



# *Tough Love from a Loving God*

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 15, 2024**

**10:15 am**

# Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

10:15 am—September 15, 2024—Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

## PRELUDE

Prelude on "Lift High the Cross".....David Cherwien

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Call upon the Holy One, who is gracious and merciful.

**We love the Holy One, who has heard our cry, responds to our prayers,  
and abides with us through our distress.**

Call upon the Holy One, who is gracious and merciful.

**We praise the Righteous One, who protects, provides, and prepares their people.**

Call upon the Holy One, who is gracious and merciful.

**We worship the Radiant One, who walks before us in the land of the living.**

### \*OPENING HYMN

Lift High the Cross.....198

<i>The refrain is sung by all.</i>		<i>Stanza 3: All in Harmony</i>
<i>Stanza 1: All in Harmony</i>		<i>Stanza 4: Higher Voices</i>
<i>Stanza 2: Lower Voices</i>		<i>Stanza 5: All in Harmony</i>

### \*CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

**Loving God, we confess that you are a God of transformation and a solid rock. We strive to be like trees planted by the water, steadfast and unmovable at the same time that we embrace your continuing creative acts in the world and in our lives. We struggle at times to know when to remain firm and when to progress forward. Infuse us with your wisdom and discernment along with courage and grace to be fully who you have created us to be.**

Beloved, God knows the journey that has shaped you, honors the efforts you have undertaken, and sustains you when you extend yourself forward. The Righteous One is merciful and grace-filled. Creator delights in you. Be bold and encouraged for the Sovereign One believes in you and goes with you.

**Amen.**

### \*SUNG RESPONSE

Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heav'n, on earth be found, Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing,  
all your faith-ful mer-cies crown; Je-sus, you are all com-pas-sion; pure, un-bound-ed love im-part.  
Vis-it us with your sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-'ry trem-bling heart.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 50:4-9a.....Pew Bible Page 643

GOSPEL READING

Mark 8:27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi, and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

O Dearest Lord, Thy Sacred Head.....Arranged by David N. Johnson

*O dearest Lord, thy sacred head with thorns was pierced for me;  
O pour thy blessing on my head, that I may think for thee.*

*O dearest Lord, thy sacred hands with nails were pierced for me;  
O shed thy blessing on my hands, that they may work for thee.*

*O dearest Lord, thy sacred feet with nails were pierced for me;  
O pour thy blessing on my feet, that I may follow thee.*

*O dearest Lord, the sacred heart with spear was pierced for me;  
O pour thy Spirit in my heart, that I may live for thee. Amen.*

*-Father Andrew (Henry Ernest Hardy)*

SERMON

"The Tyranny Within" .....Rev. Tom Adil

\*HYMN

"Take Up Your Cross," the Savior Said.....204

*Stanza 1: Choir; Stanzas 2-4: 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**

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross.....Fanny Crosby/William Doane

*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**

What a Covenant.....471

*The refrain may be sung in harmony.*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Fanfare.....Michael Helman

***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

Chancel Choir  
 Kathleen Siddall and Bill Cagney, Soloists

**Copyright Information**

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<p><i>O Dearest Lord, Thy Sacred Head</i>          Text: Father Andrew (Henry Ernest Hardy), from <i>The Book of Common Praise</i> © A.R Mowbay and Co.  <i>Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You</i>          Text: Rae Whitney, 1991; rev. 1994, © 1994, Selah Publishing Co., Inc.  <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** the week 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:**

