

14 “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.”

Matthew 25:14–15



Abington Presbyterian Church

November 19, 2023

10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

25th Sunday after Pentecost

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
November 19, 2023

GATHERING

The people gather wherever they may in response to God's call, offering praise in words of scripture, prayer, and song. The people acknowledge their sinfulness and receive the good news of God's forgiveness.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP *A time for quiet preparation before worship*

Lord our God, send your Holy Spirit upon us, and pour into our hearts
that most excellent gift of love, to help us worship you with our whole being this day. Amen.

PRELUDE

Exuberance

Margaret Tucker

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness; come before the LORD with joyful songs.

Know that the LORD is God. It is God who made us and we are God's;

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and God's courts with praise.

Give thanks to God and praise God's name.

For the LORD is good; whose love endures forever;

and whose faithfulness continues through all generations.

***HYMN 612**

We Praise You, O God

KREMSER

(* - Indicates all who are able may stand)

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O God, your blessed Son came into the world

that he might destroy the works of evil

and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life.

But we have preferred the ways of this world to your ways,

we have rebelled against your wisdom,

and we have rejected your fatherly guidance.

Grant that, having the hope of Christ's merciful forgiveness

we may purify ourselves as he is pure;

that, when he comes again with power and great glory,

we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;

where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, forever and ever. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*HYMN OF PRAISE 581 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

GLORY TO GOD

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

*THE PEACE OF CHRIST *Greet one another with the sign of Christ's peace.*

The peace of Christ be with you ... **And also with you.**

ANTHEM

Now Thank We All Our God
The Chapel Choir offers an anthem based on Hymn #643

arr. Michael Rosewall

WORD

God's Word is read and its message is proclaimed in scripture, music and interpretation.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *All Grades are dismissed to Sunday School*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 90:1-8, 12

The Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

The Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

True Light

Keith Hampton

*The Chancel Choir offers an anthem inspired by (and quoting) This Little Light of Mine
and a 10th Century "Book of Mournful Chants" by Grigor Narekatzi.*

This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine.
Almighty God is light. He lives in us as True Light.
In the beginning out of the darkness God created true light. He lives in us as True Light.
Almighty God is light. He lives in us as True Light.
Don't let the love that you've given me die, and don't desert my mind.
But let the one who serves you, praise you again and again.
This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I want the world to know God gave the world True Light.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 25:14-30

The Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

THE RISK OF LIFE

The Rev. Dr. James W. Thornton

*HYMN 724

O Jesus, I Have Promised

ANGEL'S STORY

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**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 Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
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 Ghost; 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 PEOPLE AND THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine
is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

THANKSGIVING and SENDING

*After the proclamation of God's Word, we respond with gratitude prepared to go
into the world where we are called to live according to God's will.*

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY

Foundation

arr. Karen Thompson

*DOXOLOGY

HYMN 606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 719

Come, Labor On

ORA LABORA

*BENEDICTION

PRELUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Worship Leaders:

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. James W. Thornton

Liturgist: Cindi Willis

Children's Message: Ruth Sall

Festive Ringers: Shirley Keiter, director

Celebration Ringers: Risë Kagan-Erickson, director

Chapel Choir: John Sall & Ruth Sall, co-directors

Chancel Choir: John Sall, director

Organ: Erik Meyer

We rejoice to receive in membership at APC today John Anderson, Ruth Dwyer, Jason Flax, Jillian Flax, Barbara Thornton, and Bonni Zetick

Permissions: Music of this service is reprinted and streamed online with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-729335. All rights reserved.

In need of special prayers this week: Suzy Paravla (daughter of Susan Davis), Linda Maisenhelder, Will Pompilli (son of Teresa Pompilli), Wayne Gibbons, Jr., Judy Meissner, Susan Johnson, John and Phyllis Frazier, Robin Cupo, Laura Lafferty, Emil Kupper, Victor Johnson III (Pete Johnson's nephew), Laurie Betts, Sally Hardy, Katie Link, Jennifer Edward (friend of Nick Cupo), Marilyn DeBacco (mother of Barb Foy), Ted Hyczko, Bill Kostik (Shelia Jackson's brother), Gordy Hawkinson (Nick Cupo's Uncle), Jen Klauder (friend of Cindi Willis), Valerie Steigerwalt (niece of Marlyn Whyte), John Connelly (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), Jim Holman (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), Paul Costello Family, Mary Ann Wherry, Miriam Whitten, Victor V. Johnson, Jr, Carolyn Ming, Richard Decembrino family, Olive Biggs, Stephen Krewson, Kristine Biddle (mother of Isaiah and Kade Holt)



