

Tough Love from a Loving God

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 29, 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 29, 2024—Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE

O Heiliger Geist (O Spirit of Life).....Setting by Marilyn Biery

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come so that we can worship our God,
whose words restore us to life.

We come so that we can follow Jesus,
whose hope and call for justice are clear and compelling.

We come so that we can learn from the Spirit,
whose teachings help us to understand how to live as God's people.

We gather in the name of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit to be taught,
challenged, guided, and redeemed.

Come, let us listen, learn, and worship!

*OPENING HYMN

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens.....556

*CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Gracious God, In the life of your son, Jesus, you show us that you are on the side of all people, but never at the expense of the weakest among us. Forgive us when we create divisions of "us" and "them" and assume that what we believe and how we live out our faith is the only right way. Forgive us when we hoard you for ourselves, put you in a box, and try to control who has access to your love. Forgive us when our greed, our unwillingness, and our need for control keeps others from knowing you and keeps us from learning more about you from others. Redeem us and transform us, O God. Open the doors to our hearts, our minds, and our church, that we may become a doorway to your kingdom of love.

God hears our prayers for forgiveness. When we dare to confess our sins, claim our mistakes, and ask for God's help, we are met with an abundance of grace and love. May we accept these priceless gifts, and may they change the way we live in this world.

We are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*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

Lyra Ariel Gordon

Daughter of Adam and Becky Gordon

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, Lyra Ariel, we will add the name "child of God, member of God's family." Adam and Becky, do you desire Lyra to be baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ? If so, say "we do"

Parents: We do.

Will you, in time, encourage Lyra 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 Lyra 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 Lyra 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 Samantha and William, support Adam and Becky in this commitment and become a special friend and faith partner to Lyra? 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. Lyra, with joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into Christ's church to share with us in ministry, for we are all one in Christ.

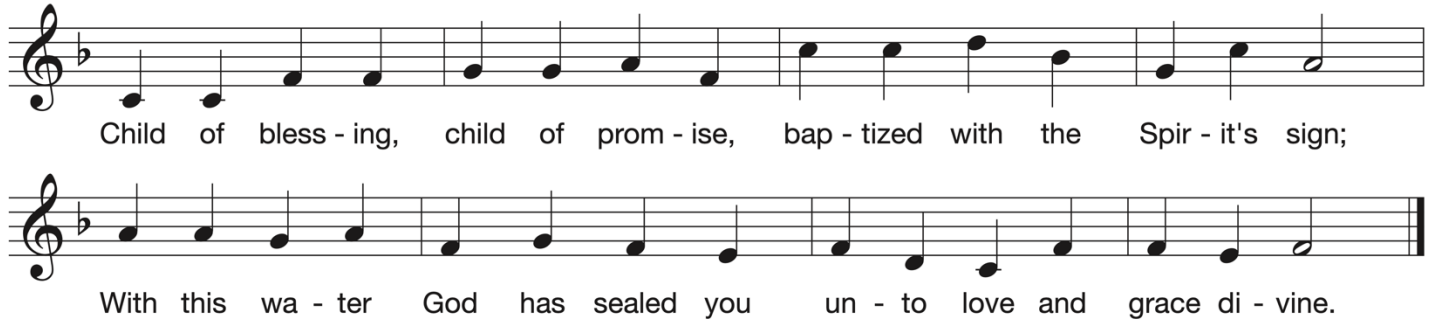
POURING OF THE WATER

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 Lyra as she receives this sacrament, that she may be ever reminded of your abiding presence and claim on her precious life. Amen.

ACT OF BAPTISM

SUNG RESPONSE



Child of bless - ing, child of prom - ise, bap - tized with the Spir - it's sign;
 With this wa - ter God has sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29.....Page 127

GOSPEL READING

Mark 9:38-50

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him, for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

"If any of you cause one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies and the fire is never quenched.

"For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good, but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

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

How Lovely Are the Messengers (from "St. Paul").....Felix Mendelssohn
*How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace,
 to all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words,
 throughout all the land their glad tidings.*

-based on Romans 10:15, 18

SERMON

"Stumbling Block or Building Block?"Rev. Addie Stong

*HYMN

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People.....181

The refrain is sung by all.

