



# *Listening to God*

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 1, 2024**  
**9:30 am**

# Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

9:30 am—September 1, 2024— Fifteenth 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

Partita on *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*: Theme.....John A Behnke

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Creator of the cosmos, of eternity and time:

**Be with us in this time**

Saviour of the world, healer of the nations:

**Be with us in this place**

Breath of all that lives, of people near and far

**Stir within our lives**

Maker-Spirit-Son, God of here and now:

**Be present in our worship, that we may find new ways to be present in your world.**

*Iona Abbey Worship Book*

### \*OPENING HYMN

When Morning Gilds the Skies.....86

*Stanzas 2 and 3 may be sung in harmony.*

### \*CONFESSION

**Holy God, in you alone we live and move and have our being. You know us better than we know ourselves, our secrets and our sins. Forgive us, we pray, for the faults and failures we see and for the ones that remain hidden from us. Forgive us, we pray, for the evil we do and the good we fail to do! Eternal God, may we break from the bonds of unaltered, unexamined, and unimaginative traditions. At the same time, may we be released from the compulsion to discount everything that has been a source of life and faithful formation across generations. Help us to discern what needs to be left in our past with honor, recognition, and gratitude, what needs to be eradicated with lament, repentance, and repair, and what needs to be envisioned, imagined, and created for the future. Amen**

### \*ASSURANCE

Beloved, the Holy One renews, redeems, and restores through continuing creative acts. God has not concluded the good work begun in you or in our faith communities. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we receive courage, counsel, and conviction to do the new thing God is calling us to do while holding fast to those things that build, sustain, and encourage. By grace may we be purified as your beloved children, so that we may be holy, changed day by day into the likeness of Jesus, our Lord and our God.

**Thanks be to God!**

### \*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 15

<sup>1</sup> O Lord, who may abide in your tent?  
Who may dwell on your holy hill?  
<sup>2</sup> **Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right  
and speak the truth from their heart;**  
<sup>3</sup> who do not slander with their tongue  
and do no evil to their friends  
nor heap shame upon their neighbors;  
<sup>4</sup> **in whose eyes the wicked are despised  
but who honor those who fear the Lord;  
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;**  
<sup>5</sup> who do not lend money at interest  
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.  
Those who do these things shall never be moved.

Focus Scripture  
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

**7** Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, <sup>2</sup> they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup> (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders, <sup>4</sup> and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash, and there are also many other traditions that they observe: the washing of cups and pots and bronze kettles and beds.) <sup>5</sup> So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders but eat with defiled hands?” <sup>6</sup> He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,  
‘This people honors me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;  
<sup>7</sup> in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’  
<sup>8</sup> “You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”  
<sup>14</sup> Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup> there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”  
<sup>21</sup> For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: sexual immorality, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup> adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, debauchery, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup> All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (INCLUSIVE) ~based on Matthew 6: 9-13~

**Blessed One, our Father and our Mother  
Holy is your name.  
May your love be enacted in the world.  
May your will be done  
On earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread  
And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us in the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For all that we do in your love,  
and all that your love brings to birth,  
and the fullness of love that will be  
are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

*Copyright © 2003 Richard D. McCall,  
Associate Professor of Liturgy and Church Music,  
Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, MA*

ANTHEM

Sonatina in A Minor.....Georg Anton Benda

SERMON

“Listening to God with the Heart” .....Rev. Tom Adil

\*HYMN

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1. I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to fol - low Je - sus.  
2. I want to see \_\_\_ the bright-ness of God. I want to look at Je - sus.  
3. I'm look - ing for \_\_\_ the com - ing of Christ. I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life \_\_\_ is Je - sus.  
Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
When we have run \_\_\_ with pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy \_\_\_ of Je - sus.

*Refrain*



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the day are both a - like.



The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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

Partita on *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*: Cantabile.....John A Behnke  
*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

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds.....393

Stanza 1: All                                  Stanza 3: Higher Voices  
 Stanza 2: Lower Voices                  Stanza 4: All

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Partita on *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*: Fantasia.....John A Behnke

***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  
 Vin Wiemelt, Piano

## Copyright Information

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*I Come with Joy*

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

*I Want to Walk as a Child of Light*

Text and Music: Kathleen Thomerson © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

*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:

Bill Leslie, Bob Bertolette,  
Margie Jewell, Gale Linderman,  
Rick O'Connor, Scott Vanderburg

### Elder of the Morning:

Susan Fitzpatrick

### Deacon of the Morning:

Sumiko Booraem

### CD Technician:

Matt Rivett

### Chancel Flower Ministry:

Jen & Matt Harp

### Driver:

Gale Linderman

### Greeters:

Judy Johnston

### Social Host:

OPEN



🌸 In honor of the Rev. Frank & Beatrice Pehrson's September 5 wedding anniversary from their daughter, Karen, and Mark Methlie

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 18, 2024</b>	
Attendance: 9:30 am, August 18, Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost	108
Offering For Current Income	\$6,835.00
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$565.00
<b>A Look at the Week of August 25, 2024</b>	
Attendance: 9:30 am, August 25, Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost	95
Offering For Current Income	\$3,225.00
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$260.00

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.

Have questions or comments about the church website or social media?  
 Please contact Grace Marchione, Communications Coordinator, at [communications@st-johns-ucc.org](mailto:communications@st-johns-ucc.org).

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Looking for feedback from families with young children on their NEED in opening the St. John's nursery up with volunteers. Please let us know your need by answering a few questions on the survey found on the purple sheet by the Sanctuary doors or just contacting a member of the BOE or emailing the church office.

-Board of Educators

## Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 4

7:30 pm

Music Room



THANK  
YOU



After serving as Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds for the 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.

Celebration  
Sunday

Blessing  
Of the  
Backpacks

September  
8th

## Women's Retreat



Saturday, September 14

9:30 am



Church Library

This month's program will feature David Furniss, who will share his ideas about what makes Oaxaca, Mexico a special place. Learn about the customs, music, festivals and more through photos, descriptions and a little Oaxacan music. Exciting news from the Oaxaca Learning Center will also be included. Light refreshments will be served.

*All women are welcome!*



## 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)

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, Music Room Morning Worship, Sanctuary Fellowship, Assembly Hall
Sept	2	Mon		Office Closed for Labor Day
Sept	3	Tues	7:00 pm	AA, Assembly Hall
Sept	4	Weds	7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
Sept	7	Sat	8:30 am	Art of Living Foundation Yoga, Library
Sept	8	Sun	10:15 am 11:30 am	<b>Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>10:15 am Worship Resumes</b> <b>Celebration Sunday</b> <b>Enlightener Due</b> Morning Worship, Sanctuary <b>Leroy's Retirement Party, Assembly Hall</b> Elders, Library Stewardship, Senior Pastor Study

Fall Programming Begins Next Week, September 8th!

New theme:

# Tough Love from a Loving God

**10:15 am Sunday Worship**

9 | September 1, 2024

# Psalm 15

<sup>1</sup> O Lord, who may abide in your tent?  
Who may dwell on your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup> Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right  
and speak the truth from their heart;

<sup>3</sup> who do not slander with their tongue  
and do no evil to their friends  
nor heap shame upon their neighbors;

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who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

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## Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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