

The Homer Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

September 4, 2016

16th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am Worship



Holy Communion

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

Worship Service
Participants

Ushers and Greeters

Worship Leader
Joanne Cincotta

Liturgist
Gary Harrington

Acolytes
Sophia Wright, Kyle Wright

Flowers

Nursery Volunteer
Cindy Stout

Attendance
August 28: 45

Fellowship
The Edlund Family,
Betty MacNeil

Our giving 8/28/16:

Operations - \$1476.50
Missions - \$204.00

Life in the Parish
Week of September 4

SUNDAY – September 4
9:30 am – Worship
Holy Communion

MONDAY – September 5
Office Closed
7:30 pm – AI-Anon meets

TUESDAY – September 6
2:00 pm – Bridge group
7:00 pm – Homer Brass
rehearsal

WEDNESDAY – September 7
7:00 pm – Choir rehearsal

THURSDAY – September 8
12:00 pm – Bible Study Group

FRIDAY – September 9
Office Closed

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

Childcare staff needed
We are seeking to hire a second
Child Care person. The
position description is on our
web site.

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

Service of Worship

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 4, 2016

9:30 am

*Welcome to this service of Worship and Holy Communion.
The Lord's Table is open to all who come seeking the
presence and peace of Christ. The cup contains
unfermented juice, and we serve gluten-free bread.*

*those who are able, please stand.

GATHER AND PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING MUSIC

THE PEOPLE OF GOD GATHER

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

Worker God, whose hands built the earth, molded our bodies, and sowed the stars across the sky, we gather in your presence this morning with praise and thanksgiving for your mighty deeds. Meet us here, strengthen our hearts and our hands to work with you in the building of justice and peace. Amen

*HYMN # 22

All Creatures of Our God And King

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*let us pray together . . .*)

Side A: We are workers, God, just like you. But we confess that our work is not always done in a manner that affirms and honors each other.

Side B: We confess that, on some occasions, we have blindly bought goods made by people who are paid too little or work in unsafe conditions.

Side A: We admit that we have failed to end an unjust system in which some workers have jobs that provide good wages and benefits while other may have no job, or one that pays little and provides few benefits.

Side B: Creator God, help us to be your people, working for a world where all workers are valued.

Side A: Help us to build a world where those who clean houses are also able to buy houses to live in.

Side B: Help us to build a world where those who grow food can also afford to eat their fill. And one where those who serve us – in stores, schools, hotels, restaurants, nursing homes, and other places – are also served by us.

Side A: Help us to build a world where all workers everywhere share in the abundance that you have given us.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Our God is a God of grace and transformation.
When we ask, God will give us the courage and strength to live out our faith in the workplace and marketplace, as well as in the sanctuary.

*MUSICAL RESPONSE

Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Alleluia response. The first staff has a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 6/8 time signature. The melody is written on a five-line staff. Above the staff, the chords A, E, D E A, and D E are indicated. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!' are written below the staff. The second staff is identical to the first, but with the chord Bm indicated above the second measure. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!' are also written below the staff.

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LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Psalter

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 OT pg. 577

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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

SINGING HYMNS OF PRAISE

33 *How Great Thou Art*

546 *Amazing Grace*

561 *It Is Well With My Soul*

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

OFFERING

Invitation

(Loose offerings will be used by the Board of Deacons to further our mission and outreach.)

***Doxology** (*page 49 in hymnal*) *LASST UNS ERFREUEN*

From all that dwell below the skies

Let the Creator's praise arise:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let the Redeemer's name be sung

Through every land, in every tongue.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

May we who are rich with your blessings, share them in common with those who have so little. May our gifts be used to sow justice, to feed the hungry, and to bring relief to those afflicted in so many ways. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

***HYMN # 386**

We Come as Guests Invited

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

One: God be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

One: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Give thanks to God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: We thank you, O God, for those who have walked before us the path of faith, for those who have touched our hearts with your love. We praise you that in Jesus the Christ you knit us together as one body with your witnesses in ages past and with those who are yet to be born. We bless you for the gift of your Spirit which guides us, refreshes us, and renews us for the journey of life, calling us to be salt for the earth and light for the world.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

One: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover, the festival of remembrance. Jesus took bread and the cup, and after giving thanks to you, gave it to the disciples, saying: "Take and eat. Take and drink. Do this in remembrance of me."

All: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table, that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all the world.

One: Bring us together with all your saints from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and loves with you and the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever.

All: Amen.

One: Remember now those for whom we pray . . .

