

The Homer Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

September 11, 2016

17th Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am Worship



Gathered on the Green in 1801- Still Gathered Doing God's Mission

Worship Service
Participants

Ushers and Greeters

Worship Leader
Joanne Cincotta

Liturgist
Kurt Schmidt

Acolytes
Caiomhe Dudgeon,
Ruairi Dudgeon

Flowers

Nursery Volunteer
Phil Zollweg

Fellowship

Attendance
September 4: 45

Our giving 9/4/16:

Operations - \$950.50
Missions - \$109.00

Life in the Parish
Week of September 11

SUNDAY – September 11
9:30 am Pancake Breakfast
10:30 am – Worship
Rally Day

MONDAY – September 12
7:30 pm – Al-Anon meets

TUESDAY – September 13
2:00 pm – Senior Fellowship
4:30 pm Pastor Relations meet
6:30 pm Deacons meet
7:00 pm – Homer Brass rehearsal

WEDNESDAY – September 14
6:00 pm – Worship & Music Cmt
7:00 pm – Choir rehearsal

THURSDAY – September 15
Newsletter Deadline
12:00 pm – Bible Study Group

FRIDAY – September 16
Office Closed

SUNDAY – September 18
9:15am The Well
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am – Worship

THE PEOPLE OF GOD GATHER

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come! Come, all you who are seeking God.
Come! Enter into this place and discover that
God is seeking us!

**All: We rejoice to have God find us here,
as we come seeking!**

One: Come! Come in and experience God's joy.

All: Here we worship, and meet God!

*HYMN # 294

Here We Gather as God's People

*OPENING PRAYER (*let us pray together . . .*)

One: In you, gracious God, the widowed find a carer,
the orphaned find a parent, the fearful find a friend.

**All: In you, the wounded find a healer,
the penitent find a pardoner,
the burdened find a counselor.
In you, the miserly find a beggar,
the despondent find a laughter-maker,
the legalists find a rule-breaker.**

One: In you, Jesus Christ,
we meet our Maker, and our match.

All: And if some need to say, "Help me"

One: and if some need to say, "Save me"

All: and if some need to say, "Hold me"

One: and if some need to say "Forgive me"

All: then let these be said now, in confidence, by us.

A moment of silence . . .

*WORDS OF GOD'S ENDURING LOVE

One: My friends, when we are lost, God seeks us.

God is seeking us now, ready to turn our lives around,

Let us rejoice in God's mercy and forgiveness!

All: Amen.

*MUSICAL RESPONSE

We Are Forgiven

The musical score is written on three staves in G major and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. Chords are indicated above the staff.

Chords: G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, Dsus, D, G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, D, G

Lyrics:
We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to
God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.
We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

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LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture

New Testament

1 Timothy 1:12-17

NT pg. 208

Gospel

Luke 15:1-10

NT pg. 78

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

(Children may go to nursery following Children's Moment.)

Celebration of Shared Ministry

Congregational Prayer:

O God, you have created us as those who mature from infancy, through childhood and adolescence into adulthood. Today we celebrate that growth. We lift up all who move this day into new classes for learning and spiritual growth. We pray for all who teach our children, youth, and adults. Keep us ever mindful of the promise we make as a community of faith, that each time a wanderer, wonderer, doubter, worshiper, and believer comes seeking, we will assist them to grow in knowledge, in spiritual practices, and in living as disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

***HYMN**

We thank you, God for Teachers

Tune: Ellacombe "I Sing the mighty power of God"

**We thank you, God, for teachers
Who help us learn your Way,
Who show by their example,
How we can serve and pray,
Who find great joy in worship,
Who listen with concern;
For in their loving witness,
They help us want to learn.**

**We thank you, God, for children,
And older people, too,
Who value times of learning,
And want to grow in you,
Who seek your precious kingdom
And wisdom from above;
For wise ones of all ages
Still seek to learn your love.**

**We thank you, God, for families,
Of every kind and size,
Who keep the vows they spoke when
Their children were baptized,
Who pray and read the Bible,
Who love and serve the poor;
They teach, by what they value,
The way of Christ our Lord.**

**We thank you, God, for churches
That welcome one and all,
That nurture every person,
In answer to Christ's call.
So fill us with your Spirit,
And give us life anew,
That we may help each other,
Live faithfully in you.**

(Text: Copyright © 1999 by Carolyn W. Gillette. *Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship* by C. W. Gillette (Geneva Press, 2000).)

SERMON

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

The Lord's Prayer (*in unison*)

**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.**

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

**MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP
OFFERING**

Kurt Schmidt
Sing To The Lord a New Song
Composers: David and Jean Perry

***Musical Response**

For the Life You Have Given

For the life that you have giv - en, for the love in

Christ made known, with these fruits of time and la - bor, with these

gifts that are your own: here we of - fer, Lord, our prais - es;

heart and mind and strength we bring; give us grace to

love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing.