Abington Presbyterian Church celebrates God's infinite love and believes all people are equal in the eyes of God. We welcome all to worship and serve with us. We seek to work together to oppose intolerance, racism, and injustice that threaten the unity of humankind.

ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Founded 1714

1082 Old York Road, Abington, PA 19001

Phone: (215) 887-4530 Fax: (215) 887-5988 E-mail: jthornton@apcusa.org

Web Site: www.apcusa.org

The Rev. Dr. James W. Thornton, Head of Staff

Tia McCoun, Congregational Care Associate

Ruth Ideen-Sall, B.M., Director of Christian Education

John Sall, M.M., Director of Music Ministries

Eric Meyer, Organist

The Rev. Ashley Rossi & Justin Feil, Youth Fellowship Coordinators

ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN LIFE

November 19, 2023

10:00 AM				
AGE/GRADE	ROOM	TEACHER	TOPIC	Pick Up
Birth– 2 year olds	110-112	Childcare	Childcare	110-112
Preschool	221	Sue Parsons	Giving Thanks	221
K—2nd Grades	Richard Treat Room (71)	Ruth Sall	Digital	Parish Hall
3rd—5th Grades	Youth Lounge (72)	Ruth Sall	Science	Parish Hall

Children ages 30 months through 5th grade attend Sunday School during the 10am service. Preschool classes start at 10am and are listed in the grid. Kindergarten through 5th graders start the worship service with their families and proceed to their classrooms after the Children's Moment. All children are welcome to attend Sunday School. If you are a visitor today, please feel free to accompany your child to his or her classroom.



Nursery Care— is offered for children birth through toddler in the nursery and the toddler rooms (110 and 112)

Christian Education Offerings

8:45am

- Middle School Sunday School at 8:45am in the Parish Hall basement. All 6th - 8th graders are welcome to join us.
- Confirmation Class, contact Bill Stock for more information.
- Adult Education at 8:45am in the Parlor.
- For more information contact Ruth Sall at 215-887-4530 or rsall@apcusa.org.



The Church Office will be closed November 23rd & 24th for Thanksgiving.



Thank you to Kathy Messina for providing and preparing the harvest table in the sanctuary and to Georgene and Chad Pilling for delivering the produce to Face to Face ministry in Germantown.

Adult Forum Sundays in November: SHARING OUR STORIES

Who is that person with whom you have shared the peace in church? Or who you see participating in a mission project? What is their story? How can we grow in empathy and be more sensitive to the faith and life journeys through active listening? From time to time the Anti-racism team will sponsor conversations to foster deeper relationships. During these sessions one person from the church will share life experiences that have been formative of their identity. Sometimes the story will be their experience of race, of spiritual development, of hardship, or of vocation. After we listen to the story, we will have a chance to enter into conversation. The Anti-racism team hopes that through these conversations we will deepen our sense of connectedness and community in a way that will help us better pursue a path of justice and love. In November the Anti-racism team and the Adult Education committee are co-sponsoring a series of three conversations during Adult Forum, 8:45–9:35 in the Parlor. November 19- Ahtoi Gibbons

APC GIVING

	YTD 10/31/23	YTD 10/31/22	Annual 2023 Budget
Income	\$534,692	\$531,681	\$658,500
Expenses	\$574,570	\$615,514	\$728,500
(Deficit)/Surplus	(\$39,878)	(\$83,833)	(\$70,000)

COME TO A CHRISTMAS PARTY!

All APC seniors are welcome to join APC staff and Older Adult Committee members to a Christmas Party at Rydal Park. Please join us for entertainment, caroling, fellowship and refreshments as we gather together to celebrate the Christmas Season.

WHEN: Wednesday, December 6
TIME : 1:30 - 3 P. M.
WERE : Sun and Social Room, 6th Floor
THEME: Christmas memories



YOUTH NEWS

There is NO youth group today, November 19.



