



Service for the Lord's Day

15th Sunday after Pentecost – Blessing of the Backpacks, Students & Teachers

September 2, 2018

10:00 a.m.

Please SILENCE ALL Personal Electronic Devices Before Worship.

We Gather as God's People

Welcome to our worship service. Take a moment to quiet yourself as we prepare ourselves for worship.

Welcome and Preparation for Worship

Welcome to Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church! In this space, we invite you to bring all of who you are - your identity, your beliefs, your doubts, your story. Our prayer is that together we will experience God's presence. We invite you to sign the pew pads, which will be passed from the back of the sanctuary to the front. Please fill out the information, share with the others in your row, and then pass it to the row in front of you. Thank you. After worship, please join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

Prelude

Announcements of Our Church Life and Ministry

The Centering Song SF # 2164 (sing 3 times; the last time, a cappella) "Sanctuary"

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

Call to Worship [Responsive] Deacon Randy Johnson

Leader: The Lord be with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

Leader: Seeing the crowd gathered, Jesus went up on the mount, and sat down to teach them.

***People:* Like the crowds, we too have gathered to listen and learn.**

Leader: Jesus was called Teacher by those who were inspired by his wisdom and knowledge.

***People:* Teach us the ways of love, compassion, justice and peace.**

Leader: Jesus taught by example as well as by his words.

***People:* May our lives reflect his ways.**

Leader: As his followers, we are called to be lifelong learners.

***People:* We gather in worship, celebrating the beginning of another school year, giving thanks for our teachers, and asking God's blessing on all students.**

Leader: Let us worship God, our source of wisdom and knowledge.

***Opening Hymn** PH # 464 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

***The Prayer of the Day** [Responsive] Blessing of the Backpacks,
Students & Teachers

Leader: O Holy God, the time is come when school begins. As these your children begin their studies, we ask a blessing on their backpacks in which they carry the books and note books, markers and pens and pencils they will use to learn. O Lord of Life and Love,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Bless, O God, all who will teach our children in the coming days and weeks and months. Give them the wisdom to find inspiration for each child. Give them the energy and creativity and love that will make their work a blessing to our children. O Lord of Life and Love,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Bless, O God, all school administrators that they may be faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to their care. Make them fair and merciful, able to do their crucial work with a spirit of grace and compassion. O Lord of Life and Love,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all adults as they endeavor to live faithful lives in their homes and in their workplaces. We pray for all who are parents, stepparents, guardians, caregivers, and grandparents of children, youth, and young adults. Help them to find the time to sit and to listen to their young people. Give them hearts and minds filled with patience, understanding and wisdom. Enable them to share your wisdom and love, O God, in word and by example.

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all those who learn—children, youth, young adults and adults. Keep them from being discouraged when facing the trials of the day. Instill in them a desire to grow in wisdom and understanding. Grant them the discipline of study and the ability to concentrate. We pray for all of us as learners,

People: O God. We know that we never stop learning about your love and faithfulness. We thank you, O God our Creator, for teaching us through your living Word still present in us, through us, with us, and at times, in spite of us.

Leader: Now Bless, O God, these backpacks, the children who carry them, and the teachers who instruct and care for our students.

People: May the Lord bless you and keep you; May the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; May the Lord’s face be reflected upon you, and give you peace. Amen.

Leader: And together we remind each other:

ALL: You are God’s beloved child. With you God is well pleased.

Response PH #304 (verse 1) “Jesus Loves Me”

Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so;

Little ones to Him belong, They are weak but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

***Two+** (A new way to share the peace of Christ and greet one another.)

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” Matthew 18:20

Question: Who did you sit with during lunch hour in school?

We Listen for God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination [Responsive]..... Deacon Randy Johnson

Leader: Let us pray... We give thanks, O God of sacred stories, for the witness of Scripture. Through it, you nurture our imaginations, touch our feelings, increase our awareness, and challenge our assumptions.

People: **Bless we pray, our hearing of your Word this day. Speak to each of us; speak to all of us; and grant that by the power of your Spirit, we may be hearers and doers of your word. Amen.**

The Scripture

Luke 6:17-37

Readers Theatre (see insert)
(pages 64-65 N.T.)

Pastor: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,

People: **We give thanks to God.**

Sermon Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

... musical interlude for quiet personal reflection...

We Respond to God’s Love

***Affirmation of Faith** [In Unison] from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (PCUSA)

We trust in Jesus Christ, Fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Offering of Our Tithes and Our Gifts to God

Offertory Music

***Offertory Response** *Sing the Faith* # 2036 “Give Thanks”

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son.

