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Sunset Hills United

Presbyterian Church

900 Country Club Drive

Pittsburgh, PA 15228

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

10:15 am WORSHIP

September 21, 2025

**Gifts of New Immigrants Sunday**

**IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

*Whatever is truly good flows from God, and whatever good we do is by the working of the Spirit in us. - John Calvin, 1509-1564*

*Goodness is not about niceness. It is not about being agreeable. It is about integrity—alignment between the inner and outer life that reflects the image of God.*

*- The Rev. Dr. Barbara Brown Taylor, Modern Theologian*

**ENTERING GOD’S PRESENCE**

Prelude

Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Prayer of Preparation

Introit: *We Enter Your Church* (Tune: Away in a Manger) C.W. Gillette

**O God, you have called us, inviting us in;**

**You’ve made us your household and freed us from sin.**

**From youngest to oldest, we find in this place**

**Your waters of welcome, your family, your grace.**

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Call to Worship Liturgist: Bev Knasko

Leader: The Spirit is growing fruit in us—love, joy, peace…and goodness.

**People: We come to worship the One who feeds the hungry, welcomes the stranger, and calls us to do the same.**

Leader: Let us open our hearts to the God whose goodness is more than we could ask or imagine.

**All: Let us worship God.**

Hymn: *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* No. 288

\*Call to Confession

God’s goodness is generous and just— but we confess we do not always reflect it. Let us come before God, honestly and humbly, to lay down what has kept us from bearing the fruit of the Spirit. Let us pray together the prayer of confession.

\*Unison Prayer of Confession

**God of mercy, you call us to do good, to seek justice, and to love as you have loved us. But we confess: we have passed by those in need, we have chosen comfort over courage, and we have withheld goodness where it was most needed. We have failed to see you in the hungry, the lonely, the stranger, and the forgotten. Forgive us. Root us again in your Spirit, so that goodness may grow in us— not as performance, but as practice; not for praise, but for love. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.** (Silent Confession)

\*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: God says, *“I will make all my goodness pass before you.”* And in Christ, we have seen that goodness face to face. When we feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, or clothe the cold, we meet Jesus himself—and he meets us with mercy. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new. Thanks be to God. 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

Leader: Peace be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Anthem: *A Clean Heart* B. Harlan

**HEARING GOD’S WORD**

Hymn: *Jesus Loves Me!*

Children’s Story Time

Old Testament: *Exodus 33:19*

And the Lord said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.”

New Testament: *Galatians 5:22-23*

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 25:31-40*

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne.All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Then the King will say to those on his right, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?”

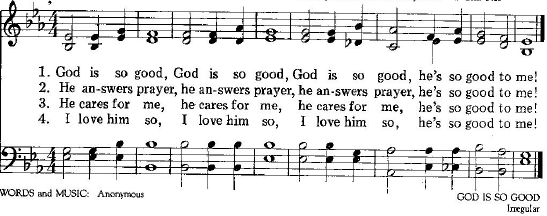
The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord!

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Rev. Dr. Laura Strauss

Hymn: *God Is So Good* Anonymous



**RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

**Affirmation of Faith:** *The Scots Confession, 3.01-3.02*

**We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.** **By whom we confess and believe all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible, to have been created, to be retained in their being, and to be ruled and guided by his inscrutable providence for such end as his eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice have appointed, and to the manifestation of his own glory.**

Joys, Concerns, & Testimonies

Prayers of the People & 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: *Behold the Goodness of the Lord* No. 241

\*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.

\*Benediction Response: *Go Walk with God* (Tune: Though I May Speak) C.W. Gillette

**Go walk with God in all you do,**

**And may God’s love bring joy to you.**

**May gifts of peace fill all your days.**

**And may God’s truth guide you always.**

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\*Postlude

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

**\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \***

**Chancel Flowers** were given by Rosalie Pillitteri in memory of her mother, Rose, and her brother, Pat, and Karen & David Heim in memory of Conrad Hale.