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

### **Elder of the Morning:**

Chriss Bodde

### **Deacon of the Morning:**

Rickie Lee Sands

### **CD Technician:**

Robin MacMullen

### **Chancel Flower Ministry:**

Eric & Anne Kinsey

### **Driver:**

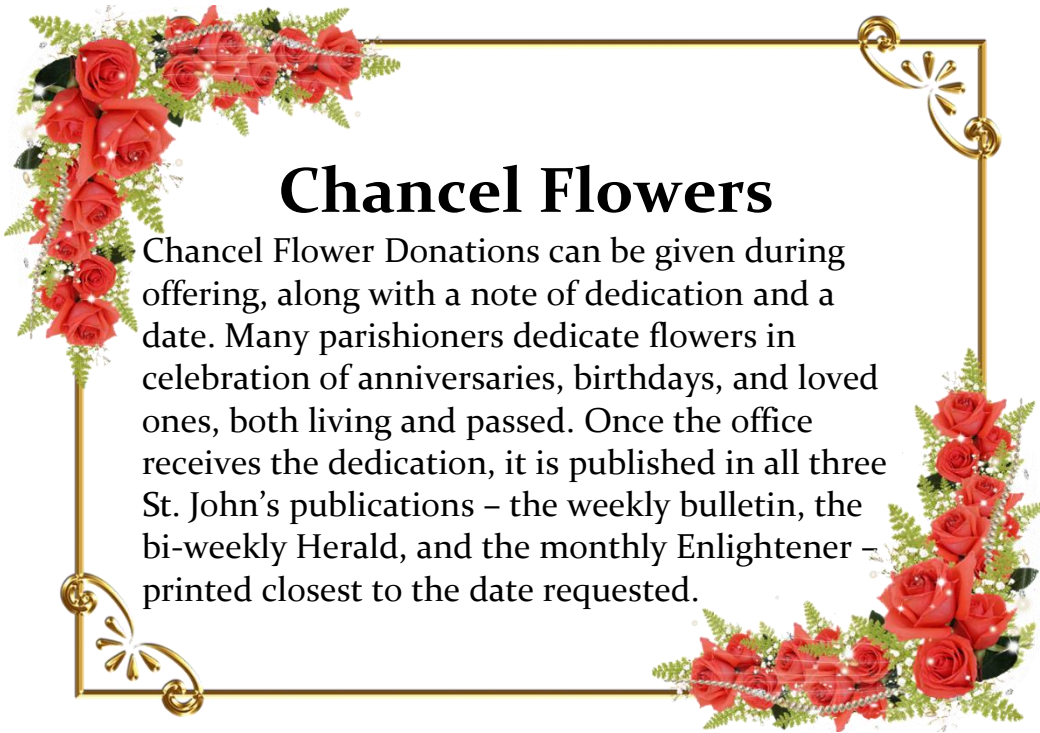
Gale Linderman

### **Greeters:**

Marcia Stacey

### **Social Host:**

St. John's Staff




# Chancel Flowers

Chancel Flower Donations can be given during offering, along with a note of dedication and a date. Many parishioners dedicate flowers in celebration of anniversaries, birthdays, and loved ones, both living and passed. Once the office receives the dedication, it is published in all three St. John's publications – the weekly bulletin, the bi-weekly Herald, and the monthly Enlightener – printed closest to the date requested.

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 September 1, 2024</b>	
Attendance: 9:30 am, September 1, Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	85
Offering For Current Income	\$6,346.00
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$641.00
<b>A Look at the Week of September 8, 2024</b>	
Attendance: 10:15 am, September 8, Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	136
Offering For Current Income	\$6,267.50
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$820.50

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

Scan here for online giving

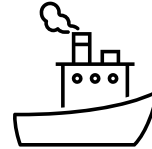


# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION FOR THE MALAWI BOOK / FLASHLIGHT DRIVE! THE BOOKS ARE ON THEIR WAY! **8 PLASTIC TUBS WERE FILLED FOR MALAWI!**



## 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	15	Sun		<b>Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>Council Communications Day</b> Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Fellowship, Assembly Hall CGM Meeting, Library
Sept	16	Mon		<b>Library Closed</b>
Sept	17	Tues	7:00 pm	AA, Assembly Hall
Sept	18	Weds	5:45-6:45 pm 6:15-6:45 pm  7:00-7:20 pm 7:30-9:00 pm	<b>Wednesday Night Live!</b> Community Meal, Activity Room Adult Education, Library United Ringers, Sanctuary Children's Choir, Music Room <b>Holden Evening Prayer, Sanctuary</b> Chancel Choir
Sept	19	Thurs	9:30 am	Enlightener Folding, Library
Sept	20	Fri	6:00 pm	North Penn Chess Club, Activity Room
Sept	21	Sat	8:30 am	Art of Living Foundation, Library
Sept	22	Sun		<b>Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>Council Communications Day</b> Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Fellowship, Assembly Hall CGM Meeting, Library



### 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.	Bill Bergey, Custodian      Grace Marchione, Communications Coordinator
Mark Bruen, Council President	



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