

**ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

139 N. 4th Street  
Emmaus, Pennsylvania

July 26, 2009

**Eight Sunday after Pentecost**

**9:15 AM**

***The People of God Gather For Worship***

Thought for Meditation: *"The mind is its own place, and in itself can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven"*

- John Milton

Prelude

*...All May Stand...*

Processional Hymn: *"We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God"*

#64

*...Please Be Seated...*

Welcome and Announcements

*...All May Stand...*

Passing of the Peace

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Solemn Declaration:

Call to Worship:

*Leader:* This is the hour to bend our knee before God.  
This is a time to offer our best to our Creator.

**People: We gather before God, who sees all our deeds.  
We open our hearts to One who knows all our thoughts.**

*Leader:* Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God."  
We come together proclaiming, "God is with us!"

**People: We come to be strengthened in our inner being.  
We seek to pattern our actions after Christ Jesus.**

*Leader:* God's presence evokes our joyous worship.  
The Holy Spirit empowers our service.

**People: To God be highest glory in the church.  
To God be endless adoration in the world.**

***The People of God Confess Their Sins***

Act of Confession:

*Leader:* Let us confess our sins unto God and one another.

**All: O God, you know our secret hearts. You are aware of our distortions, our jealousies, our lust. You observe our unfaithfulness, our treachery, our unwarranted fears. We are corrupted by greed, self-indulgence, and the desire to be entertained. We do not take responsibility for our misconduct, our abuse of power, our lack of trust in you. We have little sense of vision to see beyond immediate circumstances or to embrace new possibilities. We miss the signs of your grace and resist the empowerment of your Spirit. Mighty God, still the storms within us with your transforming peace and boundless forgiveness, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Silent Confession:

Kyrie:

*Leader:* Lord, have mercy upon us.

**People: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

*Leader:* Christ, have mercy upon us.

**People: Christ, have mercy upon us.**

*Leader:* Lord, have mercy upon us.

**People: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Assurance of Forgiveness:

*Leader:* All who truly repent can know the love of Christ that surpasses human knowledge.

**People: We are rescued, delivered and restored to fullness of life in God, our Creator. We are being rooted and grounded in love that we, in turn, might show love to others. We are invited to join the saints in realizing ever fuller dimensions of life centered in faith and trust.**

Sung 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.**

*...Please Be Seated...*

### *The People of God Share the Word of God*

A Time to Pass Our Faith onto Our Children

The Holy Scripture:

Old Testament Lesson: 2 Samuel 11:1-15 Page 248

Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 3:14-21 Page 950

Gospel Lesson: John 6:1-21 Page 867

*If you would like to follow the readings, the Bibles are under the hymnal rack.*

Sermon: "Strengthened" Rev. Dr. Paul W. Knappenberger  
*...All May Stand...*

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hades;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God  
the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn: "How Like a Gentle Spirit" #69  
*...Please Be Seated...*

### *The People of God Pray*

Celebrations of Joy and Moments of Concern

Prayer Vesicle:

*Pastor:* The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*Pastor:* Let us pray.

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Prayer

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, for ever.**

**Amen.**

Prayer Response: "I Am the Light of the World!" #469

**I am the light of the world!**

**You people come and follow me!**

**If you follow and love**

**you'll learn the mystery**

**of what you were meant to do and be.**

### *Sharing our Tithes and Offerings*

Offering Invitation:

The Offering

The Offertory

*...All May Stand...*

The Offertory Response: "Doxology" #46

**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.**

Prayer of Dedication and Commitment

## *The People of God Go Forth In Mission*

Commission and Blessing:

*Leader:* Go out to share what you have received.  
God will multiply the gifts that you give away.

**People:** **We will turn away from fears of scarcity.**  
**We will celebrate and share our abundance.**

*Leader:* God meets you amid the storms of life.  
God goes with you through the terrors of the night.

**People:** **We are embraced by God's steadfast love.**  
**We will look up and not be afraid.**

*Leader:* May Christ dwell in your thoughts through faith.  
May the Holy Spirit strengthen your inner being.

**People:** **To God be glory in the church forever.**  
**May Christ be honored in all we say and do.**

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Recessional Hymn: *"Lift High the Cross"*

#108

Silent Moment

Postlude

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### **Welcome**

May no one feel lonely or rejected here. We gladly welcome everyone.  
May all find love and comfort as we worship Jesus, our Savior and King.