And now let the weak say, “I am strong”; let the poor say,
“I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us.”

And now let the weak say, “I am strong”; let the poor say,
“I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us.” Give thanks!

***Offertory Prayer of Thanksgiving** [Responsive] Deacon Randy Johnson

Leader: God from whom our blessings flow, help us to be mindful that even as students head off to a new school year that many struggle with the challenges they face in their lives and even in our own communities: lack of school supplies, hunger, homelessness, poverty, mental and emotional issues.

People: May the gifts of our tithes, offerings and our lives be used to help those in education and all who seek to learn of your love and walk in your ways. Amen.

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

The Communion Hymn *PH* # 513 “Let Us Break Bread Together”

The Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: God of all nations and people,

People: **we give You thanks that we are all made in Your image, with such rich diversity.**

Leader: At Your table,

People: **we are in solidarity with the faithful around the world.**

Leader: As we break bread together, we remember that we are still one body in You,

People: **even though we have different languages, cultures and traditions, different ways of worship, praying and praising.**

Leader: In solidarity we drink the cup together of hope, of new life, knowing that Your will is for Your people to be one body.

People: **We are one body, but we are not the same—it is through the gift of diversity that we are able to be Your body.**

Leader: We thank You and praise You for making us all who we are,

People: **individually and collectively.**

Leader: We celebrate and give thanks to you for these gifts of bread and cup that make us one with you.

People: **Amen.**

The Words of Institution

The Breaking of Bread and Sharing of Cup

(You are invited to come forward to receive the Sacrament of Communion. Please come down the center aisle, take a piece of bread, dip in the cup on either side, eat, and return to your seat by the outside aisle. If you are unable to come forward, please let us know, and we will serve you in your seat.)

The Prayer after Communion [Responsive]

Leader: Holy One, we have gratefully responded to your invitation, joining you at Your table.

ALL: We have eaten, we have drunk, we have tasted your goodness. May the joy we find in this meal together lift up our hearts, may we carry your grace and peace to the world around us, and may we live out Your love wherever we go and with whoever we meet. Amen.

We Depart to Do God's Will

***Closing Hymn** PH # 281..... "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

***The Sending** [Responsive]..... Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

Leader: Having listened to God's words, we are sent to serve others.

People: Today and tomorrow, we will follow where God leads.

Leader: Having joined in songs of praise and hope, we will carry these gifts into the world.

People: Today and tomorrow, we will serve beside Jesus.

Leader: Having been filled with the Spirit of justice, we will go to be with all who struggle.

People: Today and tomorrow, we will bring justice and peace to those around us.

Leader: And now may God - Creator, Redeemer, and Spirit, ever present in you, always present with you wherever you go, bless you and keep you, this day and every day, at school, at work, at home, at play, and always in our service among all God's children. Go in peace.

People: Amen.

***Song of Dismissal** PH # 432 "Canto de Esperanza"

May the God of hope go with us every day, Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way, Bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace, Singing, share our joy with all,
Working for a world that's new, Faithful when we hear Christ's call.

Postlude



The liturgy this morning is from: Call to Worship, The Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler; The Blessing of the Backpacks and Teachers adapted from Linda Valentine, PCUSA Worship Resource and A Service for A New School Year by The Rev. David R. Henson, @davidrhenson.

Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church is committed to using language in such a way that all members of the community of faith may recognize themselves to be included, addressed, and equally cherished before God. Seeking to bear witness to the whole world, the church struggles to use language which is faithful to the biblical truth and which neither purposefully nor inadvertently excludes people because of gender, color, or other circumstance in life. (Book of Order, W-1.2006)

There will be no fellowship refreshments today. Happy Labor Day weekend!

- Our liturgist today is Deacon Randy Johnson.
- Our musician today is Marian Korth.
- Our ushers/greeters today are Sylvia & Larry Jensen.
- **Nursery care is provided today by the Deacons.**
- Printed copies of sermons are available in the box on the wall outside of the church office and on our website www.OCPChurch.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS —

- If you would like to be added to the mailing list for our newsletter, *The Good News*, please send either your email (preferred) or snail mail address to the church office. (Our addresses are listed on the last page of the bulletin.)
- **The Mission Committee reminds all folks to share their loose change in the Least Coin Crock, as a reminder of the prayers they say. Think of all the coins we would have if every time you prayed, you set aside a coin. These funds are to be used for local mission work. This is a year-long mission collection.**
- Help us save “pig points.” Please turn in your receipts from Piggly Wiggly in the brown bag in the narthex, so that we can receive a rebate. All funds received are used for mission projects.
- Copies of *These Days*, a daily devotional magazine, are available at the rear entrance. Donations are voluntary.

