



Everything to God in Prayer

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

World Communion Sunday

Farewell to Rev. Addie Stong

October 6, 2024

10:15 am

Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ/500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

10:15 am—October 6, 2024—Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

World Communion Sunday

Farewell to Rev. Addie Stong

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

PRELUDE

What a Friend We Have in Jesus.....Arr. Patricia Sanders Cota

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Today we hold sadness and celebration together.

Our hearts carry both grief and gratefulness.

Our minds remember what has been and dream about what might be.

God meets us here, holds what we hold, carries what we carry...

God is behind us, beside us, and before us.

May our worship this day honor the beauty of the journey and the One who lights our path and guides us each step of the way.

Come, let us worship!

*OPENING HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth.....28

Stanza 1: All

Stanza 3: All in Harmony

Stanza 2: All in Canon; Higher Voices Begin, Lower Voices Follow

Stanza 4: All

*CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

God, way-maker and soul-soother, we long to see you, hear you, feel you, and walk with you in our daily lives, but so often, there is something that draws us in, consumes us, and lures us away from your presence. We confess that in times of transition and unknown, our hearts become heavy~ bogged down and buried by fear, worry, and the weight of our own expectations. Today we pray, quite simply, that you free us from whatever holds us down and stands between us and your grace. Fix our eyes and our spirits on that which is true, noble, right, pure, and lovely. Meet us and surround us with your peace and beauty. Amen.

God hears our prayers for forgiveness. When we confess our sins, we allow God to bear our pain and ease our worry. When we claim our mistakes and ask for God's help, we are met with an abundance of grace and love and set free from all that binds us. May we receive and trust in these priceless gifts, and may they change the way we live in this world.

We are forgiven, loved, and free. 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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 43:1-7, 16-21.....Page 635

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Philippians 4:1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE & ANTHEM

This Little Light of Mine.....African American Spiritual, arr. Mark Patterson

*This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine...
Ev’rywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine...
I’m gonna let it shine ‘til Jesus comes. I’m gonna let it shine...
-African American Spiritual*

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

I Will Make a Way!.....Tom Trenney

*Behold! Behold! I will do a new thing! A new thing!
Ev’rything old has passed away.
See, ev’rything old has become new.

I will make a way in the wilderness. I will make rivers in the desert.
See, ev’rything old has passed away.
Ev’rything has become new.

Do not remember the former things or consider the ways of old.
Ev’rything old has passed away.
See, ev’rything has become new.

I will make a way in the wilderness. I will make rivers in the desert.
The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and ostriches,
for I give water in the wilderness; the desert shall be a pool.

See, ev’rything old has passed away.
I will make a way in the wilderness. I will make rivers in the desert.
Ev’rything old is passed away! I will make a way!
-Based on Isaiah 43:18-20 and 2 Corinthians 5:17*

SERMON

“Stumbling Block or Building Block?”Rev. Addie Stong

*HYMN

What a Friend We Have in Jesus.....506

The hymn may be sung in harmony.

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

I Come with Joy.....Arr. Becky Meason

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

COMMUNION LITURGY

Jesus said: "I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst."

In the company with all around the world who hunger, we come to this table to know the risen Christ, in the sharing of this life-giving bread and in the sharing of the cup.

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION/PRAYER OF BLESSING

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Christ's table is open to all~ Everyone is welcome to participate in the sacrament of communion. The outer circle of the communion plate contains wine, all of the inner circles contain grape juice. Gluten-free bread is also available

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LITURGY OF FAREWELL REV. ADDIE STONG, ACTING LEAD PASTOR

See insert.

CHORAL RESPONSE

The Lord Bless You and Keep You.....Peter C. Lutkin
The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord lift His countenance upon you; and give you peace, the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

In the Midst of New Dimensions.....391
The refrain may be sung by all in harmony.
Stanza 1: All Stanza 4: All in Harmony
Stanza 2: Higher Voices Stanza 5: All
Stanza 3: Lower Voices

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

What a Friend We Have in Jesus.....Arr. Jack Schrader

***Following worship, you are invited to join us for a light luncheon in the
Assembly Hall as we continue the celebration for Rev. Addie!***

Worship Leaders

Rev. Addie Stong, Acting Lead Pastor	Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children and Youth
Pastor Tom Adil, Bridge Support Pastor	United Ringers
Elaine Ely, North Penn Association Representative	Children's Choir
Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music	Chancel Choir

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<p><i>Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You</i> Text: Rae Whitney, 1991; rev. 1994, © 1994, Selah Publishing Co., Inc.</p> <p><i>Praise God, the Giver and the Gift</i> Text: Brian Wren, 1989, © 1989, Hope Publishing Company</p>

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

- 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/stjohnsuccclansdalepa](https://www.youtube.com/stjohnsuccclansdalepa)
- 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:

Mark Methlie, Jen Gilbert, Sarah Hogan,
Bonnie & Walt Weber

Elder of the Morning:

Susan Fitzpatrick

Deacon of the Morning:

Rick Faniulacci

CD Technician:

Matt Rivett

Chancel Flower Ministry:

Amy Faga

Driver:

Scott Vanderburg

Greeters:

Social Host:

Board of Educators

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 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
A Look at the Week of September 29, 2024	
Attendance: 10:15 am, September 29, Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost	130
Offering For Current Income	\$4,248.50
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$295.50

To give online through our secure platform, visit
<https://app.easytithes.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 today!



**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!*

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

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

Oct	6	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am 10:45 am 11:30 am	Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost World Communion Sunday Farewell to Rev. Addie Stong Stitches, Library Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Celebration of Rev. Addie, Assembly Hall
Oct	8	Tues	7:00 pm	AA, Assembly Hall
Oct	9	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	10	Thurs	1:00 pm 6:30-8:30 pm	Stammers, Activity Room Girl Scouts, Activity Room
Oct	11	Fri	6:00 pm	North Penn Chess Club, Assembly Hall
Oct	12	Sat	9 am-12 pm 9:30 am	Mandated Reporter Training, Assembly Hall Women's Retreat, Library
Oct	13	Sun	10:15 am 10:45 am 11:30 am 11:45 am	Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost Enlightener Due College Goodie Bag Donations due Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Fellowship, Assembly Hall CGM Meeting, Library



Chancel Flowers

In memory of loved ones from Doris Latta
 In memory of Madeleine Bruen from her son, Mark, and
 Grace, Ben and Allison Bruen

Philippians 4:1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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