



# *At Home with God*

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 25, 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 25, 2024— Fourteenth 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

Will You Come and Follow Me.....Setting by Charles Callahan

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP/OPENING PRAYER

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

**We long to be where You are; to stand in Your very presence, and to behold You, face to face!**

And so we have come to this place today; we have gathered together to worship You— to offer the praise which belongs to You alone.

**Bless us as we worship You together, and as we open our hearts and minds to Your presence among us.**

For You alone are God, the One in whom we trust.

**Come, let us worship. Amen.**

### \*OPENING HYMN

Praise to the Living God.....8

*Stanza 2 may be sung in harmony.*

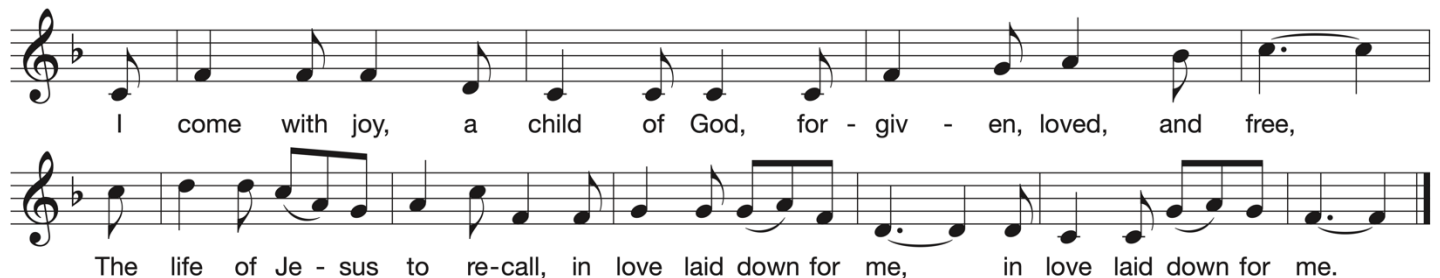
### \*CONFESSION

**Gracious God, when your son Jesus took time to explain to the disciples the promise of eternal life through him, they were confused, overwhelmed, and offered more complaints than curiosity. The teaching was hard to understand and even harder to live. Like the disciples, we confess that we often struggle with what Christ teaches and are tempted to walk away when we fail to fully grasp what it means for our lives, or simply don't feel like being spiritually challenged. Forgive us, loving God, when we get impatient in our need for concrete and easy-to-understand answers. Remind us that a life lived with and through you is so often more about questions than answers and more about mystery than fact. Push us to move beyond frustration so that we might be able to truly find a home in your love and experience the gift of discipleship that you have given us. Amen.**

### \*ASSURANCE

Despite our impatience, our need for answers, our confusion about the complexities of our walk with Christ, Christ himself reaches out to us with Grace. He hears our prayers (even our whines), forgives our sins, and gives us a kind of freedom that no one else can. This grace and forgiveness is a gift that is ours...may we accept these gifts and may we live differently in this world because of them. **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 84

<sup>1</sup> How lovely is your dwelling place,  
O Lord of hosts!

<sup>2</sup> **My soul longs, indeed it faints,  
for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh sing for joy  
to the living God.**

<sup>3</sup> Even the sparrow finds a home  
and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may lay her young,  
at your altars, O Lord of hosts,  
my King and my God.

<sup>4</sup> **Happy are those who live in your house,  
ever singing your praise.**

<sup>5</sup> Happy are those whose strength is in you,  
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

<sup>6</sup> **As they go through the valley of Baca,  
they make it a place of springs;  
the early rain also covers it with pools.**

<sup>7</sup> They go from strength to strength;  
the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

<sup>8</sup> **O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;  
give ear, O God of Jacob!**

<sup>9</sup> Behold our shield, O God;  
look on the face of your anointed.

<sup>10</sup> **For a day in your courts is better  
than a thousand elsewhere.**

**I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house  
of my God**

**than live in the tents of wickedness.**

<sup>11</sup> For the Lord God is a sun and shield;  
he bestows favor and honor.

No good thing does the Lord withhold  
from those who walk uprightly.

<sup>12</sup> **O Lord of hosts,  
happy is everyone who trusts in you.**

Focus Scripture:  
John 6:56-60

<sup>56</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me and I in them. <sup>57</sup> Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which the ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." <sup>59</sup> He said these things while he was teaching in a synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup> When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" <sup>61</sup> But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you?"

