

45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Matthew 13:45-46



Abington Presbyterian Church

July 26, 2026

10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Centering Prayer

Sing praises to the Lord,
O you faithful ones,
and give thanks
to God's holy name.
For his anger
is but for a moment;
his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may linger
for the night,
but joy comes
with the morning.
Hear, O Lord,
and be gracious to me!
O Lord, be my helper!"
You have turned
my mourning into dancing;
you have taken off
my sackcloth
and clothed me with joy,
so that my soul may praise
you and not be silent.
O Lord my God,
I will give thanks
to you forever.

(Psalm 30:4-5, 10-12)

The people **gather** in response to God's call to worship our Creator with thanksgiving and praise.

The whole congregation joins together in speaking (or singing) the text in **bold** print. At the asterisk (*) please stand in body or rise in spirit. Purple *Glory to God* hymnals are located in the pew racks. Please join in singing!

Welcome! Abington Presbyterian Church strives to be a house of prayer for all people. Please see page 5 for information regarding accessibility and worshipping with children.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Berceuse, Op. 31 No. 19
Lynn Yip, organ

Louis Vierne

WELCOME AND LIVING OUR FAITH

CALL TO WORSHIP

All who hunger—gather gladly.

We come to feast on the life-giving Word.

Here, love abounds and grace overflows.

Here, blessings multiply as gifts are shared.

Come—let us pour ourselves out in prayer and praise,
and open ourselves to renewal and rest.

*HYMN NO. 760

Bring Many Names

WESTCHASE

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of abundance, in your hands
meager offerings become bread to feed a multitude.
Your mercy overflows to fill deserted landscapes
with hope and grace.
In you there is always more than enough.
But we see only scarcity:
too few resources to share with our neighbors,
too little energy to respond to those in need.
We turn from those who suffer
rather than offering compassion and care.
Transform us, we pray.
Open our hands to share freely and generously
and stretch our hearts to new expressions of love.**

*SILENT PRAYER

*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

**Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end, Amen, amen.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

WORD

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Ruth Sall

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Bonnie Zetick

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 14:13-21

New Testament, p. 16

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 32:22-31

Old Testament, p. 30

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson

*HYMN NO. 312

Take Us as We Are, O God

ENDLESS FEAST

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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 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;**

(continued on page 4.)

The congregation is invited to share signs of Christ’s peace, such as a handshake, with one another.

Following the Children’s Message, children (through Grade 5) may follow their teachers to Sunday School or remain in worship.

Where the **word** is read and proclaimed, we believe Jesus Christ the living Word is present by the power of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the proclamation of the word through the reading and interpretation of Scripture is central to our worship.

We respond to the proclamation of the word by confessing the faith of the Church. Today we are using one of our oldest and most familiar affirmations of faith. Roman Christians developed an early form of the Apostles’ Creed around 180 C.E. and used it to teach church doctrine to candidates for baptism. The present form of the Apostles’ Creed dates to the eighth century.

**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

Suzin Weber

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Sarabande from Cello Suite No. 5 in c minor, BWV 1011*
J. S. Bach

Lynn Yip, cello

*DOXOLOGY HYMN NO. 607

OLD HUNDREDTH

**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

In gratitude for the grace we have received, we respond with **thanksgiving** and offer our lives to God.

Your presence and participation in worship is an expression of self-offering. If you've not already done so, please sign the red Friendship Pad, located at the end of the pew on the center aisle, then pass it along the row. If you prefer an electronic form or are worshipping with us via livestream, you may follow the link to use the online Friendship Pad using the QR Code inside the folder.

We are grateful for gifts of time, talent and treasure. If you prefer to give a financial gift online, you may use the QR code below.



SENDING

*HYMN NO. 546 *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing* SICILIAN MARINERS

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE *Fugue in F major, BWV 157* Dieterich Buxtehude
Lynn Yip, organ

There are two **flexible seating areas** in the Sanctuary—one near the “house left” arched doorway and one in front of the pulpit. These sections are for worshippers with accessibility needs (e.g. those who use wheelchairs or walkers; those who need support to stand; those worshipping with children in strollers) and their companions.

Hearing Assistance Devices are available in the Narthex (at the back of the Sanctuary). Portable **pew cushions** are available at the North Transept (“house right”) entrance. Please see an Usher for assistance.

Children’s Worship Bags are available at each entrance to the Sanctuary.

WORSHIP NOTES

Lynn Yip is a current organ student of Lois Leong and a cellist with the Abington Symphony Orchestra. By day, Lynn works as a software developer. She is honored to share in music with the congregation today.

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Stay connected with our community of faith!

