



# *Creation Sings*

**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 18, 2024**

**9:30 am**

# Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

9:30 am—August 18, 2024—Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*You are invited to stand when indicated by an \*asterisk if able and **speak the words in bold.***

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## PRELUDE

What a Wonderful World.....Bob Thiele and George David Weiss, arr. Dino Kartsonakis

*I see trees of green, red roses, too. I see them bloom for me and you.*

*And I say to myself, "What a wonderful world."*

*I see skies of blue, clouds of white, bright blessed day, dark sacred night.*

*And I say to myself, "What a wonderful world."*

*The colors of the rainbow so pretty in the sky are also on the faces of people passing by.*

*I see friends shaking hands saying, "How do you do?" They're really saying, "I love you."*

*I hear babies cry. I watch them grow. They'll learn much more than we'll ever know.*

*And I say to myself, "What a wonderful world."*

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to worship and praise the living God who created and is creating.

**Thanks be to God for God's mighty wonders.**

The heavens, the clouds, the wind, the waters, the trees, the mountains... God's majesty is revealed in all creation.

**We look around us at the wonders and marvel and the infinite variety and beauty which God has created.**

Who are we, that God should pay attention to us?

**We are God's beloved children, the stewards whom God has selected to stand in awe and care for God's world. Come, Let us worship. AMEN.**

### \*OPENING HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth.....28

*Stanza 1: All*

*Stanza 3: In Canon, Lectern Side Begins*

*Stanza 2: All in Harmony*

*Stanza 4: All*

### \*CONFESSION

**Loving God, we so easily get caught up in our own worlds that we completely overlook the wonders of the world you created. All around us are majestic reminders of the beauty you offer to us, but we are busy and short-sighted and rarely take time to simply observe and enjoy all that surrounds us. Forgive us, God, when we become blinded to the wonder of You and your creation. Forgive us when we become trapped by attitudes of indifference and behaviors of destruction. Forgive us, God, for looking at the world and only seeing how it can benefit us or serve us or make us money. Remind us that you have not given this world to us that we should deplete and exploit it, but rather that we should honor it, cherish it, and make sure that all receive from its bounty. Help us to let go of petty desires for wealth, position, and power, and bring us into a way of being that proclaims your love, abundance, and justice for all your people. These things we pray in the name of Christ. AMEN.**

### \*ASSURANCE

God hears the cries of our hearts, sees our actions, and knows our attitudes. When we dare to confess our sins and ask for God's help, God reaches out to heal and forgive us. Receive the forgiveness which God has offered to you and live differently in this world because of it. AMEN.

\*SUNG RESPONSE



I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and free,  
The life of Je - sus to re-call, in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.

Scripture:  
Psalm 104

<sup>1</sup> Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord my God, you are very great.  
You are clothed with honor and majesty,  
<sup>2</sup> wrapped in light as with a garment.  
You stretch out the heavens like a tent;  
<sup>3</sup> you set the beams of your chambers  
on the waters;  
you make the clouds your chariot;  
you ride on the wings of the wind;  
<sup>4</sup> you make the winds your messengers,  
fire and flame your ministers.

<sup>5</sup> You set the earth on its foundations,  
so that it shall never be shaken.

<sup>6</sup> You cover it with the deep as with a  
garment;  
the waters stood above the mountains.

<sup>7</sup> At your rebuke they flee;  
at the sound of your thunder they take  
to flight.

<sup>8</sup> They rose up to the mountains, ran  
down to the valleys,  
to the place that you appointed for  
them.

<sup>9</sup> You set a boundary that they may not  
pass,  
so that they might not again cover the  
earth.

<sup>10</sup> You make springs gush forth in the  
valleys;

they flow between the hills,

<sup>11</sup> giving drink to every wild animal;  
the wild asses quench their thirst.

<sup>12</sup> By the streams the birds of the air have  
their habitation;

they sing among the branches.

<sup>13</sup> From your lofty abode you water the  
mountains;  
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of  
your work.

<sup>14</sup> You cause the grass to grow for the  
cattle

and plants for people to cultivate,  
to bring forth food from the earth

<sup>15</sup> and wine to gladden the human  
heart,  
oil to make the face shine

and bread to strengthen the human  
heart.

