



Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2020

Welcome to St. John

We are very pleased that you have joined us for worship today. If you are visiting for the first time, we have a welcome gift for you. We also appreciate any comments or suggestions that you may have. Thank you for coming today!

Holy Communion is celebrated weekly, and we offer guidance for those visiting in the following pages underneath the heading “Communion Distribution.”

Our bulletin is all you will need for worship this morning. We have inserted helpful information in *italics* including when, if able, to stand and sit. Congregation responses are in **bold**.

Children are welcome at St. John. We have worship activity bags located at each sanctuary entrance. All children are encouraged to come forward during Children’s Time. Our parents of children are welcome to use the Family Room at any time during worship—it is located in the Nursery School wing (upstairs). The room is open for families to use as needed for their children. We also have a baby changing station in the restroom by the main office. Please ask an usher if you have any questions.

Following our services, we will have beverages, cookies and conversation in our Great Room. We hope that you will join us and introduce yourself to others.

St. John Lutheran Church 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422

www.stjohnbluebell.org www.facebook.com/stjohnbluebell

Nursery School website: www.stjohnsns.com

610-277-1086

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Pastor Stephen Godsall-Myers, Bridge Pastor
Lawrence Baker, Director of Music
Ann Brennan, Visual Arts Program Coordinator
Carrie Engel, Nursery School Director
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Our Council Members are listed on our website.

Celebrating 250 years of mission and ministry, 1769-2019.



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Order for Worship

Prelude ~ "O Come, Let Us Worship"

Kristine Biller, Soprano

O come let us worship,
let us worship and fall down and kneel before the Lord our maker.
O harden not your heart, and kneel before the Lord our maker:
for He is the Lord our God, and we are the people of His pasture,
and the sheep of His hand.

Music: G. F. Handel (from *Anthem VIII*)

Text: Psalm 95:6-8

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

C: **Amen.**

P: Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

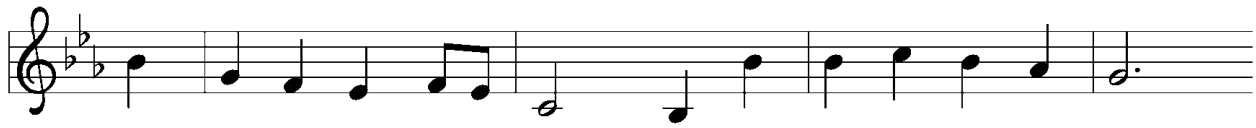
P: Reconciling God,

C: **we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.
We place our hope in ourselves
and rely on our own efforts.
We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.
We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.
We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.
We sin in thought, word, and deed.
By your grace, forgive us;
through your love, renew us;
and in your Spirit, lead us;
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

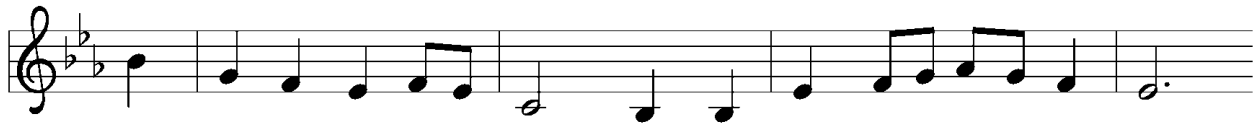
P: Beloved of God,
 by the radical abundance of divine mercy
 we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,
 through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.
 Our sins are forgiven.
 Let us live now in hope.
 For hope does not disappoint,
 because God's love has been poured into our hearts
 through the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn ~ We All Are One in Mission



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
 2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit-ness in God's name.
 3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
 Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
 Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
 to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,
 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
 so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
 our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

Greeting

P: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P: O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Children's Time

Word

Psalm 138

I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;

I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

On the day I called, you answered me,
you increased my strength of soul.

**All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.**

They shall sing of the ways of the LORD,
for great is the glory of the LORD.

**For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly;
but the haughty he perceives from far away.**

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

**The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-8

A: I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Homily

Silence for reflection follows the homily.

Hymn of the Day ~ “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: WESTMINSTER ABBEY, Henry Purcell, 1659–1695; arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1802–1868

Apostles' Creed

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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 Intercession