<sup>62</sup> Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup> It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup> But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who were the ones who did not believe and who was the one who would betray him. <sup>65</sup> And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

<sup>66</sup> Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

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

Concertino for Flute and Piano, Op. 107.....Cécile Chaminade

SERMON

“Tough Truth to Swallow” .....Rev. Addie Stong

\*HYMN

Will You Come and Follow Me

*Stanza 1: All*

*Stanza 4: Lower Voices*

*Stanza 2: Higher Voices*

*Stanza 5: All*

*Stanza 3: All*



1. Will you come and fol - low Me if I but call your name?  
 2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?  
 3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?  
 4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
 5. Lord, Your sum - mons ech - oes true when You but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you set the pris - 'ners free and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?  
 Let me turn and fol - low You and nev - er be the same.



Will you let My love be shown, will you let My name be known,  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean and do such as this un - seen,  
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round,  
 In Your com - pa - ny I'll go where Your love and foot - steps show.



Will you let My life be grown in you and you in Me?  
 Will you let Me an - swer pray'r in you and you in Me?  
 And ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in Me?  
 Through My sight and touch and sound in you and you in Me?  
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in You and You in me.

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**

His Eye Is on the Sparrow.....Civilla D. Martin/Charles H. Gabriel

*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**

Hope of the World.....46

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Festive Postlude in C.....Paul Fey

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

**Worship Leaders**

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

Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music  
 Nicole Albright, Flute

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<p><i>I Come with Joy</i>          Text: Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1982, 1994, © 1971, Hope Publishing Company</p> <p><i>Will You Come and Follow Me</i>          Text: John Bell, ©1987 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc.</p> <p><i>Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You</i>          Text: Rae Whitney, 1991; rev. 1994, © 1994, Selah Publishing Co., Inc.</p> <p><i>Praise God, the Giver and the Gift</i>          Text: Brian Wren, 1989, © 1989, Hope Publishing Company</p>
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- 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/stjohnsuccclansdalepa](https://youtube.com/stjohnsuccclansdalepa)
- 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:

Robin MacMullen, Peter Conner, Griff Francis,  
 Stefanie Giampa, Carol Luehrs, Jenn Moyer,  
 Matt Rivett

### Elder of the Morning:

Chriss Bodde

### Deacon of the Morning:

Rick Fanciulacci

### CD Technician:

Griff Francis

### Chancel Flower Ministry:

Mary Billy

### Driver:

Kay Peebles

### Greeters:

Ginny Wilkinson

### Social Host:

Gale Linderman & Carol

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 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
<b>A Look at the Week of August 18, 2024</b>	
Attendance: 9:30 am, August 11, Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost	108
Offering For Current Income	\$6,835.00
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$565.00

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

Scan here for online giving



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

New to Wednesday Night Live:

### *Holden Evening Prayer!*

Composed by Marty Haugen (*Gather Us In* and *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*), Holden Evening Prayer is a sung service of Evening Prayer, an ancient worship tradition called Vespers that has been sung for centuries. This year's Wednesday Night live worship combines the most communal portions of last year's Wednesday Night Live worship (communion and sharing of joys and concerns) with a sung service that brings peace and light to the end of your day. Join us at 7pm in the sanctuary during Wednesday Night Live for Holden Evening Prayer.

Want to learn more about Holden Evening Prayer?

Join Minister of Music Andrew Paulson in the Music Room!

8:45 - 9:15 am

August 25 & September 1.

Experience the music and learn more!

*Thank You*

To all the volunteers that helped clear our closets! We are happy to report that we passed the Fire Marshal inspection with flying colors!

### The Summer Stitch

The Praying Hands Stitchers will meet this summer before service!

8:30 - 9:15 am

September 1<sup>st</sup>



**THANK  
YOU**



After serving as Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds the for past 11 years, Leroy will be retiring. Join us for a light lunch and cake after church on **Sunday, September 8** to celebrate his retirement and years of service to St John's.

## 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	25	Sun	8:45 am 9:30 am 11:00 am	<b>Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> Holden Evening Prayer Info Meeting, Music Room Morning Worship, Sanctuary Fellowship, Assembly Hall
Aug	27	Tues	7:00 pm	AA, Assembly Hall
Aug	28	Wed	2:00 pm	Trinity Lutheran Group, Library
Aug	30	Fri	6:00 pm	Chess, Assembly Hall
Sept	1	Sun	8:30 am 8:45 am 9:30 am 11:00 am	<b>Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> Praying Hands Stitchers, Library Holden Evening Prayer Info Meeting, Music Room Morning Worship, Sanctuary Fellowship, Assembly Hall

### 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.



# Psalm 84

<sup>1</sup> How lovely is your dwelling place,  
O Lord of hosts!

<sup>2</sup> My soul longs, indeed it faints,  
for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh sing for joy  
to the living God.

<sup>3</sup> Even the sparrow finds a home  
and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may lay her young,  
at your altars, O Lord of hosts,  
my King and my God.

<sup>4</sup> Happy are those who live in your house,  
ever singing your praise. Selah

<sup>5</sup> Happy are those whose strength is in you,  
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

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they make it a place of springs;  
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give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah

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## John 6:56-69

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