

THE DOVER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
45 West Canal Street, Dover, PA 17315  
Eva O'Diam, Pastor

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 22, 2020

**ONA Anniversary**

WELCOME FRIENDS!

*“Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!  
Give thanks to him, bless his name!” (Psalm 100:4)*

PRELUDE

*“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”*

James

***Our time of worship begins as the prelude is played.  
Please maintain a meditative silence.***

WELCOME

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

One: For our storm-tossed world, the rainbow is a sign of hope.  
For communities that embrace and affirm the spectrum of sexual orientation and gender identity, the rainbow is a sign of welcome, pride, and justice.  
For many persons of faith, the rainbow is also a powerful sign of the enduring relationship between the Holy and humankind. We remember that, according to the book of Genesis, God said to Noah...

**All: “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you for all future generations. I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.”  
In God’s sight all humankind is a rainbow people! Many and splendid are we—in color and culture, sexuality and gender, ability and language—shining together beneath the arching colors of Divine love!**

One: *Red*—color of strawberry and rose petal, passion and birth. Sweet and vivacious, color of life.

**All: God of life, we thank you for the breaths we take, for urban energies and rural rhythms, for day’s demands and night’s repose, and for your care surrounding all. Guide us through love’s complexities. Empower us to shape a world where love may flourish—a world without poverty, violence, and discrimination—a world in which all children are cherished, all elders are esteemed, all couples are free to marry, and vows exchanged anywhere are respected everywhere.**

One: *Orange*—color of pumpkin and flame, warmth and compassion. color of healing.

**All: God of healing, we trust you are at work in our bodies and families, neighborhoods and nations to bring health and restoration. Uphold all who live with hunger, loneliness, illness, and grief; all who live in the midst of danger or in exile; all who wonder how they will manage another day.**

One: *Yellow*—color of lemon and sun, joy, enthusiasm, radiant and bold, color of hope.

**All: God of hope, we bless you for creations unfolding, for mysteries around us, potential within us, for goodness called forth as we live with faith, forgiveness, and generosity.**

One: *Green*—color of inchworm and pine, calm and growth, restful and abundant, nature.

**All: God of the universe, we rejoice in the splendors and sustenance of our planet: its woods and waters, deserts and fields, peaks and valleys—and in all, seen and unseen, that lives upon it.**

One: *Blue*—color of sky and mountain ridge, depth and inspiration, color of harmony.

**All:** God of harmony, we know that you intend our differences to enrich and not divide us. Help us to listen and to learn from one another. Move us to bring down barriers of prejudice and raise up bridges of understanding.

One: *Purple*—color of grape and lilac, strength and dignity, majestic, color of spirit.

**All:** God, eternal spirit, we praise you! Thanks be to you for all who have come before us, blazing paths of equality and community.

One: *Brown*—color of earth, wholesomeness, warmth, honesty, a natural color.

**All:** God of creation, forming humankind from earth and breathing the life of the Spirit within. help us to include all those who you have created in our circle of welcome.

One: *Black*—color of power, elegance, sophistication, mysterious.

**All:** God of ALL people, help us to realize that Black lives matter. Empower us to see and name our racist laws and institutions and change them so all people of color are treated fairly and have the same opportunity.

One: *Pink, Blue, White*—colors to represent our transgender sisters and brothers.

**All:** God, eternal Spirit, we praise you! With your rainbow spread over us, send us forth to be your Spirited people! May your love shine through us, now and always, Amen!

SPECIAL MUSIC

*“Can I Accept Me and You”*

Dan Sindlinger

TIME WITH THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: God rightfully expects more from us who call ourselves the church of Jesus Christ. Are we tempted to reach out only to those who feel “comfortable” to us? Are we tempted to make our proclamations of being open and affirming as quietly as possible so we don’t create waves? The plumb line hangs straight across all our excuses. How do we measure up before God?

*We offer our personal prayers in this interlude*

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious, loving God, we open our hearts to you. We confess that there have been times when we have turned away from you. There have been times when we have hurt and rejected our neighbors. Sometimes it has been difficult to love and accept ourselves, let alone those who are different from us. All of us have participated in the systemic oppressions that are part of our culture. Forgive us for our racism, sexism, homophobia, and economic elitism. Give us the courage to stand up for the dignity and rights of all of our sisters and brothers. Make us willing to change our lives in response to your call to love our neighbors and to create a world of peace and justice for all of your beloved. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

One: God hears our confessions with an ever merciful and loving heart and forgives us over and over again. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. Let us rejoice in this good news.

