

17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 24, 2023

9:30 a.m.



We Gather in Jesus' Name

Prelude (a time for silent meditation)

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be God,
the one who forms us,
✠ Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility,
confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,
**you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed
by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have
for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused,
known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.
For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.
Lead us back to you
and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In + Christ, you are already and always forgiven.
Amen.

Gathering Song: "The Heart of Worship"

Verse 1

When the music fades all is stripped away
And I simply come
Longing just to bring something that's of worth
That will bless Your heart

Pre-Chorus

I'll bring You more than a song
For a song in itself is not what You have required
You search much deeper within
Through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart

Chorus

I'm coming back to the heart of worship
And it's all about You all about You Jesus
I'm sorry Lord for the thing I've made it
When it's all about You all about You Jesus

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. . . Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Readings for the 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Children's Sermon

First Reading: Jonah 3:10--4:11

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He

said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm: Psalm 145:1-8

¹I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

²**Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

³Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.

⁴**One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

⁶**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 20th Chapter

C: Glory to You, O Lord

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and

found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' 7They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' 8When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' 9When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. 10Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. 11And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 12saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' 13But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?' 14Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. 15Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' 16So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Song of Praise: "Build My Life"

Verse 1

Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You

Verse 2

Jesus the name above ev'ry other name
Jesus the only one who could ever save
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You
We live for You

Chorus

Holy there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me

Bridge

I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken

Affirmation of Baptism

In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

We rejoice that you now desire to make public affirmation of your baptism. This is a sign of your renewed participation in the life and work of the Church of Christ.

Since birth, the Holy Spirit has always been with us. We were all born children of God of a fallen humanity. At our baptism, the Holy Spirit was with us in the water, and we were reborn children of God. By water and the Holy Spirit, we were made members of the church which is the body of Christ.

Baptism involves a daily dying to sin and being raised to live before God. We are at the same time sinners and justified. We experience bondage to sin from which we cannot free ourselves, and at the same time, rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. The baptismal life is expressed each time the baptized confess their sins and receive forgiveness.

By water and the Word in baptism, we were liberated from sin and death by being joined to the death and resurrection of Jesus. In baptism, God seals us by the Holy Spirit and marks us with the cross forever. Baptism inaugurates a life of discipleship in the death and resurrection of Christ, and conforms us so that we repent and receive forgiveness, love our neighbors, suffer for the sake of the Gospel and witness to Christ.

Our baptism is the covenant and seal of all God's people. God selected each of us to be included in this covenant. It is a gift through grace that is not dependent on an acceptance. It is a proclamation by God expressing His gracious purpose toward his people and His relationship toward His people. This relationship

is that of love for us and His desire that we love Him also.

Some of us were baptized as infants and some were baptized as believers. Now that we are all believers, we stand together as fellow sisters and brothers in Jesus Christ. We thankfully and lovingly accept the covenant in which we were included by God when we were baptized. Through knowledge and understanding, we grow in faith and love for the Lord. We are spiritually born again with the Holy Spirit being a part of our lives.

I John 4:7-12 (New Living Translation) Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. God showed how much He loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. This is real love – not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God but if we love each other, God lives in us and His love is brought to full expression in us.

We will continue in the covenant by participating in the community of faith, by hearing the Word and receiving Christ's supper, by proclaiming the good news in word and deed, and by striving for peace in all the world.

Sisters and brothers in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of His Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from His Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been nourished at His holy table and called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Jesus Christ, reject sin, and confess the faith in which we were baptized.

I renounce all the forces of evil, the devil and all his empty promises.

I believe in God the Father, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day He rose again to life.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who was present at our baptism and will ever be with us.

I believe in the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,

The forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,

And the life everlasting. Amen.

Let us pray for those who are affirming their baptism, and for all the baptized everywhere. Please respond to each petition with "hear our prayer."

That they may be redeemed from all evil and rescued from the way of sin and death. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

That the Holy Spirit may open their hearts to Your grace and truth. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

That they may be kept in the faith and communion of Your holy Church. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

That they may be sent into the world in witness to Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer

That they may be brought to the fullness of Your peace and glory. Lord in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's people, to hear His Word and share in His supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and strive for justice and peace in all the earth? Please respond with "I do, and ask God to help and guide me."

