

# Longswamp United Church of Christ

October 1, 2023 ~ 10:15 AM

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Rev. Kimberly Berenotto, Pastor

Ann Mabry Miller, Organist

Ministry Partners: Will Miller- Head Usher

Charlene Rachor- Reader

George Family- Greeters

## World Communion Sunday

*\*Indicates to rise as you are able in body and spirit.*

### MUSIC PREPARES US FOR WORSHIP

*"That Beautiful Name"*

*"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"*

*"Like a River Glorious"*

*Camp  
Lemmel  
Mountain*

### RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Around the world people gather to break bread and pour wine.

**People: We gather with them in heart and mind.**

Leader: Around the world the broken body is made whole.

**People: As part of that body we join in its unity.**

Leader: Around the world the banquet of God is prepared for the table.

**People: We, who share in the banquet, come eagerly to be fed.**

Leader: Let us worship together, let us celebrate God's bounty.

**People: Let us recognize the Spirit that lives within God's people in every corner of this earth. Amen.**

\*HYMN

*Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*

#2

### CALL TO CONFESSION

### CONFESSION

**All: Merciful and forgiving God, we need a spirit of love and acceptance to flood into our lives this day. Though we celebrate World Communion Sunday with the giving of bread and wine, we still harbor anger against others. We act out of frustration rather than love. We hoard your gifts and only grudgingly share our**

**bounty. We find ways to turn our backs on you, claiming that other things are more important. Then, we come back to you, Lord, amid struggles and sorrows. Remind us that your love has always and will always be with us. Remind us of our call to be witnesses to the good things that can happen when we follow your ways. Help us to reach out across borders and oceans, across our fears and preconceived notions, to share the love of your Son with others. We ask these things in Jesus' Name. Amen.**

### MOMENT OF SILENCE

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God is ever faithful. God gives us courage and strength for the journey. God's mercies never end.

**People: Thanks be to God who has promised us grace, forgiveness, and new life in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### \*PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you**

### LOFT CHOIR ANTHEM

*"We Come As Guests Invited"*

*Hunnicut*

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Kids are then welcome to follow the teachers to Children's Church Sunday School classes.*

\*HYMN

*Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling*

#441

### SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 21:23-32

SERMON

*"What Authority? Who's Authority?"*

Pastor Kim

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Sacrament of Holy Communion*

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

### COMMUNION PRAYERS

Leader: God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to God.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: We lift our joys and thanksgiving for God who has been present in all times and places, making the love of Christ known in all corners of the world through many different meals and many different breads. Matzah is unleavened bread and reminds us of the Israelites who had to grab their bread quickly to escape Pharaoh. It symbolizes for us all the refugees who, like those ancient Israelites, leave their homes and flee from danger. May it remind us, too, of the homeless in our own community.

**People: We pray, O God, for your church among those with no place to call home. May we learn from their searching faith, and may we be a place of welcome for all who seek safety.**

Leader: Frybread reminds us of Africa, the birthplace of humankind where Christianity continues to flourish. It also reminds us of a legacy of slavery, and of a people who endured.

**People: We pray, O God, for your church in places where it flourishes, and we confess the times and places when we have been part of the oppression of others. May we learn from the vibrant faith of our African brothers and sisters, and may we build a more just and peaceable world.**

Leader: Sesame rice crackers from Thailand remind us of Asia, where Christians are a minority among other faiths. It represents for us the ways our faith calls us beyond our culture and reminds us of our brothers and sisters who are persecuted for their beliefs.

**People: We pray, O God, for your church in places where Christianity is dangerous, politically or socially. May we learn from the steadfast faith of our Asian brothers and sisters and walk with Jesus through every trial.**

Leader: Tortillas remind us of Central and South America, where faith and culture have colored one another beautifully; but also a place where Christians live with violence, drugs, and conflict as a daily reality.