A: Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A: Lord our rock, you have laid the church's foundation in Jesus Christ, your Son, whom we confess as the living God. Prepare your church for its mission in bearing witness to Christ, both here at home and throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: You call forth praises from the far reaches of the universe to the smallest of creatures. Join our songs to theirs, that a spirit of praise and thanksgiving will dwell within us and lead us to cherish this wondrous home you give us. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: All the rulers of the earth shall praise you, O Lord. Direct the leaders of countries, legislators and magistrates, mayors and councils, to walk in ways of peace and compassion. Help leaders regard those in need with mercy and fulfill your loving purposes in the governance of peoples. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: Though we walk in the midst of troubles, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are bereaved, in trouble or adversity, or sick and in need of care. We pray especially for those on our Prayer List: Jenny, Scott, Lisa, Adina, Kathy, John, Eric, Tom, Jack, Jon, Sharleen, Rob, Sue, Lauren, Bill, Dave, Gladys, Dylan, Randy, Dorothy, Judy, Jim, Gerry, Hadley, Robert, Abby, Laura, and Donna. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: You call us into a community of believers in which we, though many, are one in Christ. We give you thanks for the many and unique gifts you have given us at St. John for the building up of the church for the sake of the world. Continue to bless the work of our Call Committee during our time of transition. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: You are the everlasting Rock from which we were hewn, and you restore your people to joy and gladness. In blessed memory and hope, we thank you for the lives of our beloved dead. Bring us with them to our heavenly home. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Anthem~ "Give Me Jesus"

Kristine Biller, Soprano

In the mornin', when I rise, in the mornin', when I rise,
in the mornin', when I rise, give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus, you may have all of this world, give me Jesus.

Dark midnight was my cry, dark midnight was my cry,
dark midnight was my cry, give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus, you may have all of this world, give me Jesus.

Oh, when I comes to die, oh, when I comes to die,
oh, when I come to die, give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus, nobody but Jesus, you may have all of this world, give me Jesus.

Music: arr. Moses Hogan

Text: Traditional Spiritual

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

During our time away, we will not be passing the offering plates. We are grateful for all who are able to continue their support of St. John. There are three ways to share tithes and offerings:

1. Simply giving - You can arrange for a regular gift (weekly, monthly, quarterly) to be deducted from a bank account. Please contact Marcie Godby, our bookkeeper, to arrange for this (stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com).

2. You may go to St. John's website, <https://www.stjohnbluebell.org/>, and under "Quick Links" hit the "Online Giving and Donations" button.

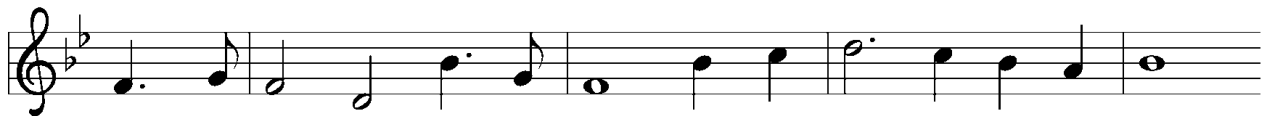
3. You may put your offering envelope (checks are preferred) in another stamped envelope and mail it to St. John: 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422 (Attn: Marcie).

Take a moment and reflect on the gifts we have received – even in these difficult days.

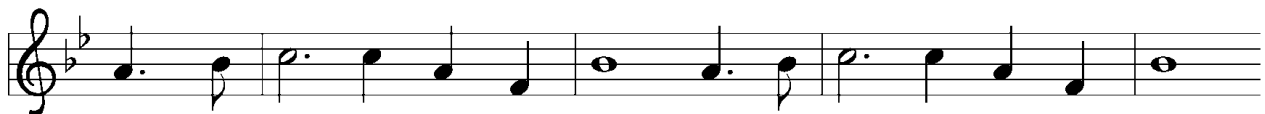
Voluntary~ “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

arr. Nancy Raabe

Offertory Hymn ~ “Rock of Ages”



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.

Offertory Prayer

- P: God of goodness and growth,
all creation is yours,
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
Water and word, wine and bread:
these are signs of your abundant grace.
Nourish us through these gifts,
that we might proclaim your steadfast love
in our communities and in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.
- C: **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
- C: **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.**

Benediction

- P: God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.
- C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn ~ “Built on a Rock”



1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are
3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -
5 Through all the pass - ing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are



fall - ing; crum-bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us
ring - ing, man - y may come to hear your Word, who here this



chim-ing and call - ing—call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the
life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their
prom-ise is bring - ing: “I know my own, my own know me; you, not the



souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you. A - men.”

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt.
Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMEL HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude ~ “Built on a Rock”

Robert J. Powell

Additional music links:

“Faith of Our Fathers, Living Still”

<https://youtu.be/uxuLFgajZ04>

“Built on the Rock”

<https://youtu.be/vNiQ-hDqzRc>

“Tu es Petrus” (You Are Peter)

<https://youtu.be/DtlZk8eXM9s>

Assisting with Worship

Bridge Pastor

Director of Music

Lector

Prayers of Intercession

Apostles’ Creed

Soloist

Pastor Stephen Godsall-Myers

Lawrence Baker

Don Killian

Joy McCabe

Andrea Greyson

Kristine Biller