**All: Praise God!**

## COLLECT

One: Let us pray. Jesus, you have called us to follow. You have given us your words of truth, given us a vision of the direction in which the world is moving. Help us to be faithful to your Way. May others look at our lives and see that we are different, that we belong to the Way of Christ. And when we fail, judge us in love, deal with our weakness, not as we deserve, but in your mercy. This we pray to you, our judge, our savior, and our friend.

**All: Amen.**

One: God is still speaking!

**All: We will listen!**

## SCRIPTURE

(See Insert)

### Psalm 100 (NRSV)

#### All Lands Summoned to Praise God

#### A Psalm of thanksgiving.

<sup>1</sup> Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup> Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come into his presence with singing.

<sup>3</sup> Know that the Lord is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his;<sup>[a]</sup>  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

<sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

<sup>5</sup> For the Lord is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.

### Matthew 25:31-46 (NRSV)

#### The Judgment of the Nations

**31** "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup> and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup> And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' <sup>40</sup> And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family,<sup>[a]</sup> you did it to me.' <sup>41</sup> Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' <sup>44</sup> Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison,

and did not take care of you?' <sup>45</sup> Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' <sup>46</sup> And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

#### RESPONSE TO THE WORD

One: God is still speaking!

**All: We will seek to live into that which God teaches us!**

MESSAGE

*"Little Things Count*

Pastor Eva

SPECIAL MUSIC

*"Lift Every Voice and Sing"*

- Arr. Phillips

#### COVENANT TOGETHER

**We, the congregation of Dover United Church of Christ, in the spirit of Christ's invitation, "Look, I have set before you an open door," welcomes all who seek to know and share God's love. We affirm the dignity and worth of every person and celebrate the diversity in which God created us, each in God's image and loved by God. We declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation, welcoming persons of every race, language, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ability, and economic status into full membership and participation in the life, worship, rites and sacraments of this church. We commit to model a community of faith that works toward openness and understanding, offering justice, reconciliation, healing and wholeness of life for all people.**

#### SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

MISSION MOMENT (Offering will be received next week)

Strengthen the Church

#### INVITATION TO GIVE

One: Generosity may come as an impulse, but it is cultivated by the practice of regular giving. Let us today move from beliefs to actions that make a difference in the world. We give in gratitude for God's gifts to us, and we give because we need to live beyond ourselves. Use this time of offering as an opportunity to grow and to grow the realm of God.

#### INTERLUDE OF MUSIC WHILE OFFERING IS PRESENTED

#### UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of abundance, we give these offerings of material goods as our commitment to give back to you and to care for your people. Let our giving remind us to see Jesus all around us. Use our offerings of money and of our lives for ministry to your purposes. Amen.**

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

#### BENEDICTION

+ POSTLUDE

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The Altar Flowers are placed in memory of Arlene and Henry Miller

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by Wayne and Dodie Gross.

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(+All Who Are Able Are Invited to Stand)

Today's Greeters: Don Gardner

Elevator Operator: Anna Gladfelter

Reader: Pam Rutledge

**4 Helpers are needed during worship service  
on Sunday mornings!  
We need 2 greeters (masked and gloved) to hand out bulletins and offer hand  
sanitizer.  
An elevator operator - A reader.**



*“A Virtual Christmas Celebration”  
Sunday, December 6 - 6:00 p.m.  
Comcast channel 16  
Or on-line at [codyork.online.church](http://codyork.online.church)  
(Church of the Open Door website)*

**Advent devotional booklets are available on the table in the Narthex for those who  
would like to use during the Season of Advent.**

**Welcome to Dover United Church of Christ,  
an Open and Affirming Church.**

*The congregation of Dover United Church of Christ, in the spirit of Christ's invitation, "Look, I have set before you an open door," welcomes all who seek to know and share God's love. We affirm the dignity and worth of every person and celebrate the diversity in which God created us, each in God's image and loved by God. We declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation, welcoming persons of every race, language, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ability, and economic status into full membership and participation in the life, worship, rites and sacraments of this church. We commit to model a community of faith that works toward openness and understanding, offering justice, reconciliation, healing and wholeness of life for all people.*

*Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.  
(Romans 15:7)*

**Large print worship materials are available.  
Please see an usher.**

**This Week at Dover UCC:**

Monday **Office Hours: 9:00 – 1:00**  
Tuesday 10:00 AM Bible Study in person at the church or by  
Uberconference by calling 717-297-0750.  
**Decorating the church for the Advent Season – 11:00 a.m.**  
Girl Scouts – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (Fellowship hall)  
Thursday **Happy Thanksgiving!**  
Next Sunday **First Sunday in Advent** - Worship & Communion –  
Adult Faith Formation – 9:00 a.m. in person at Dover UCC or by zoom.  
Contact the Pastor if you would like the zoom connection  
**Family Thank Offering Received for Strengthen the Church**  
IN PERSON WORSHIP – 10:00 a.m. – as well as live stream on Facebook and  
uberconference

