



# *Tough Love from a Loving God*

**Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost**

**October 13, 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 13, 2024—Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

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

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## PRELUDE

Let Justice Flow like Stream.....Setting by Emma Lou Diemer

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (INSPIRED BY PSALM 90)

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, O God,  
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

**The Holy One meets us in the stillness of our thoughts, in the joy of our laughter,  
in the spontaneity of our encounters, in the hope of our presence.**

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, O God,  
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

**The Creator sustains us with mercy, reassures us with compassion,  
and challenges us with grace.**

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, O God,  
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

**Let us worship our Maker in spirit and in truth,  
through pain and despair, with the fullness of our being.**

### \*OPENING HYMN

Let Justice Flow like Streams.....588

*Stanza 2 may be sung in harmony.*

### \*CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**Gracious and Loving God, have mercy on us. We confess our own forms of rebellion and stubbornness. We seek our own way and fail to wait for your counsel, wisdom, and insight. We hold fast to hopes and dreams that do not include your kingdom or our neighbors. We choose comfort over holy confrontation, doctrine over faithful discipleship and position over spiritual power. Awaken in us hunger and thirst for righteousness. Amen.**

Dear One, God is with you. Hear these words of assurance from 1 Corinthians 10:13, "No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful and will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing God will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it."

**Thanks be to God! 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

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15.....Page 805

GOSPEL READING

Mark 10:17-31

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. You shall not defraud. Honor your father and mother.’” He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the good news who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

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 how happy are they (from Melodious Accord).....Tune from *Harmonia Sacra*, arr. Alice Parker

*O how happy are they, who their Savior obey, and have laid up their treasure above,  
Oh! What tongue can express the sweet comfort and peace of a soul in its earliest love.*

*’Twas a heaven below my Redeemer to know: And the angels could do nothing more  
than to fall at his feet and the story repeat, and the Savior of sinners adore.*

*Jesus all the day long was my joy and my song; Oh! That more his salvation might see;  
He hath loved me, I cried, He hath suffer’d and died, to redeem such a rebel as me.*

*Now my remnant of days would I spend in his praise, who hath died me from death to redeem;  
Whether many or few, all my days are his due; May they all be devoted to him.*

-Charles Wesley

SERMON

“A Spiritual Path in the Darkness” .....Pastor Tom Adil

\*HYMN

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending.....565  
*Stanzas 2 and 3 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

O God of Love, O God of Peace.....Henry W. Baker  
*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

He's Got the Whole Word in His Hands

1. He's got the whole world in his hands, He's got the whole world in his hands,  
He's got the whole world in his hands, He's got the whole world in his hands.

### *Additional Stanzas*

2. He's got my brothers and my sisters in his hands, (3 times)  
He's got the whole world in his hands.
3. He's got the little bitty baby in his hands, (3 times)  
He's got the whole world in his hands.
4. He's got the whole world in his hands, (3 times)  
He's got the whole world in his hands.

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Voluntary.....Gordon Young

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*Following worship, you are invited to join us for fellowship in Assembly Hall.*

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**Worship Leaders**

Pastor Tom Adil, Acting Lead Pastor  
Abbie Lampe, Liturgist

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. <i>Praise God, the Giver and the Gift</i> Text: Brian Wren, 1989, © 1989, Hope Publishing Company</p>
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- If your little one needs a break, The Nursery will be open for you to use mindfully.
  - No volunteers will be on duty, so **a parent, grandparent, or responsible adult must stay with their child.**
- If you are having difficulty hearing the service, please ask a Hospitality Team member for an audio device.
- 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](https://www.youtube.com/stjohnsucclansdalepa)
- Physical Recordings 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:

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

## Elder of the Morning:

Sally Atkiss

## Deacon of the Morning:

Sumiko Booraem

## CD Technician:

David Douglass

## Chancel Flower Ministry:

Lisa Thim

## Driver:

Gale Linderman

## Greeters:

OPEN

## Social Host:

April Hamlen

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 29, 2024</b>	
Attendance: September 29, Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost	130
Offering For Current Income	\$4,248.50
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$295.50
<b>A Look at the Week of October 6, 2024</b>	
Attendance: October 6, Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost	167
Offering For Current Income	\$14,541.50
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$1,013.50

To give online through our secure platform, visit  
<https://app.easyithe.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](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.

Pastor Tom Adil, M. Div., LPC, Acting Lead 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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Lansdale-Hatfield  
National Giving Alliance  
Fall Ingathering!  
Monday, Oct 28<sup>th</sup>

Last year we donated **over 13,000 items** to **10 local agencies!** We collect:

clothing (infant-adult)  
linens & toiletries

You can give donations to Suzanne Franks or Sally Atkiss, or drop them off at the church office.  
Thank you!

Support the UCC's  
Hurricane Helene Appeal

The impact of Hurricane Helene is widespread and devastating, as more than 100 people have been confirmed dead, over 2 million people are without power, and damages are estimated to be over \$140 billion. Two UCC congregations on Florida's Gulf Coast have buildings with significant flood damage, and another experienced structural damage from high winds. The UCC has a long history of supporting communities as they recover from disaster well after their plight fades from the headlines. As we continue to pray for and respond to those who have experienced unimaginable loss this past week, please consider a gift to the Hurricane Helene Recovery Appeal. Gifts can be made through PSEC here:



# St. John's Soup Sale!

Sunday,  
October 27<sup>th</sup>

After service

Featuring:

Vegetable with Beef

Vegetarian Vegetable

Chicken Noodle  
with Corn

Chicken Noodle  
without Corn

\$9

per Quart

All proceeds go to the Exterior.

## 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](mailto:office@st-johns-ucc.org)

Oct	13	Sun	10:15 am 10:45 am 11:30 am 11:45 am	<b>Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>Enlightener Due</b> <b>Goodie Box Donations Due</b> Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Fellowship, Assembly Hall CGM Meeting, Library
Oct	14	Mon	7:00 pm	Council, Zoom
Oct	15	Tues	7:00 pm	AA, Assembly Hall
Oct	16	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
Oct	18	Fri	6:00 pm	North Penn Chess Club, Assembly Hall
Oct	19	Sat	9:00 am	Art of Living Foundation, Library
Oct	20	Sun	10:15 am 10:45 am 11:30 am 12:30 pm	<b>Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>Congregational Meeting</b> Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary Congregational Dinner, Assembly Hall

### Chancel Flowers

In memory of George Ruth from Chriss Ruth Bodde and family  
 In memory of Stewart and Louise Wells from Kathleen Wells and family





## Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Seek the Lord and live,

or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire,  
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.

Ah, you who turn justice to wormwood  
and bring righteousness to the ground!

They hate the one who reproves in the gate,  
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

Therefore because you trample on the poor  
and take from them levies of grain,  
you have built houses of hewn stone,  
but you shall not live in them;  
you have planted pleasant vineyards,  
but you shall not drink their wine.

For I know how many are your transgressions  
and how great are your sins—  
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe  
and push aside the needy in the gate.

Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time,  
for it is an evil time.

Seek good and not evil,  
that you may live,

and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you,  
just as you have said.

Hate evil and love good,  
and establish justice in the gate;  
it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts,  
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

## Mark 10:17-31

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. You shall not defraud. Honor your father and mother.’” He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

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