

ST. STEPHEN REFORMED
249 E. Main St., New Holland, PA 17557
March 11, 2018 – 10:30 A.M.

*Indicates those able may stand

When the prelude begins please quiet your hearts in preparation for worship.

PIANO PRELUDE – Please remain seated and join in singing with the Worship Team

GATHERING “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” (Insert)
“O for a Thousand Tongues” Hymn #164

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Adapted from Psalm 149*)

ONE: Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,

ALL: His praise in the assembly of the godly!

ONE: Let Israel be glad in his Maker;

ALL: Let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!

ONE: For the LORD takes pleasure in his people;

ALL: He adorns the humble with salvation.

*OPENING HYMN “Come, Thou Almighty King” Hymn #101

*INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION (*Psalm 139:23-24*)

The psalmist models a transparent faith with these words: “Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.” We express our longing for God’s forgiveness by our own transparent confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, you said, “If you love me, you will obey what I command.” Forgive us for our lukewarm love and for our disobedience. Lord, you said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” We confess that our lives are often consumed by worry and anxiety. Lord, you said, “If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.” Forgive us for our barren lives. You said, “You must testify, for you have been with me.” We confess, Lord, that we have been too often silent. Lord, you said, “Love one another as I have loved you.” Forgive us for putting ourselves first. In these and in so many other ways, we confess our sins. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE “The 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.**

CHILDREN’S SONG (Children ages 4-8 may leave for Kingdom Kids)

Stop; and let me tell you, what the Lord has done for me,
Stop; and let me tell you, what the Lord has done for me,
He forgave my sins and He saved my soul,
He cleansed my heart and He made me whole,
Stop; and let me tell you, what the Lord has done for me.

Go; and tell the story, of the Christ of Calvary,
Go; and tell the story, of the Christ of Calvary.
He will forgive their sins, He will save their souls,
He will cleanse their hearts, He will make them whole,
Go; and tell the story of the Christ of Calvary.

MUSICAL OFFERING “Jesus, The Very Thought of Thee” E. Bairstow
St. Stephen Choir

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 21:1-4 page #880

SERMON “Genuine Generosity” Dr. Timothy Witmer

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (debts, debtors)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY “O Man, Bewail Thy Grievous Sin” J. S. Bach

*OFFERTORY 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.**

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*1 Chronicles 29:10-13*)

Praise be to you, Lord, the God of our father Israel. Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN “Lord, Thou Lov’st the Cheerful Giver” Hymn #434

*BENEDICTION (Pastor)

*CONGREGATION THREE-FOLD AMEN

*SILENT MEDITATION

*POSTLUDE Fugue in D major (BWV 532) J. S. Bach

(Should you be moved to respond to a musical offering, a hearty "Amen" is recommended)

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Ministers: The Congregation

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Timothy Witmer

Associate Pastor: Rev. Nathaniel Stamper

Elders: John Garner, Josh Irvine, Richard Miller & Mike Ressler

Deacons: Gene Eberly, Tom Frankhouser, Chuck Kidhardt & Ernie Orr

Organist Emeritus: A.J. Young

Organist and Choirmaster: Douglas Wimer

Music Leader: Rev. Dr. Stuart Sacks

Children’s Ministry Director: Faith Titus

Ushers: Tom Frankhouser, Chuck Kidhardt, Stuart Bossler & Steve Shannon

Greeters: Chuck & Carolyn Nemeč

Altar Guild: Raymell Houck

Counting Team: Donna Burkholder & Dot Koble

Sexton: Jill Wilson

Bookkeeper: Charlene Good

Administrative Assistant: Anita Witmer

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ORGAN PRELUDE

“Allein Gott in der Hoh’ sei Ehr” (BWV 663)
(To God alone on high be glory)

J. S. Bach

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PRAYER FOR MERCY (Kyrie) “Lord Have Mercy upon Us”

ONE: Lord, have mercy upon us.
ALL: Lord, have mercy upon us.
ONE: Christ, have mercy upon us.
ALL: Christ, have mercy upon us.
ONE: Lord, have mercy upon us.
ALL: Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

“The Gloria Patri”

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and to the Holy Ghost;
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St. Stephen Choir

E. Bairstow

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 21:1-4

page #880

SERMON

“Genuine Generosity”

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