

Order Of Worship  
 St. John's United Church Of Christ  
 500 West Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446  
 10:15 AM – November 19, 2017

**We Gather For Worship**  
**“Extravagant Opportunity”**

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE For the Beauty of the Earth - Conrad Kocher, arr. Frances L. Callahan  
 St. John's United Ringers

INTROIT For the Fruit of All Creation

\*OPENING HYMN Come, O Thankful People, Come.....#422

\*REFLECTION ON THEME

\*WE CONFESS OUR SINS

Generous and Loving God ~ All that we are and all that we have, ultimately, are gifts from you: our very lives, the food we eat, the beauty we enjoy, the people we love and the people who love us. We know well Jesus' words "To whom much is given, much is required," but we forget. We clutch on tightly to what we have, fearful that if we don't, someone may take what we have and then we won't have enough. O God, forgive us, and grant us the courage to risk sharing what we have so that others might know what abundance feels like. Grant us hearts that are grateful, so that our gratitude might spill over into actions that make life better for those we encounter along life's way. This we pray in Jesus' Name. AMEN

\*WE ASK FOR MERCY

God, tender and just, forgive our sins; forgive our sins.

\*WE RECEIVE GOD'S GIFT OF GRACE

\*WE OFFER OUR PRAISE AND THANKS (adapted from hymn #14)

To God be the glory, to God be the glory,  
 To God be the glory for the things God has done.

**RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP FOR: Kristin & Matt Baughman** sponsored by Aly & Dan Faga, **Elizabeth Elliott**, sponsored by Barb Fretz, **April & Brad Hamlen** sponsored by Janet & Tim Morton, **Clare & Harry Sherlock**, sponsored by Debbie Krail.

**This Week At St. John's**

If you would like more information please contact the church office 215.855.5489 or [office@st-johns-ucc.org](mailto:office@st-johns-ucc.org)

Nov.	19	Sun	8:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:15 AM  11:30 AM	<b>Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Morning Worship, Sanctuary Sunday School for All Ages Morning Worship, Sanctuary New Member Sunday Alternative Gift Market
Nov.	20	Mon	8:30 AM 1:00 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Enlightener Pre-Folding Azul Dance Girl Scouts Prayer Group
Nov.	21	Tue	11:00 AM 1:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:15 PM 7:30 PM	Enlightener Folding Quilters Brownies/Girl Scouts Worship at Manna AA
Nov.	22	Wed		<b>NO UNITED VOICES/CHILDREN'S CHOIR</b>
Nov.	23	Thu	12:00 Noon	Thanksgiving Day – Office Closed Manna Thanksgiving Meal at St. John's
Nov.	24	Fri	8:30 PM	Office Closed AA
Nov.	25	Sat	10:00 AM	Art of Living
Nov.	26	Sun	8:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:15 AM	<b>Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Morning Worship, Sanctuary Sunday School for All Ages Morning Worship, Sanctuary Budget Hearing following both services, Manna Hope for the Holidays Collection Deadline

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 500 West Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446  
 Office: 215.855.5489 email: [office@st-johns-ucc.org](mailto:office@st-johns-ucc.org)  
 If you would like more information about St. John's please speak with one of the staff or visit our website at <http://www.st-johns-ucc.org>  
 Susan C. Bertolette, D. Min., Senior Pastor  
 Adelaide L. Stong, M. Div., Associate Pastor  
 Lisa Delp, Church Administrator  
 David L. Furniss, M.S.M., Minister Of Music  
 Grace Bruen, Interim Children's Choir Director  
 Leroy Horst, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor Bill Bergey, Custodian  
 Anne Kinsey, Council President

## November 19, 2017

A nursery for children kindergarten age and younger is available. While children are always welcome in worship, this is available for your convenience if they become restless.

Junior church is available following the children's message for children 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Parents may pick up children downstairs following the 10:15 service.

If you would benefit from having the worship bulletins or hymns in large print, please see one of our ushers.

