



Tough Love from a Loving God

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 22, 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 22, 2024—Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE

Children of the Heavenly Father.....Setting by Robert Hobby

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to worship today, not knowing all the answers, but knowing that God welcomes the openness of our curious minds and hearts.

**We come not because we seek to be the greatest,
but because we seek the graciousness of God.**

We come trusting that the greatest persons will be found among those who humbly serve like Jesus did, and that the brightest ideas and the deepest truth will come from those who see themselves as little children in Christ's school of love.

**May we approach this time of worship with humility and openness
as we journey on and grow in discipleship.**

*OPENING HYMN

We Gather Together.....421

*CONFESSION/ASSURANCE

God of patience and mercy, we confess that we often find ourselves offering "lip service" to serving you, but when things get difficult; when we are called to do something that pushes beyond our comfort zone or challenges our norms, we shy away from the responsibility and the opportunity. We turn our back on your call to service out of fear of failure and apathy for efforts that don't gift or gain us anything in return. Forgive us, gracious God. Heal our hearts, supplement our weaknesses, and calm our fears. Strengthen us and give us courage to truly be your disciples, not counting the rewards, but rejoicing in the work. In Jesus' Name, we pray. 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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Peter Edward Mohler
Son of Katy Morton and Andy Mohler

The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the boundless grace of God, a celebration of God's unconditional, never-ending love. In as much as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship. To the name you have given your child, Peter Edward, we will add the name "child of God, member of God's family." Katy and Andy, do you desire Pete to be baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ? If so, say "we do"

Parents: We do.

Will you, in time, encourage Pete to discover the freedom of new life in Christ and to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, Friend and Companion? If so, say, "we will with the help of God."

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Will you, by word and example, demonstrate your faith to Pete by doing your best to love God and to love other people, to follow in the ways of Jesus, to resist oppression and evil, to seek grace, justice, and peace in the world? If so, say, "we will with the help of God."

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Will you, as best you are able, seek to grow with Pete in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating the presence of Christ and furthering the mission of Christ in the world? If so, say, "we will with the help of God."

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Will you, Godparents Alex and Nate, support Katy and Andy in this commitment and become a special friend and faith partner to Pete? If so, say "We will."

Godparents: We will.

Let us join together as the people of St. John's and members of the body of Christ to make our promise as we welcome and embrace this beloved one...

As members of Christ's church, we promise this child and his parents our love, support, and care. Peter, with joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into Christ's church to share with us in ministry, for we are all one in Christ.

POURING OF THE WATER

BAPTISM PRAYER

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation made known to us in water and word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life. In the time of Moses, your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land. You have come to us through water in the stories of Jesus who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb, baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, and became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well. Jesus washed the feet of the disciples and sent them forth to baptize with water and spirit. And now, O God, we pray that you bless, by your Holy Spirit, this water. Bless Pete as he receives this sacrament, that he may be ever reminded of your abiding presence and claim on his precious life. Amen.

ACT OF BAPTISM

*SUNG RESPONSE



OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 11:18-20.....Pew Bible Page 672

GOSPEL READING

Mark 9:30-37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it, for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” Then he took a little child and put it among them, and taking it in his arms he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

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

Jesus Loves Me.....William B. Bradbury, arr. John A. Ferguson

*Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me...the Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me he who died heaven’s gates to open wide;
he will wash away my sin; let his little child come in.
Yes, Jesus loves me...the Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me, he will stay close beside me all the way.
He calls children to his side, saying, “Come with me abide.”
Yes, Jesus loves me...the Bible tells me so.*

-Anna B. Warner, adapted by John A. Ferguson

SERMON

“What Matters and What Doesn’t”Rev. Addie Stong

*HYMN

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God.....295

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

Little Children, Welcome.....Fred Pratt Green/Roy Hopp

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**

The Church of Christ in Every Age.....306
Stanza 2 may be sung in harmony.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Toccata in E Minor, P. 462.....Johann Pachelbel

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

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Worship Assistants

Hospitality:

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

Elder of the Morning:

Bill Cagney

Deacon of the Morning:

Judy Johnston

CD Technician:

Scott Cunningham

Chancel Flower Ministry:

Ruth Kinsey

Driver:

Kay Peebles

Greeters:

Betty Elliot & Suzanne Franks

Social Host:

Deacons



 In memory of Bob Kinsey's September 22nd birthday from his wife, Ruth

Weekly amount needed for Current Income 2024	\$7,884.62
Weekly amount needed for OCWM 2024	\$798.00
A Look at the Week of September 8, 2024	
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
A Look at the Week of September 15, 2024	
Attendance: 10:15 am, September 15, Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	104
Offering For Current Income	\$3,242.00
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$235.00

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

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!



*Thank
You*

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	22	Sun	10:15 am 10:45 am 11:30 am 11:45 am	Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost Mohler Baptism Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Fellowship, Assembly Hall CGM Meeting, Library
Sept	24	Tues	7:00 pm	AA, Assembly Hall
Sept	25	Weds	5:45-6:45 pm 6:15-6:45 pm 7:00-7:20 pm 7:30-9:00 pm	Wednesday Night Live! Community Meal, Activity Room Adult Education, Library United Ringers, Sanctuary Children's Choir, Music Room Holden Evening Prayer, Sanctuary Chancel Choir
Sept	26	Thurs	6:30 pm	Girl Scouts, Activity Room
Sept	27	Fri	6:00 pm	North Penn Chess Club, Assembly Hall
Sept	14	Sat	8:30 am	Art of Living Foundation, Library
Sept	15	Sun	10:15 am 10:45 am 11:30 am	Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost Gordon Baptism Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Fellowship, Assembly Hall

- 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.

Mark 9:30-37

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