(Words by Carl P. Daw Jr., 1987. Music: Leavitt's Christina Lyre, 1830/31. Text ©1990 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net, License # A-725159.)

***Prayer of Dedication** (*let us pray together . . .*)

Generous God, we have received from you more than our share of blessings. We thank you. Now increase and multiply our gifts that others may feast of your goodness through our witness. Amen

***HYMN # 614**

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune

Young

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Luke 15:1-10

15Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” ³So he told them this parable: ⁴“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ⁸“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

NOTES AND NOTICES

The **Senior Fellowship Club** will resume its meetings this Tuesday at 2:00 pm, in the Russell Fellowship Room. Our own **Bill Hopkins** will be the special guest speaker. Bill has been working for five years with and on behalf of people with dementia issues (mostly Alzheimer's), along with their care partners. He has developed Cortland's Memory Café, a respite and tonic for people with memory issues and their care partners. Bill also is the facilitator for an Alzheimer's support group at Walden Place and recently joined the Hospice board in Cortland.

Next Sunday, **Marjorie Purnine** will be our guest preacher. She is the Associate Conference Ministry for Leadership. She provides staff support as well as search and call assistance to local church search committees. In addition she oversees the administration of the New York School of the New York Conference. She is also the liaison between the New York School of Ministry and MESA (Ministerial Excellence, Support, and Authorization Ministry Team).

Walk to End Alzheimer's: Please consider either walking with us on October 1st, at Long Branch Park in Syracuse, making an individual donation, or giving to one of our teams, Little York Walkers (Dora and Becky Jones), or Team Brave Dave (Bonnie Smith and her family) towards this worthy goal of working to end Alzheimer's. You can access the web site at www.alz.org and then search for **Walk to End Alzheimer's**. Any participation or donation is very much appreciated. Thank you. -Becky Jones

Sunday School will begin next Sunday, Sept. 18 at 9:30 am.

PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Pastor Search Committee has completed the local church profile. A copy is available in the Church office for members of the congregation to read. Please stop by during office hours to view it.

CHILD CARE

Volunteers are needed in our nursery to ensure two adults are always present with our children. If you would be willing to volunteer please contact Rachel Ditch. In addition, we are seeking to hire a second Child Care person. The position description is on our web site.

<http://www.homercc.com/hiring>.

COMMUNICATION

Would you like to save postage and paper by having your newsletters sent electronically? Please complete our newsletter survey, if you haven't already. An electronic version is available on our website. If you need another paper copy, they are available in the RFR. Please complete and return to the office by September 18. Thank you.

OPPORTUNITY

The Drew Theological School Fall 2016 webinar:

Confronting White Privilege in Our Mission for Justice, led by Katey Zeh and Bill Medford. will be presented at Tully United Community Church, 5872 Meetinghouse Rd. Tully, NY; Wednesdays, Sept. 14, 21, 28 and Oct. 5 @3:00-4:30pm. The Tully viewings will be hosted by Rev. Doug Mackey.

This four-part series will discuss what the missional engagement of the church looks like in a highly racialized context on both a national and a local level.

Church Staff and Music Ministry

Rev. Dr. Kathleen Waters, Interim Minister
Rachel Ditch, Director of Christian Education
Joseph Ford, Director of Music
James N. Shultes, Organist
Jan Jeffers, Chapel Bells
Gary Harrington, Sexton
Sheila Shea, Church Administrator

Church Office Hours:
Mondays through Thursdays, 9am-Noon, closed Fridays.

Pastor Kathleen's time in the office varies each week, but she is available to visit those with special needs or to meet for any other reason. Please feel free to contact her via email: pastor@homercc.org or via her cell phone: (315) 380-0774

HCC website - homercc.com
Follow Homer Congregational Church on facebook!
To receive our mid-week email, *Weekday Words*,
please email the office,

The most recent newsletter is available at sanctuary entrances.

Welcome - We are glad that you have chosen to join us for worship this morning. If you would like additional information about HCC please speak to the pastor or worship leader and plan to join us for refreshments and community time after the service.

Children - We believe children of all ages have a place in worship and in the life of the church. A children's bulletin and "Busy Bags" are available at the entrance to the sanctuary. Nursery care is available.

Prayer request sheets are placed at each entrance. Prayers will be offered later in today's service.

Accessibility - Individual listening headsets are available to provide hearing assistance to any in need. Contact one of the ushers for help.

Miss a Sunday and want to review the bulletin? You can find weekly bulletins at our website: <http://www.homercc.com/resources/>. Share with a friend.