ But seeing the man that had been healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. ¹⁵ But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred with one another, ¹⁶ saying, "What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is manifest to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷ But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to any one in this name." ¹⁸ So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge; ²⁰ for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." ²¹ And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people; for all men praised God for what had happened. ²² For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.

New Testament Reading: Acts 4:1-37

²³ When they were released they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who didst make the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, ²⁵ who by the mouth of our father David, thy servant,^[a] didst say by the Holy Spirit,

‘Why did the Gentiles rage,
and the peoples imagine vain things?

²⁶ The kings of the earth set themselves in array,
and the rulers were gathered together,
against the Lord and against his Anointed’—^[b]

²⁷ for truly in this city there were gathered together against thy holy servant^[c] Jesus, whom thou didst anoint, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever thy hand and thy plan had predestined to take place. ²⁹ And now, Lord, look upon their threats, and grant to thy servants^[d] to speak thy word with all boldness, ³⁰ while thou stretchest out thy hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of thy holy servant^[e] Jesus.” ³¹ And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.

³² Now the company of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things which he possessed was his own, but they had everything in common. ³³ And with great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of what was sold ³⁵ and laid it at the apostles’ feet; and distribution was made to each as any had need. ³⁶ Thus Joseph who was surnamed by the apostles Barnabas (which means, Son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, ³⁷ sold a field which belonged to him, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet.

Leader: The Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *The Criminal-Disciple Emerges!*

Rev. Laura Strauss

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Affirmation of Faith: The Larger Catechism

Leader: What is the Third Commandment?

People: The Third Commandment is, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain."

Leader: What is required in the Third Commandment?

People: The Third Commandment requires, that the name of God, his titles, attributes, ordinances, the word, sacraments, prayer, oaths, vows, his works, and whatsoever else there is whereby he makes himself known, be holily and reverently used in thought, meditation, word, and writing; by a holy profession, and answerable conversation, to the glory of God, and the good of ourselves, and 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: *Lord, You Give the Great Commission*

No. 429

(Tune: *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*)

*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

*Postlude

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

Happy Birthday to David Arnold (25th)!

The Chancel Flowers were given today by Rosalie Pillitteri in memory of her brother Patsy Martucci and Karen & David Heim in memory of Conrad Hale.

The Flower Delivery will be made by Chris Gardner and Tori Vernacchio.

Our Greeters today were Chris Gardner and Tori Vernacchio.

Deacon Food Drive Donations for September: Peanut Butter & Jelly

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 – Paul & Marla Bruschi and The Bryer family; Jeff, Jennifer, Kylie & Aiden.

September – Pat Ellis, Barbara Howell (Carla Greenfield's sister), The family of Mary Miller (Pastor Laura's aunt), The Hall family (Harriet Rickard's cousins), Anna (Jenn Kennedy's friend), Matt Fako & family (Matt's wife is pregnant again!), The family of Barry LaBounty (Carol Noonan's friend), Joanna (Jeannine Stimmel's daughter), Eric Tsurumaki (Riley family friend)

August - Bob Meyer (Christa Tang's father), The family of Noah Latronica (Sarajane Obarsky's student), Rev. Elizabeth Wallace (Pastor Laura's friend), The family of Tom Link (friend of Carla Robinson), Linda McKean, Rev. Dr. Clint Cottrell (Pastor Laura's father), Evelyn Lape, Roberta Allison, Matt Fako, Richard (friend of Jeff Fitzwilliam), Mark Greenaway (Linda Debor's nephew), Agnes Strang (Taylor's Grandmother), Rev. Sarah Heppenstall (Pastor Laura'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



WELCOME TO SUNSET HILLS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

CONNECT with us!

Phone: 412-561-6261

Office hours: Monday – Friday, 8:30am-2:30pm

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. Sept 25

9:00 am Adult Sunday School – Library
10:15 am Worship - Sanctuary
10:45 am Children’s Church
11:30 am Youth Group
11:30 am Nominating Committee Mtg. – Library
11:30 am Mission Comm. Mtg – Cort Room
5:00 pm AA Meeting – Findley Hall
6:00 pm Young Adult Dinner – Wilson Hall

Mon. Sept 26

1:00 pm Findley Hall Bible Study

Tues. Sept 27

9:15 am Yoga – Crystal Hall
1:00 pm Wilson Hall Bible Study
6:45 pm Campanile Bells Rehearsal
7:45 pm Choir Practice