### **Preparation for Worship**

We come hungry and thirsty for your Word, O Lord. Feed us, and then we shall be satisfied.

### **Stewardship Moment**

Time Out!

"To observe the Sabbath means to call 'Time Out!' This day of rest is to re-create that which has been expended during the week. The Sabbath allows us to receive the strength God supplies so we can continue to produce wealth, while keeping wealth in proper perspective." [*Partners with God*, Bobby L. Eklund and Terry Austin]

## **TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

**9:15 AM**

*Acolytes:* Shania Koehler, Abigail Lyons  
*Lay Reader:* Lauren Stenroos  
*Greeters:* Betty DeVries, Dolores Fioriglio, Bonnie Keck  
*Ushers:* Tom Capehart, Matthew Beck, Richard Miller, Glenn Shingler  
*Sound System:* Chris Koehler  
*Tape Ministry:* Floyd and Doris Schmoyer  
*Flower Delivery:* Ed Rohrbach  
*Nursery:* Angie Karol, Heather Gross  
*Hospitality:* Aaron and Lisa Weida

## **CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Paul W. Knappenberger, Senior Pastor, [pstrpaul@ptd.net](mailto:pstrpaul@ptd.net)  
Rev. Curt Sandrock, Assisting Pastor  
Patrice DiCarne, Minister of Music  
Colleen Bernini, Administrative Secretary  
Diane Ritter, Financial Secretary, [dedemarit@juno.com](mailto:dedemarit@juno.com)  
Pat Dillman, Director of Christian Education  
Keith Draves, Youth Group Advisor  
Cheryl Clauser, Sexton  
Church Office Hours: 8:30 to 11:30 & 12:30 to 3:30  
Phone Number: 610.965.9158....Fax Number: 610.967.5380  
Email: [stjohnsucc@enter.net](mailto:stjohnsucc@enter.net)  
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God is still speaking,

*The Integrity of God's Creation*

*One reason we pay so little close attention to the separate natural world around us is that it has always been there and we presumed it always would. As it disappears, its primal importance will be clear—in the same way that some people think they have put their parents out of their lives and learn differently only when the day comes to bury them. — Bill McKibben*

Science and religion have often been at odds. But today we must forge a new alliance of these former adversaries around the urgent issue of global warming.

Scientists can measure the destructive effect of human behavior on climate—as they have repeatedly done in recent years. But science cannot motivate people to change their harmful ways. It takes a passionate faith to move people in new directions—and only religion can provide that.

The idea that taking care of the environment is a religious duty is hardly new. In the beginning, according to the Book of Genesis, God placed humanity in charge of creation. But, by and large, God's people have not been good stewards of God's creation.

It is up to us as people of faith to pledge our assistance to the leaders in religion and science who are calling for public policies to reduce climate change while there is still time to make a significant difference, and to encourage the lawmakers who are working to make global stewardship the law of the land.

**ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR**

**Sunday, July 26**

9:15 am

Worship

9:15 am

Children's Sunday school

**Monday, June 27**

7:00 pm

Mission Committee (Parlor)

**Tuesday, June 28**

9:00 am

Quilts for Kids

**Saturday, August 1**

8:30 am

AA

8:30 am

Al Anon

**Sunday, August 2**

9:15 am

Worship/Holy Communion

9:15 am

Children's Sunday school

A Prayer for our Church

Lord Jesus, we pray that you will somehow give us ears to hear, hearts to love and wills devoted to serve; that in the days to come this congregation may be known not for our glory but for thine alone - a congregation of people who know you; that this place may be an oasis, a place where people come to find out about you, where lives are straightened out and made whole, where people find the peace that passes understanding.

Give us, we pray, a heart to desire these things above all else. We pray through Jesus Christ. Amen.



## ***ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST***

**139 North Fourth Street, Emmaus, Pennsylvania**

Rev. Dr. Paul W. Knappenberger, Senior Pastor, [pstpaul@stjohnsuccemmaus.org](mailto:pstpaul@stjohnsuccemmaus.org)

Rev. Curt Sandrock, Assisting Pastor

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### ***Church Announcements for Sunday, June 26, 2011***

#### **June Mission**

Our June Mission will again be the Bethel Bible Fellowship Church's Food Pantry – "Plus". We will be collecting food for families with children that are on summer vacation who no longer have the school providing food. Extra food is need at the pantry during these months. We hope you will find it in your heart to pick up one or two items when you do you grocery shopping. Suggestions are in the envelopes on the poster located in the narthex.