Stanza 1: All

Stanza 2: Higher Voices

Stanza 3: Lower Voices

Stanza 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

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness.....James K. Manley
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

Every Time I Feel the Spirit.....282
The refrain may be sung in harmony.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata in Seven.....John Rutter

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

Copyright Information

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Child of Blessing, Child of Promise
Text: Ronald S. Cole-Turner © 1981, Ronald S. Cole-Turner

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 Bertollette,
Margie Jewell, Gale Linderman,
Rick O’Connor, Scott Vanderburg

Elder of the Morning:

Anne Kinsey

Deacon of the Morning:

Scott Vanderburg

CD Technician:

Griff Francis

Chancel Flower Ministry:

Marcia Stacey

Driver:

Jo-Ann Sine

Greeters:

Sue & Bill Morris

Social Host:

Robin & Barb

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 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
A Look at the Week of September 22, 2024	
Attendance: 10:15 am, September 22, Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost	129
Offering For Current Income	\$5,205.00
Offering For Our Church’s Wider Mission	\$713.00

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

Scan here for online giving



ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Thank
you*

After serving our congregation as ministerial staff for over 10 years,
Rev. Addie Stong is following her calling elsewhere.
Join us in celebrating Rev. Addie during fellowship on
Sunday, October 6th



Looking for help to fill our Trunks with TREATS for Family Game Night. If you are able to DONATE wrapped candy to hand out, please drop off in the donation box located in the library.

-Board of Educators



RECOGNIZING & REPORTING SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT FOR MANDATED REPORTERS

KNOW YOUR ROLE IN PROTECTING CHILDREN

Free Mandated Reporter Training
Saturday October 12th
St John's Assembly Hall
Childcare available

Women's Retreat

Saturday, October 12

9:30 am

Church Library

This month's program will feature Don Atkiss, who will share information regarding "St. John's Creation Stewards", a group of St. John's members concerned with any issues related to nature, racial justice, income inequality or environmental issues. Light refreshments will be served.

*All women are
welcome!*

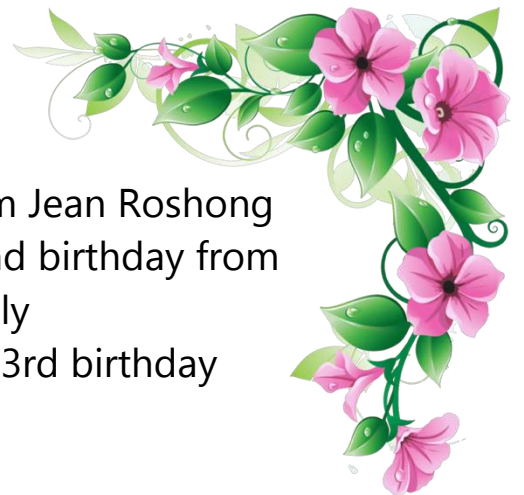
This Week at St. John's

If you would like more information about St. John's, please speak with one of the staff or contact the church office at 215.855.5489 or office@st-johns-ucc.org

Sept	29	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
Oct	1	Tues	7:00 pm	AA, Assembly Hall
Oct	2	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
Oct	3	Thurs	6:30 pm	Girl Scouts, Activity Room
Oct	4	Fri	6:00 pm	North Penn Chess Club, Assembly Hall
Oct	6	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am 10:45 am 11:30 am	Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost World Communion Sunday Stitchers, Library Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Celebration of Rev. Addie, Assembly Hall

Chancel Flowers

In honor of Gold Star Mother's Day from Jean Roshong
In memory of John Burkholder's Oct. 2nd birthday from
his daughter Judy Johnston and family
In memory of Julia G. Kriebel's October 3rd birthday
from her family



Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

The camp followers with them had a strong craving, and the Israelites also wept again and said, “If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic, but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.”

Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So Moses said to the Lord, “Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, ‘Carry them in your bosom as a wet nurse carries a nursing child, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors’? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me, saying, ‘Give us meat to eat!’ I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery.” So the Lord said to Moses, “Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting and have them take their place there with you.

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord, and he gathered seventy of the elders of the people and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders, and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again. Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, “My lord Moses, stop them!” But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!”

Mark 9:38-50

John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him, for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

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