You Tube:

@AbingtonPresbyterianChurch4784

Facebook:

@Abington Presbyterian Church-APC (Public Group)
@Abington Presbyterian Church Youth Fellowship (Private Group)

To read about all the exciting things happening at Abington Presbyterian Church, **please pick up a copy of “Abington Presbyterian Life” from an Usher or subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter.** To be added to the distribution list for the E-Blast, please call the church office or email Susan Schied: sschied@apcusa.org

Our community of faith strives to live by the words of the Apostle Paul: *Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep* (Romans 12:15). As you pray throughout the week, we invite you to lift up the names of those who have requested prayer. Our church family would also like to rejoice with you if you are celebrating the arrival of a child, grandchild or great-grandchild; marking an important milestone; or have another joy to share.

To add a name to the Prayer List or share a joy, please call the church office or email Susan Schied: sschied@apcusa.org

TODAY AT ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8:00 a.m. Simple Gifts Worship Service on the Church Lawn

9:50 a.m. Nursery Care for infants and toddlers in Room 110

10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Following the Children’s Message (approx. 10:20 a.m.)

Children’s Summer Sunday School in the Children’s Choir Room

PRAYER LIST

We offer special prayers of comfort and sympathy for the Lafferty family on the death of **Laura Lafferty** (August 25, 1946—July 16, 2026).

We offer special prayers of comfort and sympathy for the **Miller family** on the death of Cindy’s father N. Joseph Romain, Jr.

In need of ongoing prayers: Bob Adams, Ray Bettys (friend of Craig & Carole Jean Nicholson), Olive Biggs, James Blomquist (friend of Chuck Twining), Carol Boles (mother of Christine Sacco), Walter Boutcher, John Connelly (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), Corrigan Family (APNS family), Robin Cupo, Linda Doyle, Heather Ferretti (Daughter of Trish Miller), John Frazier, Phyllis Frazier, Carmina Gagliardi (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), Wayne Gibbons, Jr., Lindsay Harbold (APNS parent), Joanne Hawkson (mother of Nick Cupo), Hirst Family (APNS family), Ted Hyczko, Diane Johnson, Stephen Krewson, Emil Kupper, Laura Lafferty, Family of Katie Link (APNS parent), Holland Lutzow (APNS student), Cathy McCullough, Caitlin McCullough & Joseph O’Donnell (friends of Irene Rosenberg), Clinton Mench (APNS parent), Joan Meyers, Gail Mignogna, Suzy Paravla (daughter of Susan Davis), Will Pompilli (son of Teresa Pompilli), Sharon Robson (friend of Kimberly Browne), Ed Sacco, Lisa Seufert, Valerie Steigerwalt (niece of Marlyn Whyte), Jackie Thurlow, Shirley Waters, Barbara Weber, The Weir Family, Callum Wright (friend of Barbara-Ann Schwartz, APNS teacher).

The Abington Presbyterian Church Session

The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson, Moderator
Sandy Hostetter, Clerk of Session

Class of 2027

Marie Barnhurst
Zene Colt II
Sandy Hostetter
Karen Hoyle
Blythe Palumbo
William Stock

Class of 2028

Michelle Feil
Aized Gill
Bill Gustafson
Valerie Pendley
Lillian Sall
Chuck Twining

Class of 2029

Kimberly Browna
Judy Cornman
Kathy Messina
John Miller
Alice Price

The Abington Presbyterian Church Board of Deacons

David Bishop, Moderator
Russ Cornman, Vice Moderator
Rev. Judith A. Dwyer, Staff Liaison

Class of 2027

Matt Berry
David Bishop
Pam Callantine
Mary DeVan
Linda Hurd
Sheila Jackson
Paul Orlevitch
Haley Wikoff

Class of 2028

Don Brooks
Ashley Burgos
Isaac Burgos
Janet Easlea
Nancy Hartzell
Lauren Keiter
Tim Waite
Ed Wikoff

Class of 2029

Russ Cornman
Marilyn Hagy
Glenn Hostetter
Kevin Kelly
Ted Lutkus
Joanne Maransky
Chris Sacco
Julia Waite

ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

PASTORAL STAFF

The Rev. Sudie E. Niesen Thompson, M.Div., Th.M.	Pastor/Head of Staff
The Rev. Judith A. Dwyer, M.A., M. Div.	Parish Associate

MUSIC STAFF

John Sall, M.M.	Director of Music Ministries
Ruth Sall, B.M.	Children & Youth Choir Director
Lois Leong, M.M.	Organist & Director of Handbells

EDUCATION STAFF

Ruth Sall, B.M.	Director of Christian Education
Justin Feil	Youth Fellowship Coordinator
The Rev. Ashley Rossi, M.Div.	Youth Fellowship Coordinator

SUPPORT STAFF

Fred Cipriano	Facilities Manager
Susan Schied	Secretary
Jackie Thurlow	Bookkeeper



Abington Presbyterian Church | Founded 1714

1082 Old York Road, Abington, PA, 19001

215.887.4530 • apcusa.org • Office Hours: Monday —Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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.