



Reformation Sunday

October 31, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Welcome to St. John

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

Staff:

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Ray Hopkins, Director of Youth and Family

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Our Council Members are listed on our website.

Celebrating 252 years of mission and ministry, 1769-2021.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

This service is livestreamed on the church's YouTube page.

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Order for Worship

Prelude ~ “Blessed Be the Lord, My Rock”

Chancel Choir

Blessed be the Lord, my rock and my fortress,
my stronghold, my deliverer, my shield and he in whom I take refuge.
We are like breath, our days are like a passing shadow.
Blessed be the Lord, my rock, and my fortress.
Bow thy heav'ns, O Lord, come down!
Stretch forth thy hand from on high. Rescue, me, deliver me.
I will sing a new song to thee, O God.

Text: Psalm 144:1-9

Music: Abbie Betinis

Confession and Forgiveness

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose teaching is life,
whose presence is sure,
and whose love is endless.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God our comforter:

C: **like lost sheep, we have gone astray.
We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.
We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.
We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.
Free us from our sin, gracious God.
Listen when we call out to you for help.
Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.
Amen.**

P: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
By the gift of grace in Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.
Therefore, receive now, with glad hearts, the forgiveness of all your sins. †

C: **Amen.**

Greeting

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

C: **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise ~ "Listen, God Is Calling"

Leader All

Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,

of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

Leader All

1 Je - sus gave his man - date: share the good news
2 Let none be for - got - ten through - out the world.
3 Help us to be faith - ful, stand - ing stead - fast,

Leader All Refrain

that he came to save us and set us free.
In the tri - une name of God go and bap - tize.
walk - ing in your pre - cepts, led by your Word.

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Children's Message

Word

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

A: The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 46

(Cantor, then ALL)

Hal H. Hopson



The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Ja-cob is our ref-uge.

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The Lord is our refuge and strength, ever ready to help in trouble.
We shall not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be hurled into the sea; though its waters rage and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its tumult. **Refrain.**

There is a river that brings joy to God's city, the holy place of the Most High.
God is there, it cannot be shaken; it shall know God's help at early dawn.
The nations rage, the kingdoms are shaken,
God speaks and the earth shrinks away. **Refrain.**

Come and see what the Lord has done, wars have ceased over all the earth.
God breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields in the fire.
Be still and know that I am God; I am God of the nations of the earth. **Refrain.**

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

A: Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Sung Once by All.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Choir: If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.

(Repeat Alleluia)

Gospel: John 8: 31-36

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So, if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day ~ "A Mighty Fortress"

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Apostles Creed

P: *Together, let us 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: Set free from sin and death and nourished by the word of truth, we join in prayer for all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

A: We pray for all who long for a word of truth and for the radical grace that flows from the cross. Inspire congregations to freely and boldly proclaim your love for all people with persistence and hope. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: We pray for your creation, for mountains, rivers, streams, cities, homesteads, and neighborhoods. Write in our hearts a new love and care for creation. Give us the will to curb wasteful habits and to hold accountable those who neglect the vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: We pray for all who aspire to public office and for all who will vote on Tuesday at local polling places. Pour wisdom and understanding upon all who govern so that communities of justice and peace may thrive. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: We pray for all who long for healing in mind, body, or spirit especially, Joe, Gerry, Amy, Melissa, Tom, Kimberly, Jim, Joshua, Carolyn, Jean, Lois, Dick, George, Robert, Tim, Kate, Cheryl, Susan, John, Randy, Dorothy, Robert, and Donna. Strengthen hospitals, clinics, counseling centers, nursing homes, and recovery centers to be holy spaces of renewal that all might live the abundant life you intend. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: We pray for all who seek to grow in faith and love of you. Guide teaching and learning in confirmation, small groups, Sunday school, youth groups, schools, seminaries, and universities. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: We give thanks for all the saints and reformers who have gone before us who dwell in your holy habitation. Give us courage through their example to challenge unjust systems and work toward life-giving reformation. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: We pray for relief, medicine, compassion, and an end to this pandemic. Inspire scientists, comfort healthcare workers. Bring peace, bring healing, bring aid. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands; through Jesus Christ, our truth and life.

