

20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 15, 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: "Here I Am to Worship"

Verse 1
Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made
This heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

Chorus
So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

Verse 2
King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

Chorus
So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

Bridge
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross

Chorus
So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see

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. . . Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Readings for the 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Children's Sermon

First Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9

¹O LORD, you are my God;

I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

²For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of aliens is a city no more,
it will never be rebuilt.

³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

⁸he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 23

¹The LORD^l is my shepherd;
I shall not ^l be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

Second Reading: Philippians 4:1-9

¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, 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 co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, beloved, 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. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 22nd Chapter

C: Glory to You, O Lord

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Song of Praise: “Find Me in the River”

Find me in the river, find me on my knees
I've walked against the water, now I'm waiting if you please
We've longed to see the roses, but never felt the thorns
And bought our pretty crowns, but never paid the price

Find me in the river, find me there
Find me on my knees with my soul laid bare
Even though you're gone and I'm cracked and dry
Find me in the river, I'm waiting here for you

Find me in the river, find me on my knees
I've walked against the water, now I'm waiting if you please
We didn't count on suffering, we didn't count on pain
But if the blessing's in the valley, then in the river I will wait

Find me in the river, find me there
Find me on my knees with my soul laid bare
Even though you're gone and I'm cracked and dry
Find me in the river, I'm waiting here for you

Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, 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.

**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,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

Prayers of the Church

(Each prayer ends with ...*God of grace, the congregation responds: here 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-LCajFevTkh9MYPCImH2sG-jdxWYJMFgw_lQfxkD4hBw8WoQ6UZLveQvLkSxosar2o939JWiAad87o7zqy-JU_UuLui9bUbJx2MmPFcXvWIUz6A7FDgkhUKkoPpduXvnt8gXUeZjQYbn9G3frHWC59Y_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.

Sacrament

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**

Sending

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: "Song of Love"

Jesus, king of my heart
Father, my peace and my light
Spirit, the joy of my soul You are

Jesus, to You none compare
Father, I rest in your care
Spirit, the hope of my heart You are

The heavens declare You are God
And the mountains rejoice
The oceans cry "Alleluia"
As we worship You Lord
For this is our song of love
Jesus, You saved my soul

I'll thank You forever more
Jesus, the love of my life You are

Dismissal

Go in peace. God is at work in you.
Thanks be to God.

The heavens declare You are God
And the mountains rejoice
The oceans cry "Alleluia"
As we worship You Lord
For this is our song of love
Jesus, I am in awe

Of the love that You have shown
Jesus, how precious you are
To me, to me

The heavens declare You are God
And the mountains rejoice
The oceans cry "Alleluia"
As we worship You Lord
For this is our song of Love

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 Jennifer McQuiggan



ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are dedicated by Fran Zanis in memory of her mother, Frances Scharff Kelly, on her birthday, and to the Glory of God.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, October 8, 9:00 am **TOTAL 70**

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Financial Report For September 2023		
	Rec'vd for Sept 2023	Budget for Sept 2023
General Fund	\$10,895.93	\$17,281.00
Mortgage	\$2,131	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$85	\$134
Other Benevolence	\$470	
Total	\$13,581.93	\$19,313.00
Recv'd YTD 1/1-9/30/23		
	Recv'd YTD 1/1-9/30/23	Budget YTD 1/1-9/30/23
General Fund	\$101,955.93	\$155,529.00
Mortgage	\$21,028.00	\$17,082.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$622.00	\$1,206.00
Other Benevolence	\$6,274.00	
Total	\$129,879.93	\$173,817.00

ADVENT SUPPORTS BUCKS COUNTY MEDICATION TAKE BACK EVENT

Information was received 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.



PRAISE BAND AND VOCAL CHOIR PRACTICE WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

The Praise Band rehearses from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. and the Vocal Choir 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.

CONTACTING PASTOR MATT

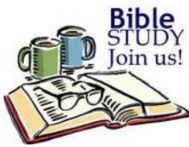
Pastor Matt will be out of the office October 16 & 17. He is serving on the Personnel Community of the Deaconess Community in Chicago. He will be available on Wednesday, October 18.

If you need to speak with Pastor Matt when he is not in the office, particularly in the case of a pastoral emergency, please feel free to call his cell phone 215-859-3778 or email, pastormattolikainen@gmail.com. If he is not available to take your call, leave a message and he will contact you.



PING PONG - TUESDAYS AT 6:30 STARTING OCTOBER 17

All are welcome to join us for an evening of Ping Pong at the church on Tuesday nights at 6:30pm, beginning October 17. Please call the church 215-355-2529 if you want to give it a try. (It helps to know how many tables to set up).



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.

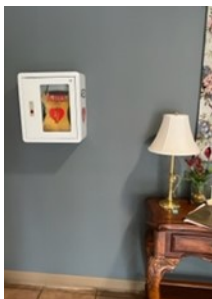
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89632518358?pwd=Smg5dm1Ba0VZamZjNG1YMk02MlVvdzo9> Meeting ID: 896 3251 8358 Passcode: 011905



ADVENT'S STITCH CLUB BAZAAR SUNDAYS, OCTOBER 15, 22 & 29

The Advent Stitch Club is having their Bazaar on Sundays, October 15, 22, and 29, before and after Sunday services. There will be wonderful handmade items on display for sale in the narthex.

Proceeds from the sale will help support the weekly flower arrangements that grace our altar each week and food purchases for Caring for Friends. Thank you for supporting this cause!



CLASSES ON THE AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR, SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 5 & 19, 9 AM BETWEEN WORSHIP SERVICES

Tri-Hampton Rescue Squad's Paramedic, L. Jay Colella is offering training in using the AED automated external defibrillator (AED), which is installed on a wall in the church main entranceway EMT personnel.

Training will take place on Sundays, November 5 and 19 between the Worship Services at 9:00 am.

An AED is a lightweight, portable device that delivers an electric shock through the chest to the heart when it detects an abnormal rhythm and changes the rhythm back to normal. AEDs help people who have a sudden cardiac arrest, which occurs when the heart suddenly stops beating regularly. This will benefit all persons and groups using the building.

Thanks again to the generous donor.



STITCH CLUB ON SATURDAYS, 10 A.M.

Stitch club meets on, Saturdays at **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!

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



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.



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 RMHCphilly.org.

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

20th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – OCTOBER 15

- 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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16

- 7:30 pm A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

- 6:30 pm Ping Pong

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

- 7:00 pm Bible Study via Zoom

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

- 7:30 pm A.A. Step Meeting

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

- 10:00 am – noon Stitch Club

21st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – OCTOBER 22

- 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 Church Council Meeting