

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**.

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

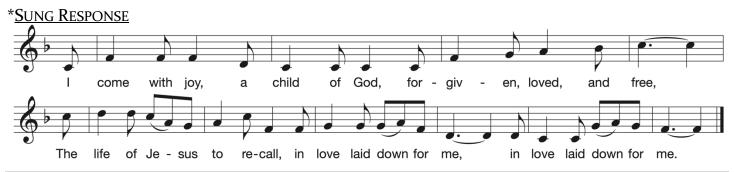
*CONFESSION

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!



Scripture Psalm 15

- ¹ O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?
- ² Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right and speak the truth from their heart;
- ³ who do not slander with their tongue and do no evil to their friends nor heap shame upon their neighbors;
- ⁴ in whose eyes the wicked are despised but who honor those who fear the Lord; who stand by their oath even to their hurt;
- ⁵ 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.

<u>Focus Scripture</u> 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, ² they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³ (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders, ⁴ 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.) ⁵ 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?" ⁶ 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;

- ⁷ in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.'
- ⁸ "You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."
- ¹⁴ Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵ there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."
- ²¹ For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²² adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, debauchery, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³ 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.

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ANTHEM

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

SERMON

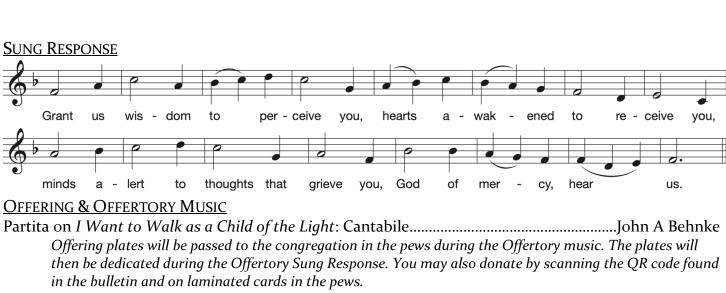
"Listening to God with the Heart"Rev. Tom Adil

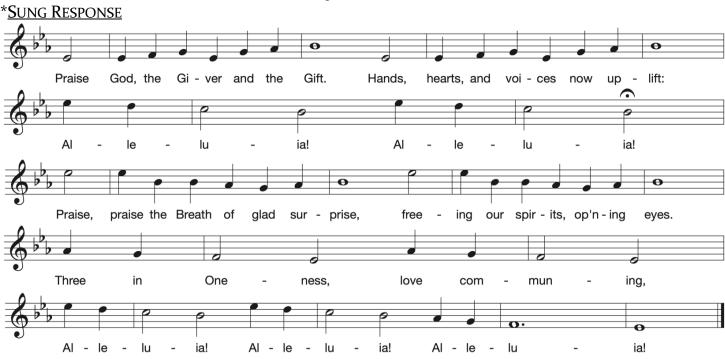
*HYMN

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



JOYS & CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE





*Prayer of Dedication

*CLOSING HYMN

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
- 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
A Look at the Week of August 18, 2024	
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
A Look at the Week of August 25, 2024	
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.easytithe.com/app/g iving/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

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**.

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 Dehearsal

Wednesday, September 4
7:30 pm



Music Room







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.



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

Sept	1	Sun		Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
			8:30 am	Praying Hands Stitchers, Library
			8:45 am	Holden Evening Prayer Info, Music Room
			9:30 am	Morning Worship, Sanctuary
			11:00 am	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	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:15 am Worship Resumes Celebration Sunday Enlightener Due Morning Worship, Sanctuary Leroy's Retirement Party, Assembly Hall Elders, Library Stewardship, Senior Pastor Study

Fall Programming Begins Next Week, <u>September 8th!</u>
New theme:



Psalm 15

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