Wed. Sept 28

7:30 pm Sunset Hills Book Club – In Person

Thurs. Sept 29

7:00 pm Book Signing – St. Paul’s Church

Fri. Sept. 30

5:00 pm AA Meeting – Findley Hall

Sun. Oct 2

9:00 am Adult Sunday School – Library
10:15 am Worship - Sanctuary
10:45 am Children’s Church
11:30 am New Members Class – Library
5:00 pm AA Meeting – Findley Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **Sunset Hills Book Club:** Everyone is invited to join Pastor Laura at the church this Wednesday, September 28th at 7:30 pm to discuss this month’s book; *Lila* by Marilynne Robinson.
- ❖ **Book Signing:** Everyone is invited to attend a book signing/talk about the new book, *Our Problem, Our Path: Collective Antiracism for White People* by Ali Michael and Eleonora Bartoli. The event will be held at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church (1066 Washington Road) this Thursday, September 29th at 7:00 pm.
- ❖ **New Members:** If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of SHUP, Pastor Laura will be holding new member classes in October. There will be a class on Sunday after worship from 11:30 am until 12:15 pm in the Library. (Classes will be held on October 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd).
- ❖ **Square Dancing Club:** Peanut Squares dancing club will begin meeting every Tuesday at 7:00 pm in Crystal Hall on October 4th. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun, no experience or partner required. The cost per class is \$5. To learn more, please contact Beth at (412) 680-4837.
- ❖ **WMI Conference:** Everyone is invited to attend the WMI Conference on Friday, October 7th beginning at 5:00 pm. The conference will be held at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (616 North Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh 15206) or you can attend online. If you would like to learn more, please visit their website at [WMI Conference \(pts.edu\)](http://WMIConference(pts.edu)).
- ❖ **Pancake Breakfast:** The Young Adults will hold a pancake breakfast before the start of the Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 8th beginning at 8:30 am in Findley Hall. (Cost: \$5/Adults \$3/Children)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT.)

- ❖ **Harvest Festival:** Everyone is welcome to join us for our annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 8th from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. We will have live music, games, food, a bake sale and more!
- ❖ **Jesus & Me (JAM):** Beginning October 17th, Taylor will hold JAM from 11:30 – 12:30 pm for preschool children. Bring your lunch and enjoy a biblical story with games and crafts. \$10/class payable to Sunset Hills Nursery School. (Every Monday through December 12th – no class on November 28th). Contact Taylor at sunsethillsce@gmail.com to register.
- ❖ **Book Signing:** Everyone is invited to attend a book signing/talk about the new book, *Our Problem, Our Path: Collective Antiracism for White People* by Ali Michael and Elenora Bartoli. The event will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church (1066 Washington Road) this Thursday, September 29th at 7:00 pm.
- ❖ **Free Little Library:** A "Free Little Library" has been installed in front of the church on Country Club Drive. Please check it out and feel free to take a book or leave one for someone else to enjoy. A special thank you to Chip McCoy who built and installed the library!
- ❖ **Flu Shot Clinic:** If you would like to receive your flu shot after the worship service on October 23rd, you will need to fill out a form prior to that day. Please visit their website: [Pathways Wellness Program \(appointment-plus.com\)](http://PathwaysWellnessProgram(appointment-plus.com)) to fill out the form online. (If you want to fill out a physical form, please see Harriet Rickard for a copy of one. You will need to fill it out and return it to her so that she can send it in to be processed). There are multiple shots available, so please be sure to select the correct one and make sure that Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church is referenced. If you have any questions, please contact Harriet Rickard at (412)531-5164 or hjrick@comcast.net. *We need at least 10 people to register for the clinic.*
- ❖ **A Day of Renewal:** Save the date, Saturday, March 18, 2023! SHUP women of all ages have traditionally participated in a Women's Retreat every fall as a time of reflection, relaxation, and renewal. The event will be reborn as a one-day celebration at the church in the Spring of 2023 for all women over the ages of 18. If you would like to be a part of the planning, please contact Jody Coby at (412) 656-7801 or Carla Robinson at (412) 571-0838.
- ❖ **Security Door:** Now that the nursery school is back in session, all the doors to the church will be locked between Monday through Friday from 9:15 am – 3:00 pm. If you need access to the church building during these hours, please be sure to let the church office know by calling (412)561-6261.