

**56** Thus says the LORD:  
Maintain justice, and do  
what is right.  
for soon my salvation will come,  
and my deliverance be  
revealed.

*Isaiah 56:1*



## Abington Presbyterian Church

August 16, 2026

10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### Centering Prayer

Holy One, quiet my mind.  
Calm my fears.  
Enable my awareness.  
You. Always You are with  
me, beside me, within me.  
I am open to the power  
and glory of who You are.  
Amen.

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

## Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

### GATHERING

PRELUDE

*Prière*

Théodore Dubois

WELCOME AND LIVING OUR FAITH

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus Christ,  
you come to transfigure us and renew us in the image of God:  
**shine in our darkness.**

Jesus Christ, light of our hearts, you know our thirst:  
**lead us to the wellspring of your gospel.**

Jesus Christ, light of the world, you shine in every human being:  
**enable us to discern your presence in each person.**

Jesus Christ, friend of the poor:  
**open in us the gates of simplicity  
so that we can welcome you.**

Jesus Christ, gentle and humble of heart:  
**renew in us the spirit of childhood.**

Jesus Christ, you send your church to prepare your path in the world:  
**open for all people the gates of your kingdom. Amen.**

\*HYMN NO. 14

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

DIX

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God,  
you have given us the law of Moses  
and the teachings of Jesus  
to direct us in the way of life.  
You offer us your Holy Spirit  
so that we can be born to new life as your children.  
Give us the vision and courage to choose and nurture life,  
that we may receive your blessing. Amen.**

\*SILENT PRAYER

\*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

**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.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

**WORD**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE Ruth Sall

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Bill Gustafson

SCRIPTURE READING                  Psalm 67                  Old Testament, p. 529  
  
The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READING                  Matthew 15:21-28                  New Testament, p. 17  
  
The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON The Rev. Judith Brackett

\*HYMN NO. 44                  *Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us* AUSTIN

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH                  from Colossians 1:15-20, NRSV  
  
**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,  
the firstborn of all creation;  
for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,  
things visible and invisible,  
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—  
all things have been created through him and for him.  
He himself is before all things,  
and in him all things hold together.**

(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) will 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.

**He is the head of the body, the church;  
he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,  
so that he might come to have first place in everything.  
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,  
and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself  
all things, whether on earth or in heaven,  
by making peace through the blood of his cross.**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

##### 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     *All Things Bright and Beautiful*     John Rutter  
Text of the anthem may be found at Hymn No. 20

##### \*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

##### SENDING

\*HYMN NO. 39     *Great is Thy Faithfulness*     FAITHFULNESS

##### \*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE     *Trumpet Tune*     Jeff Perks

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.



## WORSHIP NOTES

Today we welcome the **Rev. Judith Brackett**, who is filling the pulpit while Pastor Sudie is away on vacation.

Rev. Judith Brackett is a second career PCUSA pastor. Before entering Princeton Theological Seminary in 2010, Judith taught for over 20 years at schools in New York City, Philadelphia, and Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

Born and raised in rural Maine, she was active in the local mission church which formed her sensibilities for ministry. Since ordination, Judith has been an associate pastor at a church in Glenside, PA; led a predominately African American congregation in Philadelphia; ministered to children, youth, and their families at a church in Ardmore, PA; and served as transitional pastor at Supplee Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church in Flourtown.

Judith delights in making Mediterranean food, creating hospitable places, and writing spiritual prose. She joyfully practices the theology of the table - an understanding that every table where people gather can be an extension of Christ's table, a satisfying feast for the soul.

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.

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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
- 11:15 a.m.**     **Handbell Choir Try-It** in the Bell Room

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**PRAYER LIST**

We offer prayers of comfort and sympathy to the family of **Eleanor Kelley Given** on her death (February 8, 1934—August 9, 2026).

**In need of ongoing prayers:** Bob Adams, Olive Biggs, James Blomquist (friend of Chuck Twining), Carol Boles (mother of Christine Sacco), Walter Boutcher, William Coles, 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, Brenda Fudell (friend of Nick & Robin Cupo), 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, 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](http://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.