EVENTS —

- Next Sunday, September 9 – 10:00 a.m. Worship with Music by The Promised Band
RALLY DAY! Beginning of Sunday School
Potluck Tailgate Party to follow worship
- Noon - Session

VOLUNTEERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY —

- Liturgist – OPEN
- Ushers/Greeters – OPEN
- Fellowship – Potluck Tailgate Party
- Nursery – Deacons

CAMBRIDGE FOOD PANTRY & RESOURCE CENTER – AUGUST 2018 Update

The Cambridge Food Pantry & Resource Center is open for shopping every Monday evening from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Guests are invited to shop every other Monday. Donation hours during the month of August and September are Monday 9 am to 12 pm & 4 pm to 5 pm, Wednesday 9 am – 12 pm and Thursday 9:00 am to 3 pm.

VOLUNTEERS – If you would like to volunteer at the Food Pantry go to the CAP website at www.cambridgecap.net and click on the Get Involved Tab and then click Volunteerism. The link will then take you directly to the volunteer sign up. Anyone without internet access can also sign up by calling the Food Pantry at 423-8142 and Nancy will sign you up and answer any questions you may have.

FOOD NEEDED AT CAMBRIDGE FOOD PANTRY – Currently the Food Pantry can use Cake Mixes, Pancake Mix and Syrup, Canned Ravioli, Ramen Noodles, Tuna, Cream of Mushroom Soup, Hearty Progressive Soups, Regular Feminine Pads, Diapers size 2 and 6, Shampoo and Conditioner **THANK YOU!**



Community Café – Thursday, September 6th is the next Community Café Meal! The meal will be hosted by East Koshkonong Lutheran church who will be serving Hotdishes, Salad, Bread and Desserts. The meal will be served at the Cambridge High School, 403 Blue Jay Way, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Everyone in the community is invited to come.

PLEASE HOLD THESE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN PRAYER THIS WEEK —

Sandy Berge (sister of Charleen Janus)
Griffin Clark (grandson of Bill & Patty Strohbush)
Don Hawkins (husband of Deacon Randy Johnson)
Jayne Kilian (daughter of Judy & Monty Pearson)
Wade Kubina (son of Jo Kubina)
Shawn Spack (son of Jenine & Jack Spack)
Joan Spaulding (wife of Ralph Spaulding)
Mary Trailer

Our children and unchurched children and families, our military around the world, our enemies, our church leaders, families and individuals experiencing financial, job-hunting, health, or relationship problems.

The families of Jerry Mandli (Karin, Matthew, Luke, Connor and Jake) on the death of his father, Paul Mandli; Jim Willmore; Patrick & Irene Sullivan, and other families who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

If you would like to be added to our weekly prayer list, please leave word in the church office or contact the pastor. Permission to be included in this publicly posted list has been obtained from those listed or their families.

Church Schedule

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. Sunday

Communion: First Sunday of each month

Church School: Children through grade 7 meet at 10:00 a.m. Sunday
(Labor Day to Memorial Day)

Video of Worship Service: Cable 98 or 987 Sun. 5:30 p.m.; Mon.-Tues. 8 a.m. & Noon
(Link to video also available on our website or Facebook page)

Fellowship & Refreshment: Following worship service each week

Pastoral Office Hours: Generally 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Tuesday or by appointment

Business Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday

(Church hours are approved by Session and posted on church entry doors.)

Telephone/Fax: 608-423-3001

Email: Office@OCPChurch.com or Pastor@OCPChurch.com

Web: www.OCPChurch.com

Mailing Address: 313 E. Main St., Cambridge, WI 53523-9629



Visit us on Facebook: Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church

SESSION (Meets the second Sunday of each month.)

Class of 2018: Mark Touhey

Class of 2019: Mare Stewart, Mike Stitz

Class of 2020: Ann Febock, Renée Roland Johnson,

BOARD OF DEACONS (Meets the third Sunday of each month.)

Class of 2018: Julie Anderson, Judy Schroeder

Class of 2019: Joe Leto

Class of 2020: Randy Johnson, Judy Pearson

CHURCH STAFF

Music—

Accompanists: Karen Brunk, Marian Korth, Emily Rausch,
Angie Williams

Business Manager: Ruth Poole

Pastor: Pastor Scott Marrese-Wheeler: (608) 417-0231 cell;

Pastor@OCPChurch.com Facebook: Scott Marrese-Wheeler

Follow Rev. Scott on Twitter: @2revsScott