C: **Amen.**

Peace

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

C: **And also with you.**

Anthem~ "God's Son Has Made Me Free"

Chancel Choir

God's Son has made me free from Satan's tyranny;
From fear of death, and bonds of sin; from all that plagues my soul within.
The Holy One divine, became a friend of mine.
From heaven high, from starry sky, he came to live, to die.
O boundless love, he died, he rose forever glorified!
He came to give, to die, that I might live.
From heaven high, from starry sky, he came to die, that I might live,
might live with him eternally, God's Son has made me free.

Text: H. A. Brorson

Music: Edvard Grieg

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

During this time, 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).*
- 4. You may make use of the offering plate located on a table near the church building.*

For communion: *Prepackaged elements are available on tables nearby. Be sure to take one. The chalice shaped cups are wine and wafer. There are purple topped cups with red and also cups with white grape juice. There are some GF cups with red grape juice that are labeled on the tab. All are welcome.*

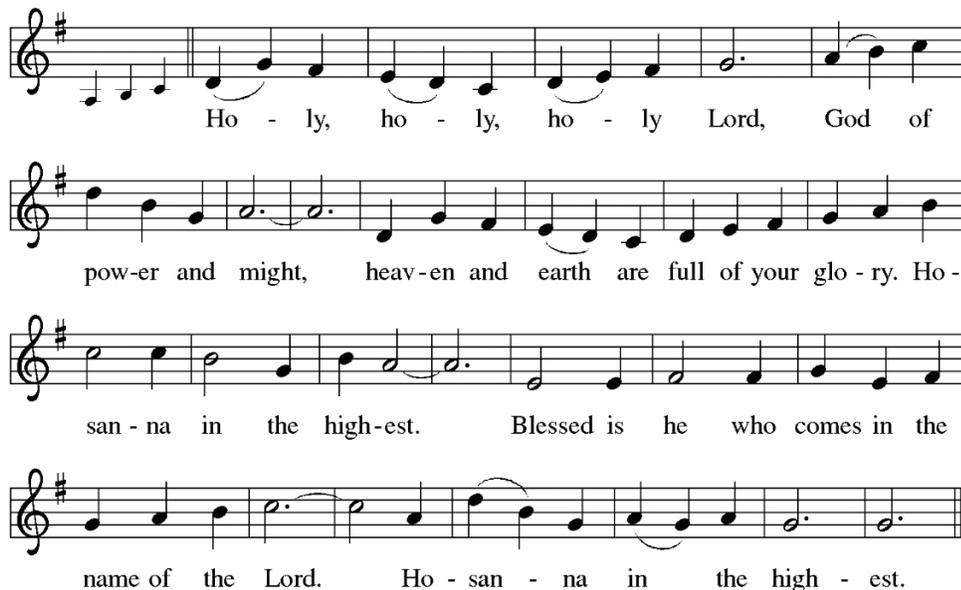
Offertory Prayer

- P: God of abundance,
you cause streams to break forth in the desert
and manna to rain from the heavens.
Accept the gifts you have first given us.
Unite them with the offering of our lives
to nourish the world you love so dearly;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C: **Amen.**

The Meal

- P: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**
P: Lift up your hearts.
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

- P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: 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.

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.**

The meal is shared together with the pastor leading with the words, "The body of Christ, given for you." then, "The blood of Christ, shed for you."

Communion Hymn~ "That Priceless Grace"



1 That price-less grace, that price-less grace, that price-less
 2 That price-less blood, that price-less blood, that price-less
 3 That pain-ful death, that pain-ful death, that pain-ful
 4 That pre-cious word, that pre-cious word, that pre-cious



grace, which gave me life: Je - sus' life is price-less grace.
 blood was shed for me: Je - sus' blood is price-less grace.
 death took sins a - way: Je - sus' death is price-less grace.
 word, which brought me light: Je - sus' word is price-less grace.



That price - less grace is life for me.