**People: We pray, O God, for your church in places beset by violence and still colored by hope. May we learn from the persistent faith of our Latino brothers and Latina sisters, and may we look upon them with compassion as our neighbors.**

Leader: The baguette reminds us of Europe, with its vast cathedrals that are often empty. It represents those who keep the faith alive in lean times and reminds us that the church is not a building, but a community of people.

**People: We pray, O God, for your church in places where its power is diminished and its followers are few. May we learn from the age-old faith of our European brothers and sisters, and may we live our faith so that our faith might live.**

Leader: Cornbread reminds us of Native Americans who first recognized God in the rhythms of nature. It reminds us that the land we call home once belonged to others.

**People: We pray, O God, for your church as it exists in every land. May we learn from the earth-centered faith of our Native American brothers and sisters, and may we care for the land and all those who call it home.**

Leader: We praise you, Christ Jesus, for all the places you have nourished your people with the bread of life. So we lift our voices to sing to you with all the saints of God:

## SUNG RESPONSE

#768

*I come with Christians far and near, to find as all are fed!  
The new community of love in Christ's communion bread:  
In Christ's communion bread.*

## REMEMBERING THE STORY

Leader: On the night before Jesus died, he gathered his friends.....By eating this bread and drinking this cup we participate in the mystery of our faith:

**People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

### 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.

## SHARING THE MEAL

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All: You have met us at the table, Lord Jesus, to unite us with you and with our siblings in Christ around the world. Go with us now into that world, that we might be a living sign of welcome among refugees, of freedom among the oppressed, of hope amid persecution, of peace amid violence, of living faith amid a culture of skepticism, and of loving kindness toward the earth and all her inhabitants. Amen.

## CALL TO OFFERING

### OFFERING & MISSION MOMENT

#### \*DOXOLOGY

#809

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below  
Praise God above, you heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

#### \*OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: We are here, because of those around the world who passed on their faith to us. We are generous, because God has blessed us with gifts beyond imagination. We pass on these gifts, as well as hope and love, as we offer them toward God's work in the world. Amen.

**\*HYMN**

***Majesty, Worship His Majesty***

**#98**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING MUSIC**

*“Postlude”*

*Battmann*

*Portions of this service adapted from or inspired by:*

- *Re:Worship, Call to Worship: World Communion Sunday, by Rev. Gord*
- *Ministry Matters, Worship Connection, by Nancy C. Townley*
- *Lectionary Liturgies, by Thom M. Shuman*
- *Bread from the World: World Communion Liturgy, by Heather Prince Doss*

## **WELCOME TO LONGSWAMP UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!**

This is our Weekly Beacon- October 1<sup>st</sup>-7th, 2023

Thank you for joining us as we celebrate World Communion Sunday. Following today's service, join us in the preschool room for a fellowship snack. Also, don't forget to bring your pet back for the Blessing of the Animal service in the pavilion at 2pm this afternoon. Next week is Harvest Home Sunday as we kick off a month of collecting needed items for Friend Inc.

**Children are welcome at worship!** The noises of kids in worship are celebrated at Longswamp UCC. Elementary aged children are welcome to join the Children's Church program and younger kids are welcome in the nursery program, both running during worship after the children's message.

### **Sharing Our Faith**

**Fellowship time is back!** Directly following the 10:15am church services on the first Sunday of each month, we will have a fellowship time! This is a time in the Pre School/Sunday School Room to mingle and get to know your church family (and have some yummy snacks). We are in need of people to host fellowship for each first Sunday. If you're interested, please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex or let the Church office know! The first Fellowship is TODAY after church!

**Are you interested in joining Longswamp UCC?** We will be welcoming new members into our community in October-likely Sunday October 22nd. If you are interested in joining our church, please speak with Pastor Kim. There are info sheets available about membership in the Narthex.