#### **Re-Creation USA**

Re-Creation USA conducted the worship service for us on Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. We had approximately 240 in attendance, which was an outstanding attendance for the third Sunday of June! Thanks to everyone who assisted in the planning and to the congregation who supported Re-Creation by your generous donations through the patron list and the free-will offering. The members contributed \$630.00 to the patron list and gave \$1,232.85 through the free-will offering. Our cost for food for the group was \$298.50. This allowed us to send a check from the Mission program to Re-creation for \$1,564.35.

#### **Opera Arias in Emmaus**

Hillhouse Opera Company presents an afternoon of opera arias with Victoria Leigh Gardner, soprano and Nicholas Roehler, piano, on Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm here at St. John's. Free with suggested donation of \$10 per person. Proceeds go the Hillhouse Opera Company, which Gardner founded in 2008. For more information and advanced seating, email to [hillhouseoperacompany@gmail.com](mailto:hillhouseoperacompany@gmail.com) or to <http://www.hillhouseoperacompany.org>

#### **Acolytes Needed**

If your child is entering 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade this fall and is interested in serving as an acolyte, please contact the church office. The acolyte job is a very important one in our church. The acolyte lights the altar candles of the church signifying that the worship service is to begin, and the acolyte occasionally assists the pastor in various parts of the worship service. Please call the church office to sign up. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with Pastor Paul.

#### **Summer Sunday School**

Summer Sunday school is cancelled. Our Sunday school teachers and assistants work hard all year providing weekly lessons to the children of St. John's. We are grateful for their dedication and we respect their need to be off during the summer months. Though we've tried to recruit a summer Sunday school teaching staff of adults and teens, we find we are living in busier times and fewer people are able to help. Therefore, we will not be having summer Sunday school classes, but we do encourage you to take this time to worship together with your children for the summer worship hour. We look forward to seeing everyone at Rally Day on September 11<sup>th</sup> for a new season of "Spiritual Formation" when Sunday school returns to its regular hours.

### **Dehumidifier Needed**

Do you have a used dehumidifier you no longer use? There is a family in desperate need of one for a two-year old bed-ridden child's bedroom but the family cannot afford to buy a new one. If you are willing to donate yours, please call the church office. It must be in good working order please.

### **Confidentiality**

It is important that we honor the rights to privacy of medical information for our St. John's members. If someone in the congregation shares a prayer concern, a medical issue, or hospitalization information with you, **please ask their permission** before sharing that information with the pastors, Undershepherd Ministry, Prayer Tree or church office, or for announcement in worship. If you are hospitalized or are sharing any prayer concerns, the pastors will ask your permission before disclosing information to anyone beyond the pastoral staff.

### **White Rose**

The White Rose placed on the altar this morning is in memory of **Mary Hillegass** who passed away on June 15. We offer our prayers and support for her family and friends.

### **Church Hospital Code Number is 466!**

The pastors visit our hospitalized members. If you, or a member of your family enters the hospital, please ask the hospital to place the patient's name on church code #466, St. John's UCC, Emmaus or call the church office to inform us at 610-965-9158.

### **Monthly Food Collection**

Please remember that next Sunday is the first Sunday in the new month – time to bring in food donations for the monthly food collection for the local food bank located at Bethel Bible Fellowship Church. Items most needed: cereal, peanut butter & jelly, tuna, pasta, rice, canned meats and stews, canned vegetables & fruit, soup, canned milk & spaghetti sauce. Place your donations in the designated baskets in the narthex.

### **Gemeinde Platz**

Thank you this weeks' Gemeinde Platz sponsors – the Mission Committee. Sponsors are needed for July 3<sup>rd</sup>. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board near the Fourth Street entrance.

### **Greeting Cards**

The Undershepherd Ministries give us the opportunity to sign greeting cards for folks on our Home Visitation List, for members of the congregation who need a lift, or just to say "hello". All cards are in the Narthex. Please take a minute to sign the cards and send these folks our Christian greetings. Today we are signing cards for:

**Alisa Aldinger, Louise McEllory, Flossie Walls, George Scholl**

**The Altar Flowers** are in honor of the marriage of Tricia-Lee Lyons to Robert Allen Ford on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Church Attendance** – Sunday, June 19, 2011: 9:15 AM – 240

### **Income Report for Sunday, June 19, 2011:**

Mortgage Account (BOFFT, Building Blocks, Building Fund) – \$1,292.00  
General Fund - \$4,138.00