Text: Emmanuel F. Y. Grantson, b. 1949
 Music: THAT PRICELESS GRACE, Ghanaian traditional
 Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

Benediction

P: People of God,
 you are Christ's body,
 bringing new life to a suffering world.
 The holy Trinity, † one God,
 bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude~ "Ein feste Burg"

Anne Krentz Organ

Assisting with Worship

Pastor
Director of Music
Lector

Pastor Rachel Manke
Lawrence Baker
Barbara Speece

Announcements

Spirit Walkers- Next meet-up will be Wednesday at **9:30 a.m.**, at Wentz Run Park.

Weekly Outdoor Services will end today. Our service will continue to be live streamed on YouTube as well as shared via email on Sunday.

All Saints Sunday- We plan to return to the building for worship on November 7 which is All Saints Sunday. Please share the names of your saints who have died in this past year. Email Sue in the office with their name by November 3rd for inclusion in the service.

Worship Assistance Help Needed - As we return to worship in the sanctuary, we need your help! We are looking for volunteers to act as ushers, readers, flower/bulletin sponsors and technology team volunteers. Get in touch with the Church Office if you can help in any way.

Coat Collection for MLK Day of Service - St. John will be hosting a coat collection as part of January's MLK Day of Service. More details to come.

Save the Date Reminders:

- **Nov. 7** – Worship returns to building at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m.
- **Nov. 7** – Blessing of the Quilts. Quilts from our quilters will grace the backs of pews.
- **Nov. 7** – All Saints Vespers- A virtual worship experience of evening prayer at 7:30 p.m. The link and bulletin will be available that evening for your participation.

Youth News...

Upcoming Dates – Nov. 7, Nov. 21, Dec. 5, and Dec. 19 (The Advent Party)

Youth Group

Our 6th Graders through High School are welcome to join us on Nov. 7 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. which will also include some service for both our community and our congregation.

Youth Gathering Fundraiser

Do you like Christmas Cookies? Keep your eyes open for a National Gathering Fundraiser which will allow you to order cookie dough in time for early December.

This Week at St. John

Sunday, October 31

10:00 Worship [PL]

Monday, November 1

9:00 Nursery School

9:30 Quilting Group [YC, MPR]

Tuesday, November 2

9:00 Nursery School

10:30 Pastor's Bible Study on Zoom

10:30 Nursery School [GR]

6:45 Evangelism Meeting

7:30 Social Ministry Meeting

Wednesday, November 3

9:00 Nursery School

9:30 Spirit Walkers [Wentz Park]

6:30 Visual Arts Class [FH]

Thursday, November 4

9:00 Nursery School

10:00 Visual Arts Class [FH]

12:30 Yoga [FH]

6:30 Visual Arts Class [FH]

6:30 Handbell Choir [TR]

7:30 Chancel Choir [TR]

Friday, November 5

9:00 Nursery School

10:00 Visual Arts Class [FH]

Sunday, November 7

8:15 Worship

9:15 Sunday School for Children & Youth

10:30 Worship

5:00 Youth Group

7:30 All Saints Vespers

Locations:

[FH] Fellowship Hall

[TR] Troster Room

[GR] Great Room

[YC] Youth Classroom

St. John's Prayer List

Joe Maurer (*I*)

Gerry Stokker (*I*)

Amy Burke (*S*)

Melissa Good (*I*)

Tom Hack (*I*)

Kimberly Quinn (*D*)

Jim Hollinger (*I*)

Caroline (*I*)

Joshua Johnston (*I*)

Jean Williams (*I*)

Lois Teada (*S*)

Barbara Tornetta (*S*)

Dick Feron (*I*)

George McKinney (*I*)

Robert Engel, Sr. (*I*)

Tim Ryan (*I*)

Cheryl Ruse (*I*)

Susan Collins (*S*)

John Markiewicz (*S*)

Randy Titus (*I*)

Dorothy Christine (*I*)

Robert McCarty (*I*)

Donna West (*I*)

Legend: (I) illness; (S) surgery; (H) homebound; (D) death in the family.