**October 2023- Care Packages for our Lucc College Students-** Let's share God's love with our Lucc members who are furthering their education at a college/university/medical school. We

need your help in providing specific items for them. Mission offerings will be used to fill the care packages (plastic shoe boxes filled with different items) for our six Lucc members who are currently furthering their education. Please sign up on the clipboard in the narthex to donate a specific item or two for the care packages. Please turn in the items you're going to donate no later than Sunday, October 22, 2023.

**SAVE THE DATE: Homecoming Sunday. Sunday October 29th will be Homecoming Sunday-**a day to continue to celebrate our church's history and invite folks to “come home to Longswamp UCC”. **At 8:30 am the Confirmation Class will be having a special lesson on Longswamp UCC's history and anyone is welcome to attend. Worship is at 10:15 am and after church there will be a covered dish lunch and an intergenerational scavenger hunt in the cemetery.** We will also be inviting the confirmation class that was confirmed 50 years ago to join us for all the fun. We encourage you to invite family and friends to “come home to Longswamp” whether they are church members from the past or folks looking for a new church home!

**The memorial brick fundraiser is still running!** If you're interested in purchasing a brick, please fill out an order form that can be found in the narthex. If you have any questions, please speak to Leo or Maggie.

### **Teaching What We Believe**

**Children's Church:** All kids start in worship at 10:15 am and, after the Children's Message, follow the teachers to the Sunday School rooms for games, stories, crafts, and more. The elementary students meet in the large Preschool room right after the bathrooms, and the little ones meet in the Nursery Room down the hall. Kids are also welcome to stay in worship. We ask all parents to fill out permission forms for the new Sunday School year - available on our website or from Pastor Kim. If you want to help with Children's Church please contact Pastor Kim or sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

### **Acting on Jesus' Teachings**

**September 2023 - Local Mission for the benefit of the Food Pantry at Brandywine Heights Intermediate and Middle Schools - THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU** to everyone who very generously supported the food-insecure students in grades 4 - 8 by providing healthy grab-and-go snacks and/or mission offerings which were used to buy more food items. Please bring your donations to Lucc no later than Tuesday, October 3, 2023 if you'd still like to contribute to this very worthwhile mission. Once again, Lucc has done a GREAT JOB supporting the needy children of our community.

**October 2023 Local Mission- Food Drive for the benefit of our food-insecure neighbors- Sunday, October 8, 2023- Tuesday, October 31, 2023- 1)** Let's do a great job in kicking off our October 2023 local mission for the benefit of the **Food Pantries at Friend, Inc. Community Services** (outside of Kutztown) during our **Harvest Home** service on **Sunday, October 8, 2023**. Please drop off non-perishable food items for **Harvest Home** no later than Thursday, October 5, 2023, so the

Altar Guild will have time to decorate the sanctuary. 2) Please consider helping the residents of the three local school districts by donating non-perishable food (especially cereal, peanut butter, jelly, and soup); personal care items (shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, body wash, deodorant, etc.), paper products (paper towels, tissues, toilet tissue), cleaning products, and pet food (unopened bags or cans of pet food, pet treats, litter, or other pet supplies). Please see the "Acting on Jesus' Teachings" (Missions) section of our October 2023 newsletter for a more detailed list of the items on Friend, Inc.'s Pantry Wish List. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your continued support of our food-insecure community members.

**Trunk or Treat is coming!** Longswamp Learning Center is hosting their annual Trunk or Treat event on Friday October 20th from 6pm to 7pm (rain date Monday October 23rd). All church families are welcome to attend for fun, games, treats, and more! We will have a church table at the event and are looking for volunteers to hand out treats to the kids on behalf of the church. Anyone is welcome to decorate their own trunk for the event, too. Registration forms are in the Narthex and see Pastor Kim or Maggie with any questions.

### **Longswamp UCC Business**

**Hard copies of our monthly newsletter** are available on the table on the left side by the front door when leaving the sanctuary. Online copies are available on our website or email the office to be on the email list.

**If you're interested in sponsoring altar flowers and bulletins**, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