Please ask an usher for an audio device if you are having difficulty hearing the service.

CD's of this morning's service are available by contacting the church office.

*Reminder: The wheelchairs, first aid kit and the automatic external defibrillator (AED) are stored in the "First Aid Closet" in the narthex (the door is labeled with the Red Cross).*

### Worship Assistants

**Ushers:** Team Leaders Sally Jarinko, Mark Methlie; Mark Bruen, Peter Conner, Jeane Fritz, Nicole Groff, Vernon Hunsberger, Judy Koenig, and Charles Sisian

**CD Technician:** Bob George

**Driver:** Bob George

**Greeters:** Sandy & Bob Taylor

**Elder of the Morning:** Jo-Ann Sine

**Acolytes:** Ray Stahler and Connor Sivco

**Junior Church:** No Jr. Church - AGM

**Chancel Flower Ministry:** Donna & Mike Ruder

**Nursery Staff:** Desiree Wallace and Kerrigan Gage

**Social Hosts:** Alternative Gift Market

**Kitchen Monitor:** Scott Vanderburg

**Umbrella Ministry:** Mary Lynne Snyder

**United Adult Class:** Teacher – Charles Strasbaugh, “Investing What is Offered”, Matthew 25:14-30

### Chancel Flowers

In memory of Phil Richart, Jr. from Holly & Ken Fisher and Kim & John Milliron

In honor of their November 19<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary from Judy & Warren Koenig

In memory of William Fritz's November 19<sup>th</sup> birthday from his daughters Connie May, Judy & Warren Koenig and family; and son Robert & Jeane Fritz & family

In memory of her parents, Elizabeth & George Alexander, Jr. and her brothers, Kenneth and George III, and in memory of her husband Jack on their Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary from Virginia Collins

**Pastor:** Do you, by this act of joining the church, profess your desire to live out your faith as a member of this congregation, ever seeking to better reflect the image of God in your daily life and ever desiring to more fully understand and embody the teachings of Jesus Christ, whom we are called to love and serve?

**New Members:** I do.

**Pastor:** Do you promise, with God's help and grace, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of St. John's United Church of Christ, taking to heart the commitment you are making today before God and the members of this faith community?

**New Members:** I do.

**Pastor:** Let us say what we believe.

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

**All:** 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 in 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. (A New Creed, the United Church of Canada, 1980)

**Pastor:** Members of St. John's, let us express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**People:** We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

**Pastor:** Let us pray. God, we praise you for calling us to faith and for gathering us into the church, the body of Christ. We thank you for your people gathering in this local church and rejoice that you have increased our community of faith. Together may we live in the Spirit, building up one another in love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of Jesus Christ.

**All:** AMEN

## We Listen For God's Word

SCRIPTURE I Thessalonians 5:1-11 (pg. 189) Liturgist – Leroy Horst

Matthew 25:14-30

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Susan C. Bertollette, D. Min.

### THE 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

ANTHEM Now Thank We All Our God - Johann Cruger, arr. Healey Willan  
Chancel Choir

SERMON “The Worst Four Letter Word Ever!”  
Susan C. Bertollette, D. Min.

SILENCE

## We Respond in Faith

\*HYMN O Day of God, Draw Near.....#611

JOYS, CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WE HAND OVER TO GOD OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS (#521, Stanza 1)  
In solitude, in solitude, I come to God in prayer.  
In silence and simplicity, my spirit blossoms there.

INVITATION TO SHARE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY We Gather Together - arr. Craig Phillips

\*WE OFFER UP OUR GIFTS

Praise God, the Giver and the Gift. Hands, hearts and voices now uplift:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise, praise the Breath of Glad Surprise, Freeing our spirits, opening eyes:  
Three in Oneness, love communing, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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\*HYMN Great Is Your Faithfulness.....#423

\*COMMISSION & BLESSING

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\*Denotes Congregation Standing If Able

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in the Assembly Hall, the room below the sanctuary. All Are Welcome!!!