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Keith Gingrich, Consistory President • Rebekah Reece, Pianist

October 11, 2026 • 10:00 a.m.
Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost
Joint Service with Christ Church, Annville

**You are invited to stand in body or in spirit*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP "*Sweet By and* By" Arrangement by: Hayes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "*Assurance*" Arrangement by: Beck

PASSING OF THE PEACE *(please wave to your neighbors)*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The table is spread and the feast is ready. The King of heaven extends an invitation to all: the busy, the weary, the stranger, and the friend.

People: We are amazed to be invited! We come from the highways and byways to answer the call.

Leader: Come, leave behind what distracts you. Put on the garments of righteousness, praise, and gratitude.

People: With joy in our hearts, we enter God's presence. Let us worship our gracious Host!

All: Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #379** "Take My Life and Let It Be"

*** PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Leader: God of the generous invitation, You have thrown wide the doors to Your banquet hall and called us out of our ordinary lives into this sacred space of worship. We come to You this morning—some of us eager and joyful, others distracted, weary, or feeling unready for the feast You have prepared.

We ask that Your Holy Spirit move among us now, clearing away our preoccupations and centering our hearts on Your presence. Clothe us in Your grace, fill us with Your truth, and open our ears to hear Your voice. May this time of worship be a true reflection of our gratitude for the place You have given us at Your table.

We offer this prayer in the name of the One who invites us all, Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

All: Gracious and Inviting God,
We confess that we often take Your generous invitations for granted. You call us to Your banquet of love, community, and grace, but we offer excuses. We prioritize our own schedules, our businesses, and our anxieties over Your kingdom. We admit that even when we do show up, we sometimes refuse to let Your grace change us, holding onto old ways instead of putting on the garments of righteousness and love You provide.
Forgive us for our indifference, our distractions, and our pride. Cleanse our hearts and renew our spirits. Clothe us afresh in Your mercy, that we may live as people truly transformed by Your grace.
In the name of Jesus Christ, our Host and Savior, we pray.
Amen.

*** WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: Hear the good news: God's invitation to the table stands firm, and God's mercy is new every morning. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven, accepted, and clothed in grace. Live out your days in the joy of Your salvation.
All: Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** ***The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into Hades; the third day, He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

JOINT CHOIR ANTHEM "*The Church's One Foundation*" Arrangement by: Nichols

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 32:1-14 (pg. 78)
Psalm 106:1-6; 19-23 (pg. 557)
Acts 8:14-25 (pg. 126)
Matthew 22:1-14 (pg.24)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

MESSAGE Reverend Kevin McLemore

HYMN #259 "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION/LORD'S PRAYER

All: Generous God, You have called us out of the highways and byways of life to find a home at Your table. Because You have welcomed us so completely, we lift our hearts in prayer for a world that is deeply hungry for Your grace, Your justice, and Your healing.

All: We pray for Your global Church.
Leader: May she be a faithful messenger of Your great invitation. Help us to tear down the walls that keep people away, so Your house may be completely full. Give us hearts of radical hospitality to welcome the lonely, the outcast, and the forgotten.

All: We pray for the nations and our leaders.
Leader: In a world fractured by division and self-interest, turn the hearts of rulers toward justice and peace. We pray especially for communities suffering from violence, poverty, or disaster. Where there is emptiness, provide abundance; where there is despair, bring hope.

All: We pray for our local community.
Leader: We lift up those who feel invisible or excluded on the margins of our society. Guide us to be Your hands and feet, actively going out into the streets to share what we have received. Comfort the sick, the grieving, and the weary among us. Grant them the deep assurance of Your presence and the strength to face each day.

All: We pray for ourselves.
Leader: When we are tempted to let our schedules, our anxieties, or our possessions distract us from Your kingdom, call us back to You. Keep us attentive to Your voice and ready to serve wherever You lead.