**Happy Anniversary** to Tim & Jill Fako (21st) and Don & Christa Jo Tang (22nd).

**Happy Birthday** to Lily Weidensall (22nd), Amelia May Yates (22nd) and David Arnold (25th).

**Deacon Greeter(s)/Flower Deliveries Made By:** Amy Riley & Carol Noonan

**Most Needed Items for SHIM**: Dried beans, lentils, pasta sauce in jars, cereal & oatmeal, soup, condiments, spices, adult diapers, baby diapers (size 4-6), dog and cat food, and personal care items.

**SHIM Clothing Closet**: Accepting donations of clothes (in season), shoes, and linens (no large household items). Located at the Church of Nazarene (5601 Library Road). Drop-off hours: Mondays 10:00 am until 1:00 pm. *If you are not able to deliver your donations during their hours, you can leave them in the closet outside of Findley Hall and a Mission Commission member will deliver them for you.*

**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.

**Scheduling a Meeting with Pastor Laura**: If you would like to meet with Pastor Laura to discuss a matter that is **not** a medical or pastoral care emergency, please reach out to her. You can contact her via email at revlaurastrauss@gmail.com or by calling the church office at (412) 561-6261 to schedule a meeting. Dropping in to say “hi” is always appreciated, but scheduling a meeting ensures that Pastor Laura can dedicate the necessary time to your discussion if needed.

**PRAYER LIST**

**Prayer Circle –** Terry & Lisa Dawson

**September –** Jett Owsley & Family, Baby Calliope & Family, Dee Schlueter, Harriet Ross, Cookie Bruschi, Kara Yates, Carol Yessick (Carla Robinson’s sister), Tanya Bennett (Harriet Rickard’s niece), and all those facing illegal and unethical deportation.

**Ongoing** –Ron Sumner; Nancy Brumfield; Mya Kelly; Joanna; Becca; our mission co-workers at the U.S.-Mexico border, the Rev. Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado Escobar and their children, Cindy, Anna Flor, and Nathan; our sister church in Malawi, Africa, Litchenza CCAP; our WorldVision child, Pabatso Makhalanyane; and all those who are affected by natural disasters.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **Today - New Members Luncheon:** All those interested in joining Sunset Hills Church are invited to join Pastor Laura and existing church members for a luncheon on Sunday, September 21st after worship. Please RSVP by September 14 with any dietary restrictions. All are welcome!
* **Celebrate *Mother Natured* by Brienne Sembrat:** Join us on Sunday, September 28 following worship for a reading from long-time church member Brienne Sembrat's new book, *Mother Natured: Poems and Images of Presence, Wonder, and Gratitude.* Refreshments will be provided by the Christian Education Commission.
* **Fall Immunization Clinic:** Mark your calendars to get your Flu, Covid-19, and Pneumococcal vaccinations on October 26th after worship.

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**Welcome to Sunset Hills United**

**Presbyterian Church**

Phone: 412-561-6261

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

900 Country Club Dr. Pittsburgh, PA 15228

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**CHURCH CALENDAR**

**Sun, Sep 21**

**9:00 am Adult Sunday School – Findley**

**9:00 am Children’s Sunday School**

**10:15 am Worship – Sanctuary**

**10:45 am Children’s Church**

**11:30 am New Members Luncheon**

**4:00 pm AA – Findley Hall**

**Tues, Sep 23**

**12:30 pm Tuesday Bible Study – Cort Room**

**6:30 pm Campanile Bell – Choir Room**

**7:00 pm Square Dance Class – Crystal**

**7:00 pm Counseling Group – Rm. 6**

**7:30 pm Chancel Choir – Choir Room**

**Wed, Sep 24**

**10:00 am Days for Girls**

**4:00 pm Quilters**

**Thurs, Sep 25**

**10:00 am Quilters**

**7:00 pm Yoga – Crystal Hall**

**Fri, Sep 27**

**5:00 pm AA – Crystal Hall**

**Sun, Sep 28**

**9:00 am Adult Sunday School – Findley**

**9:00 am Children’s Sunday School**

**10:15 am Worship – Sanctuary**

**10:45 am Children’s Church**

**11:30 am Brienne Sembrat Book Reading**

**4:00 pm AA – Findley Hall**