<sup>16</sup> The trees of the field are watered  
abundantly,

the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

<sup>17</sup> In them the birds build their nests;  
the stork has its home in the fir trees.

Scripture:  
Psalm 104

<sup>18</sup> The high mountains are for the wild goats;  
the rocks are a refuge for the coney.

<sup>19</sup> You have made the moon to mark the seasons;  
the sun knows its time for setting.

<sup>20</sup> You make darkness, and it is night,  
when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.

<sup>21</sup> The young lions roar for their prey,  
seeking their food from God.

<sup>22</sup> When the sun rises, they withdraw  
and lie down in their dens.

<sup>23</sup> People go out to their work  
and to their labor until the evening.

<sup>24</sup> O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.

<sup>25</sup> There is the sea, great and wide;  
creeping things innumerable are there,  
living things both small and great.

<sup>26</sup> There go the ships  
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

<sup>27</sup> These all look to you

to give them their food in due season;  
<sup>28</sup> when you give to them, they gather it up;  
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

<sup>29</sup> When you hide your face, they are dismayed;  
when you take away their breath, they die  
and return to their dust.

<sup>30</sup> When you send forth your spirit, they are created,  
and you renew the face of the ground.

<sup>31</sup> May the glory of the Lord endure forever;

may the Lord rejoice in his works—  
<sup>32</sup> who looks on the earth and it trembles,  
who touches the mountains and they smoke.

<sup>33</sup> I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

<sup>34</sup> May my meditation be pleasing to him,  
for I rejoice in the Lord.

<sup>35</sup> Let sinners be consumed from the earth,  
and let the wicked be no more.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Praise the Lord!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE/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

Creation Sings.....L.V. Beethoven, arr. Tom Trenney

*Creation sings of our God's grace and glory. The sky gives adoration and praise.*

*The sun and moon shine God's light on all nations. The earth and sea resound with praise.*

*The flowers and forests blooming in beauty reveal the wonders of God's love.*

*All living creatures unite in thanksgiving, a melody our voices raise. In harmony, we sing God's praise.*

SERMON

“What a Wonderful World” .....Rev. Addie Stong

\*HYMN

God of the Sparrow God of the Whale.....32

Stanza 1: All	Stanza 4: Higher Voices
Stanza 2: Pulpit Side	Stanzas 5: Lower Voices
Stanza 3: Lectern Side	Stanza 6: All

JOYS & CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/SUNG RESPONSE

Grant us wis - dom to per - ceive you, hearts a - wak - ened to re - ceive you,  
 minds a - lert to thoughts that grieve you, God of mer - cy, hear us.

OFFERING & OFFERTORY MUSIC

All Things Bright and Beautiful.....Setting by Keith Kolander

*Offering plates will be passed to the congregation in the pews during the Offertory music. The plates will then be dedicated during the Offertory Sung Response. You may also donate by scanning the QR code found in the bulletin and on laminated cards in the pews.*

\*SUNG RESPONSE

Praise God, the Gi - ver and the Gift. Hands, hearts, and voi - ces now up - lift:  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Praise, praise the Breath of glad sur - prise, free - ing our spir - its, op'n - ing eyes.  
 Three in One - ness, love com - mun - ing,  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*CLOSING HYMN

When in Our Music God Is Glorified.....561

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

When in Our Music God Is Glorified.....Setting by David Cherwien

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*Following worship, you are invited to join us for fellowship in Assembly Hall.*

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### Worship Leaders

Rev. Addie Stong, Acting Lead Pastor  
Pastor Tom Adil, Bridge Support Pastor

Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music  
Summer Pop-Up Choir

### Copyright Information

All texts and music are reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE A-721709 or are in the public domain.

*What a Wonderful World*

Text: Bob Thiele and George David Weiss © Quartet Music., Range Road Music, Inc. and Albilene Music.