All: Gather all our prayers, both spoken and unspoken, into Your keeping. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Host, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, who taught us to pray: 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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Leader: God has poured out an abundance of grace, welcoming us to a banquet where our spirits are fed and our cups overflow. We are not merely guests at this table; we are partners in the work of the kingdom.
Let us respond to God's ultimate generosity by offering our tithes, gifts, and lives. In doing so, we help extend the invitation of Christ to the highways and byways of our world, ensuring that God's house may be filled with love and hope.
Let us joyfully bring our offerings to the Lord.

OFFERTORY *"Children of the Heavenly Father"* Arrangement by: Lau

*** OFFERING RESPONSE** "Doxology" (Hymnal, p. 625)

* DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS

All: Generous and Loving God,
You have called us to Your banquet and showered us with blessings beyond measure. We dedicate these gifts to You now as an expression of our gratitude and joy. Use these tithes and offerings to stretch out Your invitation even further into the world. May they feed the hungry, welcome the lonely, and clothe the vulnerable in Your love. Multiply what we give so that Your house may be full and Your kingdom may flourish.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*** CLOSING HYMN #43** "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

* BENEDICTION

Leader: Go out into the world with your hearts wide open, remembering that you are the invited and beloved guests of the King.
As you go, walk the highways and byways of life, sharing the great invitation of God's love with everyone you meet. Clothe yourselves daily in the garments of grace, righteousness, and peace.
And may the blessing of God Almighty—the Father who prepares the feast, the Son who extends the welcome, and the Holy Spirit who fills us with joy—be with you now and remain with you always.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All: Amen.

POSTLUDE *"The Solid Rock"* Arrangement by: Kelley
(Please be seated during this time of meditation and reflection)

We welcome Reverand Kevin McLemore,
Transitional Regional Conference Minister for Region 1 of the Keystone Conference (includes: Covenant, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Lebanon, North Penn, Philadelphia, York, and Ursinus Associations). Rev. McLemore has extensive experience in all sorts of congregations – small and large, urban and rural, as well as helping to begin a new congregation early in his ministry.

Rev. McLemore received his undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama with a focus on religion, and his Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology at Emory University. Ordained in 1998, he began his ministry in Spokane, Washington, and most recently served an urban congregation in Chicago, IL for a decade. He and his spouse Douglas have three dogs and two cats and live in Pottstown.

Both Christ Church and St. John's appreciate you joining us and sharing your message today.

A big Thank You to Jodi Loose for playing the organ for us today! We very much appreciate you sharing your gifts during our service.

THANKS to Kevin Biddle for directing our joint choir, and to all the members of Christ Church and St. John's for bringing us our Choir Anthem this morning.

Thank you to our Volunteers today:
Deacon of the Month: Glenda Kohr
Worship Helper: Julie Ditzler
Lay Reader: Keith Gingrich

The Altar Flowers are presented by Linda Wampler in memory of her mother, Florence Hardish, and her brothers, Robert and David.

SAINT JOHN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SPONSORS NEEDED for flowers and bulletins. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Karen Light Fellowship Hall.

PASTORAL CARE: If anyone is in need of "pastoral care" during Pastor Tony's sabbatical, they should reach out to either Robin Gingrich, Dena Eberhart, or any other member of Consistory.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped in any way, shape, or form, during our Worship Services while Pastor Tony has been away. The sharing of your time, gifts, and talents has been greatly appreciated!

LUMENS OF HOPE – for the month of October, we will continue to have votive candles at the front of the Sanctuary. Whether prior to the service, or during the passing of the peace, we invite you to **light a candle** as an outward sign of love, care, and support to those individuals you know may need an extra blessing during the upcoming week.

BOSCOV'S FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS is just a few weeks away, Wednesday, October 21st, from 8am-11pm. The pass is just $5.00 and the money stays here at St. John's. Get your Christmas lists ready and shop 'til you drop! See Robin Gingrich for your pass.