Pastor Eva's cell phone number is 717-418-9627. Please call any time for pastoral emergencies. Her office hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. **E-Mail: [pastor@doverducc.org](mailto:pastor@doverducc.org).**

**Communion will be celebrated on The First Sunday of Advent, November 29 at 10:00 a.m. Be sure to bring your own Communion elements.**

**TUESDAY 10:00 AM Bible Study! Join us!**

Either in person at the church or by Uberconference by calling 717-297-0750. Your choice!

**TUESDAY – NOVEMBER 24 – 11:00 AM - HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH!**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE SUNDAYS DURING ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE! ONE PERSON OR FAMILY MAY SIGN UP FOR EACH SUNDAY. SIGN-UP SHEET IS POSTED IN THE NARTHEX.**

**Sunday Morning Adult Discussions continue!** Our Sunday morning Faith Formation class is discussing a study of Jim Wallis' *Christ in Crisis?: Why We Need to Reclaim Jesus*. This book was written in 2019 and is designed to focus on eight key questions Jesus asked that we all must answer today. Wallis believes that our cultural and spiritual crisis stems from how the American church has become disconnected with the teachings of Jesus. We will address the Neighbor question, the Image question, the Truth question, the Power question, the Fear question, the Caesar question, the Peacemaker question and the Discipleship question. Each session will be based on a chapter of the book. Books are available from Amazon.com ranging in price from \$13 to \$18 plus tax. Let Pastor Eva know if you would like for her to order a book for you.

**Do you have a prayer concern? Call Nancy Schubert at 717-292-2113.**

UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONAL MAGAZINES ARE AVAILABLE  
ON THE TABLE IN THE NARTHEX.

**Evening Bible Study, Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. for one hour beginning in September IF there is interest. If you would like to be part of this, please contact Stephanie Brown at 717-683-4814.**

**Family Thank Offering:** It has been the tradition of receiving the Family Thank Offering in November for our November mission. This offering goes to the United Church of Christ's fund for Strengthening the Church. It is a time to consider how this community of faith has blessed you. It is a time to reflect on the blessings in our own lives. It is a time to reflect on all that God has entrusted to us. Traditionally, we have given out small boxes for people to collect their offering in all month. However, since we are not all worshipping together, we challenge each household to find a special container. Collect your offering all month. Then, on the last Sunday of the month, bring that offering to church. If you are not attending, you may drop your container off at the office. Willie is in from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Tuesday thru Thursday. If you need to drop it off at a different time or are not leaving home, call Pastor Eva can arrange for someone to collect it from you or to bring it to the church at another time. Strengthen the Church! Find time to give thanks for the blessings of God!

**FAMILY THANK OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29.  
THE OFFERING IS DESIGNATED FOR STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH.**

**The Christmas Blessings tree is up! Deadline is Sunday, December 6. Presidents to not need to be wrapped. Volunteers are needed at New Hope. At these two events it is not necessary to have your clearances to participate. The Thanksgiving Baskets** will be given away in the parking lot on **Friday, November 20**. We sign up for a few hours at a time. It is a lot of fun and a good chance to meet the many volunteers. Many hands will be needed to set up for the **Christmas Blessings on December 7** at **Brookside Park**. The event will run thru **December 10**. This will be necessary to keep clients socially distanced with their personal shopper and have ample time between visits. They will be open one day from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. to allow our evening guests shopping time also. As you can see this will take a lot of person power to accomplish. If you aren't comfortable being around others perhaps helping to pack up the remaining items to be distributed to other centers would be more to your liking. You can talk to a volunteer to help at **717-292-3441**. They will be able to direct you to an area that is comfortable for you. The Christmas baskets are given out differently, but they could use help to pack them up also. They will be distributed on **December 17 and 18**. There will be a **Senior party** this year on **December 15**, but it will be structured differently with the seniors going home with their meal and they will socially distance to spend time with friends over cocoa and cookies. There will be two different time slots, 11:00 to 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. This will be held at **St. David's in Weigelstown**. Again if you would like to attend please call the center for a time slot.

**Christmas Cards, Boxes of Tissues and Unscented Lotions are needed for Homewood.** Christmas cards should be signed with “your name, Dover UCC” and put in an envelope. Tissues, Unscented Lotions and Cards may be dropped off at the church before **DEC. 1**

November 22, 2020