The Lord's Prayer (*Let us pray together.*)

**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.**

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*Let us pray together.*)

**Eternal God, you have called your people from east and
west and north and south to feast at this table. We thank
you for your presence and for the spiritual food of
Christ's body and blood. Go with us now and may we be
the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name
we rejoice and pray. Amen.**

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

**One: God makes peace within us. Let us claim it.
God makes peace between us. Let us share it.
Let us greet one another as a sign of God's peace.
The peace of God is here . . . to stay.**

GOD'S PEOPLE DEPART TO SERVE

***HYMN**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

SINGING OUR LIVES

“What is the point of hymns? Hymns are not written or sung to make or prove a point, but to give voice to the praise of Almighty God. The psalms have lasted so long and so well as hymns for Christian people because they have been perceived as nothing but the overflow of loving trust and commitment.They were never conceived as individual expressions of religious feeling; they gave voice to the beliefs and emotions of a community. They were a witness to what provided for that community its coherence and direction, its orientation towards the reality of God and God's action in history.... Many psalms, although designed for corporate worship, express personal lamentation - sometimes over the fate of Israel, sometimes over the disease or misery of the singer. A hymn may also be an attempt to put the experience of failure, guilt or suffering within the context of God's whole action. By reciting such words, I allow myself to see my experiences in a new way; I learn to love and trust God not in general but in particular - in the particular circumstances of the community's suffering or the individual's stress....

Christian song exists in part to give a map of the landscape of faith. It sets out the direction in which all believing life is going - towards God; so it needs to find vivid and forceful language to express why the journey is worthwhile and why those on the journey are passionately committed to it. And it also sets out how varied the journey will be, what different views will open up as time goes on; how the sky may be completely dark at some points, even when we are still moving forward and feel uncertain as to whether we are making any progress. The work of Christian song as a shared labor in the Church is always to help us see ourselves in such a landscape; to see both the obstacles and problems in the way and the breaks in the clouds which remind us where we are going....”

From “The Landscape of Faith,” a lecture by Archbishop Rowan Williams (Archbishop of Wales) delivered at the National Eisteddfod, Denbigh, North Wales, August 8, 2001.

NOTES AND NOTICES

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Rally Day - Join us for a Pancake and Sausage Breakfast at 9:30 am on Sunday, September 11, to kick-off the Sunday School year, followed by worship back at 10:30 am. There will be a free will offering for breakfast. Registration for Sunday School will take place. We will also be registering children for nursery care, which is a new process this year. This will ensure that our volunteers and staff know more about your children, such as allergies, preferences, and emergency contact information. **Sunday School** will begin the following week, Sunday Sept. 18 at 9:30 am.

Change in worship time: Mark your calendars! Beginning September 11, we will return to our regular worship time of 10:30 am. For many who have been away for the summer we welcome you back and hope you will join us for this special Sunday. During our Sunday worship gathering we will recognize the beginning of our Sunday School Classes with the commissioning of our Sunday School teachers.

Choir rehearsals will resume this Wednesday, September 7 at 7pm.

The **Senior Fellowship Club** will resume its meetings on Tuesday, September 13, in the Russell Fellowship Room. Our own Bill Hopkins will be the special guest. Mark your calendars and we'll see you there.

UPDATE ON HOMER NURSERY SCHOOL

Words of thanks . . . "We would like to say thank you. Thank you for the new rugs in the Nursery School. They are very beautiful and change the whole look of the rooms. It looks wonderful. Thank you to those of you who have dropped off various toys to help us out. Thank you to those of you who helped empty the classrooms so that the rugs could go in. Thank you to Doris, Pete and Gary for helping us move everything back into classrooms. Your generous support means so much. Thank you all. Lisa Clark Sarah Bouwens, Nursery School staff.

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

Our child care coordinator, Carli Clementi, is returning to us this fall. CEM is putting together the nursery coverage schedule of volunteers to be in the nursery with Carli to ensure two adults are always present with our children. If you would be willing to volunteer for the nursery or as a substitute, please contact Rachel Ditch. With many volunteers, you may only do one or two Sundays a year! Young and old benefit from intergenerational interactions!

COMMUNICATION

The **September newsletter** is available at each entrance of the sanctuary. Would you like to save postage and paper by having this newsletter sent electronically? Please complete our newsletter survey, if you haven't already. An electronic version is available on our website: <http://homercc.com/resources>. If you need another paper copy, they are available in the Russell Fellowship Room. Please complete and return to the office by September 18. Thank you.

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

The Homer Avenue Methodist Church, located at 30 Homer Avenue in Cortland, is hosting the **Master's Touch Chorale** at 6:00 pm on September 11. This chorale is comprised of singers from various Christian denominations. There is no cost for the event, but a free will offering will be taken to help the group with expenses.

Women of Christian Faith of Cortland is an ecumenical group that regularly brings together Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox, and other Christian women of Cortland County to pray together and creatively and responsibly use the resources God has entrusted to us. There are approximately 8 meetings per year, held alternately at participating churches. The next meeting is Friday, September 9 at First Church of Christ Scientist, 9 Clinton Ave, Cortland. For more information, contact Cindy Hering at (607) 753-9917, Peggy Dennis at (607) 45658-42, or Mary Louise Congdon at (607) 753-0413.

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

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.