The final **NEIGHBORS IN NEED** offering will be collected during our worship services today. Look for the envelopes in your pew.

We will celebrate **HARVEST HOME** on October 18th, so please bring your Joy Pantry donations next week.

Hungry for some good St. John's pot pie? We will hold a **POT PIE SALE** on October 23rd. Kitchen help is needed of the 22nd and 23rd – mark your calendars!

Please make sure your **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** boxes are prepared and brought back to the church in time for our **October 25th** service. They will be blessed during that service and taken to the distribution center afterward.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY will be celebrated on Sunday, November 1st, at 11:00 am. If someone in your family has passed since last November, and you would like to remember them during this service, please reach out to Louise Walmer, Robin Gingrich, or Dena Eberhart.

ST. JOHN'S FLEA MARKET AND BAKE SALE

The Flea Market was held on September 25th and 26th 2026. A very nice selection of household items and clothes were donated.
On Friday there was a pop-up kitchen with chili and hot dogs on the menu.
Homemade baked goods were sold. Among the delights were different types of pies, cookies, muffins and cakes.
A profit of $1714.55 was netted with the breakdown as follows:

Merchandise	$ 1060.75
Baked Goods	$ 559.50
Kitchen	$ 55.50
Donations	$ 38.80

There were many people involved with the success of the Flea Market and Bake Sale. A BIG thank you to the volunteers who helped advertise, bake, worked in the kitchen, donated items, sorted and sold and of course the buyers.

Do you think you have the best crockpot recipe in town? Let's find out…on Nov. 8th we will have our "**GOLDEN LADLE COMPETITION**" after church. Dig through your recipes and find your best appetizer, soup, main dish, or dessert. Mark your calendars!

CHRIST CHURH ANNVILLE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sunday, October 18th Rev. Jim Yoder will be leading worship at CCUCC. We will have brunch together in the Undercroft following worship, so bring your favorite covered dish. All are welcome.

THE CROP WALK IS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18th! Please consider donating, walking, and praying for this hunger relief effort. **Shirley Wolfe is the contact person** for CCUCC. Please see her for more information.

CCUCC Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Coupons are available for $5.00 from Congregational Care, or the church office. Get one today and shop on Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at Boscov's, or online.

CCUCC Spaghetti Dinner is Saturday, October 24th from 4:30-6:30 pm in the Undercroft. The dinner will be by donation, and all proceeds will go towards the children and youth trip to Sight and Sound. If you are able to help, please reach out to Doug Snyder or Marlene Hinkle. Baked goods are needed.

October 11th 3:00 pm Keystone Conference Lebanon Association Fall Meeting – Christ Church, UCC, Annville

October 18th 10:30 am Worship Service
Harvest Home Sunday/Joy Pantry

October 23rd Pot Pie Sale - Kitchen help needed on the 22nd and 23rd

October 25th 10:30 am Worship Service/Blessing of our OCC Boxes
Deacon Fund Sunday

October 26th 6:30 pm Consistory Meeting

November 1st 11:00 am Worship Service/All Saints Sunday

"*In You, O Lord, I put my trust; Let me never be ashamed; Deliver me in Your righteousness. Bow down Your ear to me, deliver me speedily: Be my rock of refuge, A fortress of defense to save me. For you are my rock and my fortress; Therefore, for Your name's sake, lead me and guide me.*"
(Psalm 31: 1-3 NKJV)

Please keep the following members and friends of St. John's in your prayers this week: Pat Ziegler • Millie Schriver • Randy Sweigart • Gerald Rudy • Cortney Smith • Tom Graby • Steve Clark • Bruce R. Shepps • Jon Olesh • Callum Quinn Frank Shepler • Emily Rentschler • Jean Ann and Neal Grimes • Karen Metz • Elizebeth Overton and family • Jodi Checket • Mike Large • Reverend Tony and Jodie Fields • Rose Marie Gardner • Betty Schriver and family