Hand bells will rehearse 4:30-5:30 with dinner for all 6th-12th graders 5:30-6:00 before regular choir rehearsal.

Youth needed to babysit for MOLO group's outing Saturday, Dec. 2 from 2-7:30 p.m. at APC. Please email justinfeil4@gmail.com if you are interested in babysitting.

Adult Forum

Advent is a time of anticipation and joy, not just for family gatherings and gifts, but for the celebration of the incarnation of our Lord. How can you be more open to receiving and sharing God's joy and gladness this season? Join us at Adult Forum as we encounter works of sacred music and visual arts that speak of joy and we explore how mindfulness and breathing can help us embody the joy and peace of the season. Sundays at 8:45 am in the Parlor.

December 3 *Advent in Song* with John and Ruth Sall

December 10 *Advent in Gentle Movement and Breath* with Tink McDevitt

December 17 *Advent in the Visual Arts* with Michelle Feil

November 26th from 4:00-5:30pm – Advent Fair and Hanging of the Greens Event followed by the Crockpot Potluck!

Bring a crockpot dish to plug in while you help decorate the church and create Advent Crafts. There is something for every age.

Our Advent theme this year centers around the Star. During the decorating time we will hang the 6-foot Moravian star in the sanctuary and create stars for the sanctuary Christmas trees and to take home.



We will also continue our tradition of making a fresh greens Advent Wreath. Here is the link for the form to sign up to make a wreath <https://forms.gle/ao8dNjTSKqBQMoYR7>.

For more information, please contact Ruth Sall.



We want to be able to support and thank our veterans in the APC family.

Please reach out to the church office if you or someone you know should be on our Veteran's list.

Welcome to our handbell leadership team who lead ringers in worship the first time today!

Director of Handbells Risë Kagan-Erickson will lead the adult Celebration Ringers and the children's Joyful Ringers choirs while helping to coordinate and steer collaborations and the ongoing handbell ministry in worship leadership at APC. **Associate Handbell Director Shirley Keiter** will lead the youth in the Festive Ringers and continue to collaborate as a member-participant ringing and singing at APC. This shared staffing model was a creative response to newly shifting schedule needs which were too complex to cover this season in a single part-time position. The extensive background of both of these long-time professional church musicians with experience and love for handbells will serve APC well in this ministry. A brief overview introduction to these new staff members follows, but we hope you'll take time to get to know them and their gifts as we welcome them to this ministry.

Risë Kagan-Erickson has been a professional church musician since her college days at Montclair State in New Jersey. Handbells caught her attention in the late 70s, shortly before she moved to Germany. It took 15 years before she realized that there are also handbell choirs in Germany, but she immediately got involved wherever she could, including as sales representative for Schulmerich. Soon after she returned to the US in 2006, Risë became a charter member of the community ensemble Philadelphia Bronze, who was featured at the Area 2 Festival in 2017, and now rings as a soloist and in small ensembles, as well as directing The Heavenly Handbells at First United Methodist Church of Somerville, NJ. She has also taught various classes at Handbell Festivals and workshops in Area 2 and Area 3, and often participates in Distinctly Bronze East and West, and Bay View Week of Handbells.

Shirley Keiter, a member of APC since 1990, has been involved in church music for over 50 years. In that time, she has conducted a variety of ensembles, both vocal and handbell/handchime including an 11-year stint at Upper Dublin Lutheran Church where she directed seven ensembles spanning ages from 3 years old to senior adults. Shirley has also rung at APC, first with Sally Bowie and then as time and schedules allowed. Shirley holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education (piano concentration) from Temple University and a Master of Arts in Religion, in Liturgical Music (organ concentration) from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, now United Lutheran Seminary. She looks forward to working with our talented teens to bring God's gift of music to the worship life of APC.





Youth Group Fundraiser

Chili COOK OFF



SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 19TH
AFTER CHURCH IN
PARISH HALL

Sign up to make chili
and win the chili
cookoff!

email Anne Marie
Constable if you are
willing to make chili
sweets.amc@gmail.com

Tickets
are \$5.00

This QR Code takes you to the donation
page on our APC website

