

THE PAWLING UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 01, 2009

**Stand as you are able † Appropriate time to be seated BOLD: In unison*

Thought for the week: “If a picture is worth a thousand words, one act is worth a thousand pictures.” *Tom Warson*

† **PRELUDE/MEDITATION** (When the organ begins playing, it is now time to quiet ourselves and be open to the presence of God).

†**WELCOME**

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS

* **OPENING HYMN** No. 62 “*All Creatures of Our God and King*”

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Great are the works of God, and greatly to be praised.
God’s righteousness endures forever.

**People: We come together as a congregation of believers.
We give thanks to God with whole hearts.**

Leader: God is gracious and merciful and trustworthy.
At all times, God is mindful of the covenant.

**People: The works of God’s hands are established among us.
We can count on God’s righteousness and faithfulness.**

Leader: Awe before God is the beginning of wisdom.
All who approach God in fear have good understanding.

**People: Holy and awesome is God’s name.
We call on God to empower our worship.**

OPENING PRAYER

God of the prophets, help us to recognize your voice among the competing claims of our day. Raise up in our midst authentic witnesses to your truth. Be present with us now to guide our prayers and praise. Let us not presume to know your message without careful listening, or to speak your word without discerning the Spirit. Light your fires within us so we may heed your summons and give our best in your service. Amen.

PRAYERS OF PRAISE AND CONCERN

† **CHORAL RESPONSE**

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD TO US

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (page 160)

PSALTER Psalm 111 Response #2 (Page 832)

RECOGNITION OF MUSIC MINISTRIES (see insert)

SPECIAL MUSIC

* **GOSPEL LESSON:** Mark 1:21-28 (page 33)

Leader: The words of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 883 “A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada” **We are not alone, we live in God’s world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God’s presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

GLORIA PATRI (Praising God) No. 71 “*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. Amen.*”

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

* †**SERMON HYMN** No. 127 “*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*”

MESSAGE “*People Are Watching*” **Mark T. Allen**

***HYMN OF INVITATION** No. 554 “*All Praise to Our Redeeming Lord*”
(During this hymn our youth will leave for youth choir)

OUR RESPONSE

PREPARING FOR OUR OFFERING

An important way to give thanks to God is through sharing the bounty we have been honored to receive. We can never do enough to earn God's generous blessings. We can only express our gratitude by passing on our gifts. It is a privilege to be able to give.

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

* **DOXOLOGY** (Hymn of Praise and Thanksgiving) No. 95 *"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."*

PRAYER DEDICATING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

By giving away some of the wealth we cherish so much, we keep ourselves focused on who you are, gracious God, and on what you expect of us. As the body of Christ, we seek to be a healing force in our world. May the offerings we present be used in ways that encourage healthful behaviors among us in the church, within our community, and as far as our influence can reach. Receive us and our gifts, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION - (See Pew Communion Card)

***CLOSING HYMN** No. 557 *"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"*

*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Leader: Go out to witness to the good news you have heard.
God is even now raising up prophets among us.

People: **We thank God for this time of being together.**

We are grateful for freedom to worship and grow.

Leader: God is establishing truth among us, inviting us to learn.
Dare to question and explore, as disciples of Jesus.

People: **We praise God for insight and guidance we have received.**

We delight in ways we are able to help others.

Leader: God will supply us with words for our witness.
We will be led to offer others appropriate help.

People: **All honor and majesty and glory be to God!**

May we never stop praising God with our lives!

Amen. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE (Music to send us on our way to go and serve in God's world)



AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

THE PAWLING UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Established in 1809

February 01, 2009

10:30 Worship Service

Pastor Mark T. Allen

Toni LaPietra, Choir Director

Richard Sills, Organist