In turn, please approach the baptismal font and with the water, mark the sign of the cross on your forehead and join our prayer of thankfulness.

Isaiah 42:6 – I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, and I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, as a light to the nations.

Let us pray. **Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit, you have made us your own. You forgave us all our sins and brought us to newness of life. Continue to strengthen us with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in us your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of council and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

(Each prayer ends with ...*Merciful God, the congregation responds: receive our prayer.*)

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also, with you

The Offering Please leave your offering on our website: https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=Dc8dzPGn4-LCajFevTkh9MYPCLmH2sG-idxWYJMFGW_IQfxkD4hBw8W0Q6UZLveQvLkSxosar2o939JWiAad87o7zqy-JU_UuLu19bUbJx2MmPFcXvWIUz6A7FDgkhUKk0PpduXvnt8gXUeZjQYbn9G3frHWC59Y_VCHQ6_VCoE=&ver=3

The Offertory

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray... God of power, God of plenty,

all things belong to you.

We bring your gifts to the table,

that all might be fed.

Form us into the body of your Beloved,

Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

Distribution

The body of Christ, given to you
The blood of Christ, shed for you

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray...Blessed be your name, O God,
for we have feasted on your Word,
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.
Strengthened by this food,
send us to gather the world to your banquet,
where none are left out and all are satisfied.
In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and + give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Song: "Wade in the Water"

Refrain

Wade in the water,
wade in the water, children,
wade in the water,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.

1 See that host all dressed in white,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
the leader looks like the Israelite.
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

2 See that band all dressed in red,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
looks like the band that Moses led.
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

3 If you don't believe I've been redeemed,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
just follow me down to Jordan's stream.
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

Dismissal

As we depart and go about our daily lives, we are reminded of our baptism when it rains on a summer evening, or a babbling brook after the rain. When we are on vacation, we stand in awe of God's creations – the oceans, the lakes, and the rivers.

The Holy Spirit is always with us

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OUR MISSION – FAITHFUL IN THE WORD

- + To **gather** as God's people and nurture one another
- + To **know** the Word of God
- + To **grow** in faith, love, and service
- + To **go** into the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ



SERVING OUR LORD IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor:	The Rev. Matthew E Ollikainen
Music Director	Michael Dettra
Worship Assistant	George Henry

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are presented by Cindy Frey in honor of the Birthday of her son Christopher and by Nancy Slight in honor of her granddaughter Cece's Birthday.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

8:00 a.m. 15 9:30 a.m. 29 **Total 44**

ADVENT SUPPORTS BUCKS COUNTY MEDICATION TAKE BACK EVENT

Advent received information from Lauren Foisy, Prevention Coordinator, Bucks County Drug & Alcohol Commission, Inc. regarding the Bucks County Medication Take Back event. The bi-annual event provides community members with a safe, convenient, and responsible way to dispose of unused, unneeded or expired medications.

There will be a labeled box in the narthex, starting, Sunday, October 1 to October 22, if you would like to bring in unused over-the-counter medications, vaping products, vitamins, pet meds for safe disposal. The box will be secured until it is delivered on October 28 to the Northampton Police Department.

If you would like to drop off your items differently, there is a notice on the box indicating Take Back Locations.

Thank you for your help in keeping our community safe.



AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 9:30 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE

Everyone will have the opportunity to participate in a group affirmation of baptism during the 9:30 service, Sunday, September 24. You are welcome if you were baptized as an infant or as an adult.

During the ceremony, we will learn the significance of our baptism. We will also learn what it means in our walk with Christ and our relationship with the Holy Spirit.

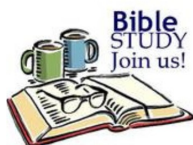


CELEBRATION OF ADVENT'S 60th ANNIVERSARY
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023, 9:00 AM

Join us on **Sunday, October 8, 2023**, as we celebrate this special milestone! There will be one worship **service that day at 9:00 a.m.**

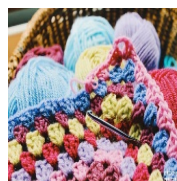
PRAISE BAND AND VOCAL CHOIR PRACTICE WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Praise Band practice will be at 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. Vocal Choir practice will be 7:15 to 8:00 p.m. All are welcome and encouraged to join; no prior experience is necessary. Please see Mike Dettra for more details.



THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY, 7:00 PM via ZOOM

The study is on the book *Bonhoeffer* by John W. Matthews. From the Theology for Life Series, it is a brief overview of the life and writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.



STITCH CLUB ON SATURDAYS, 10 A.M.

Stitch club meets on, Saturdays at **10, 10:00 a.m. to noon**. Stitch club is open to all who would like to join. If you like to knit, crochet or do needlepoint, this is for you!

Stitch club Bazaar is coming up on October 15, 22, 29. Please join and help build the list of items ready to sell. Stitch club is open to all who would like to join.

The Stitch club items are **available throughout the year**. If you need any of the items made by the Stitch Club, i.e., blankets, hats, baby items, please contact Hanna McCollum, 215-262- 9032, or Jeff Jobes, 215-355-4149

CHURCH DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE

Copies of the church directory are available on the table in the narthex. Please advise of any changes, corrections or additions needed.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Financial Report For August 2023		
	Rec'vd for August 2023	Budget for August 2023
General Fund	\$16,876.68	\$17,281.00
Mortgage	\$1,961	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$17	\$134
Other Benevolence	\$1,093	
Total	\$19,947.68	\$19,313.00
	Recv'd YTD 1/1-8/31/23	Budget YTD 1/1-8/31/23
General Fund	\$91,060.00	\$138,248.00
Mortgage	\$18,897.00	\$15,184.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$537.00	\$1,072.00
Other Benevolence	\$5,804.00	
Total	\$116,298.00	\$154,504.00



ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION

There are numerous dates available for 2023 to dedicate flowers to beautify the altar each Sunday. Please sign up on the sheet on the table in the narthex with your name and dedication. Two bouquets are available each week. The cost is \$25 per bouquet. In addition to making the altar more beautiful, you take the flowers home after the late service to enjoy during the week. If you have any questions call Cindy Frey 267-205-0713.



NUEVA CREACION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Please consider supporting our sister congregation, Nueva Creación Lutheran Church, which does vital ministry in North Philadelphia. A sign-up chart is on the table in the narthex near the entrance to the sanctuary.




DRIVE in AND DROP off FOOD COLLECTION

If you have food for the Warminster Food Bank that you or your friends would like to donate and the church is not open, just drive in and drop off the food under the seat of the bench outside the front door. You may still bring food into the church narthex during church and office hours. A list of the Food Bank’s most needed items is in the narthex or on the website www.warminsterfoodbank.org. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.



RMHCphilly.org.

Recycling can tabs for charity is a great idea! If you bring them in, we’ll drop them off. Look for marked containers in the narthex, located on the shelf above the coat rack. No cans, please – just tabs! The tab collection program began at **Ronald McDonald House Charities** of the Philadelphia Region in 1997. Since the inception of the program, **RMHC** has collected over 350 tons of tabs and over \$170,000! See 

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – SEPTEMBER 24

- 8:00 am Traditional Holy Communion
- 9:30 am Contemporary Holy Communion – Affirmation of Baptism
Sunday School age 4 – grade 6
- 10:30 am Fellowship: Open
- 10:45 am Adult Bible Study

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

- 7:30 pm A.A. Open Meeting

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

- 6:30-7:15 Praise Band Practice
- 7:15-8:00 Vocal Choir Practice

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

- 7:00 pm Bible Study via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89632518358?pwd=Smg5dm1BaoVZamZjNG1YMko2MlVvdz09>

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

- 7:30 pm A.A. Step Meeting

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

- 10:00 am – noon Stitch Club

18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – OCTOBER 1

- 8:00 am Traditional Holy Communion
- 9:30 am Contemporary Holy Communion
Sunday School age 4 – grade 6
- 10:30 am Fellowship: Open
- 10:45 am Adult Bible Study