*I Come with Joy*

Text: Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1982, 1994, © 1971, Hope Publishing Company

*Creation Sings*

Text: Tom Trenney, © 2021 Birnamwood Publications

*Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You*

Text: Rae Whitney, 1991; rev. 1994, © 1994, Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

*Praise God, the Giver and the Gift*

Text: Brian Wren, 1989, © 1989, Hope Publishing Company

- The Nursery will be open for you to use mindfully, if your little one needs a break. No volunteers will be on duty, so a parent, grandparent, or responsible adult must stay with their child.
- Today's Sermon can be found on **Spotify** following the service, search  
"St. John's UCC Lansdale Sermons"
- Today's worship audio will be available later online on St. John's Facebook Page, Website or YouTube: [youtube.com/stjohnsucclansdalepa](https://youtube.com/stjohnsucclansdalepa)
- Please ask a Hospitality Team member 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 and first aid kit are stored in the "First Aid Closet" in the narthex (the door is clearly labeled). The automatic external defibrillator (AED) is located in the church Library on the wall closest to the Sanctuary.

## Worship Assistants

### Hospitality:

Grace & Mark Bruen, Mary Billy,  
Anne Haines, Gerry Linderman,  
Rickie Lee Sands, Ginny Wilkinson

### Elder of the Morning:

Anne Kinsey

### Deacon of the Morning:

Scott Vanderburg

### CD Technician:

Scott Cunningham

### Chancel Flower Ministry:

Barb & Don Fretz

### Driver:

Jo-Ann Sine

### Greeters:

Marcia Stacy

### Social Host:

Jo-Ann Sine & Marge Jewell



- 🌸 In memory of Ethel I. Pool’s August 22nd birthday from her family
- 🌸 In memory of Herb & Kay Crouthamel’s August 22nd wedding anniversary from their daughter, Debbie Krail, and family
- 🌸 In memory of Edward Clayton & Margareta Pole from their family

Weekly amount needed for Current Income 2024	\$7,884.62
Weekly amount needed for OCWM 2024	\$798.00
<b>A Look at the Week of August 4, 2024</b>	
Attendance: 9:30 am, August 4, Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost	96
Offering For Current Income	\$7,132.00
Offering For Our Church’s Wider Mission	\$612.00
<b>A Look at the Week of August 11, 2024</b>	
Attendance: 9:30 am, August 11, Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost	99
Offering For Current Income	\$3,851.00
Offering For Our Church’s Wider Mission	\$422.00

To give online through our secure platform, visit <https://app.easytithethe.com/app/giving/stjohnsucc>

Scan here for online giving



**St. John’s United Church of Christ**

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 contact the office.

Rev. Adelaide L. Stong, M. Div., Acting Lead Pastor    Pastor Tom Adil, M. Div., LPC, Bridge Support Pastor  
 Andrew Paulson, M.M., M.A., Minister of Music    Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children & Youth  
 Kay Peebles, Church Admin.    Leroy Horst, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor    Bill Bergey, Custodian  
 Grace Marchione, Communications Coordinator    Mark Bruen, Council President.

## 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)

Aug	18	Sun	8:45 am 9:30 am 11:00 am	<b>Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> Pop-Up Choir Rehearsal, Music Room Morning Worship, Sanctuary Fellowship, Assembly Hall
Aug	20	Tues	7:00 pm	AA, Assembly Hall
Aug	21	Wed	7:00 pm	VBS, Playground
Aug	22	Thurs	9:30 am	Enlightener Folding, Library
Aug	23	Fri	6:00 pm	Chess, Assembly Hall
Aug	24	Sun	8:45 am 9:30 am 11:00 am	<b>Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> Holden Prayer Info Meeting, Music Room Morning Worship, Sanctuary CGM 2024 Meeting, Library Fellowship, Assembly Hall



# Psalm 104

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O Lord my God, you are very great.  
You are clothed with honor and majesty,  
<sup>2</sup> wrapped in light as with a garment.  
You stretch out the heavens like a tent;  
<sup>3</sup> you set the beams of your chambers  
on the waters;  
you make the clouds your chariot;  
you ride on the wings of the wind;  
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their habitation;  
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<sup>13</sup> From your lofty abode you water the  
mountains;  
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of  
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<sup>14</sup> You cause the grass to grow for the  
cattle

and plants for people to cultivate,  
to bring forth food from the earth

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heart,

oil to make the face shine

and bread to strengthen the human  
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and you renew the face of the ground.

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<sup>32</sup> who looks on the earth and it trembles,  
who touches the mountains and they smoke.  
<sup>33</sup> I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.  
<sup>34</sup> May my meditation be pleasing to him,  
for I rejoice in the Lord.  
<sup>35</sup> Let sinners be consumed from the earth,  
and let the wicked be no more.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul.  
Praise the Lord!