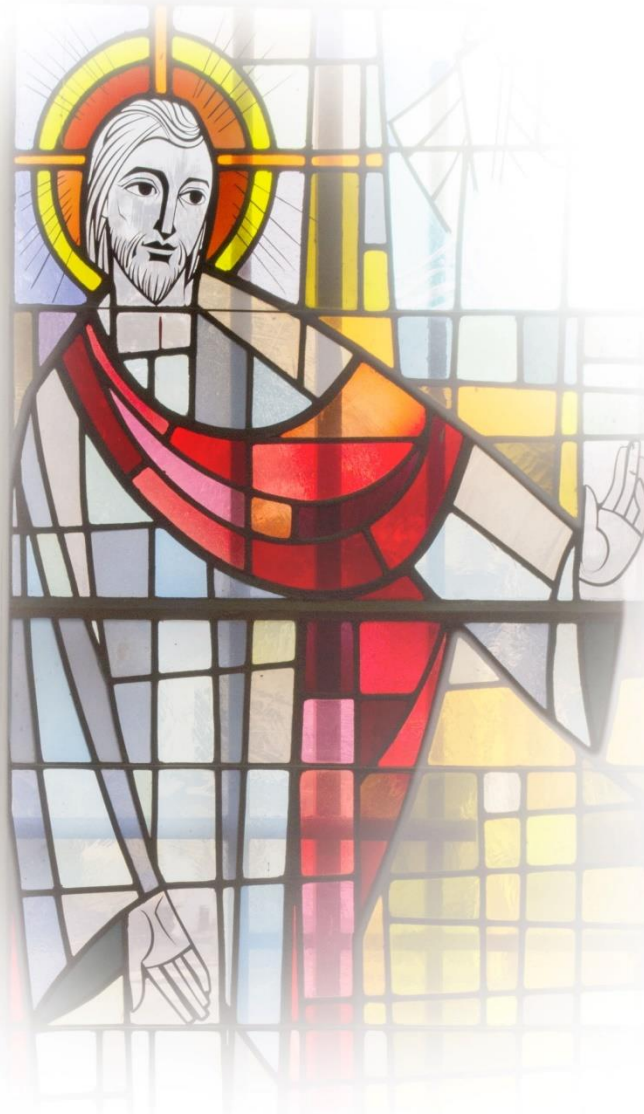


27 Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and are in no way intimidated by your opponents.

Philippians 1:27-28a



Abington Presbyterian Church

September 20, 2020

10:00 A.M. Celebration Worship

16th Sunday after Pentecost

ORDER OF WORSHIP
16th Sunday after Pentecost September 20, 2020

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

O God we come to you again on this day set aside for your worship and praise. Even as the seasons change your love for us never does. Days come and go but your love is steadfast. We are desperate for your continued grace and mercy. Thank you, O God, for these things and for all of the good and perfect gifts that come from you. Amen.

PRELUDE

Choral

Cesar Franck

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Holy God, we invite you into this space to move among us and quicken us to worship our Savior.

Come, make yourself known to us in ways that are comforting and new.

Send your Spirit to live in and through us as we seek to know your good and perfect will.

Come, lead us to lives of mercy, compassion, and justice.

You sent your Son to embody God's love for all of Creation. Make the life and resurrection of Jesus Christ as real to us as the air we breathe.

Come, inspire us to be your hands and feet to all nations.

Come, for we are here to worship you, the Lord our God.

*** HYMN 435**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we have no right to our unjust anger. We focus on the wrong things. Our hearts are not in the right place when we deprive each other of kindness, patience, and understanding. Instead, we continue to make demands, to exploit nature, and to withhold forgiveness from our fellow human beings.

Forgive us, O God. Set our feet upon the right path once again and make us whole. Remind us that we are your children, and you look upon us with compassion so that we might turn and do the same.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, remember that through Christ all things will be reconciled.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*** RESPONSE**

Glory Be To the Father

Hymn 581

**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.**

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Bible NT Pg.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 20:1-16

Bible OT Pgs.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Where the Arc Bends

The Rev. Aaron Twitchell

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The 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;
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 & 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

* HYMN 649 Amazing Grace

* BENEDICTION

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

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

* POSTLUDE Bachiana Gordon Young

[service hymns and some announcements follow]

Worship Leaders:

Preacher: The Rev. Aaron Twitchell

Liturgist: The Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill

Children's Message: Ruth Sall

Organ: Joel Klingman.

Permissions:

In need of special prayers this week: Ned Leiby, Linda Gustafson, Len Browna, Roy Castor, Michael Kemp, Frankie Ryan (friend of Cindi Willis), Laura Lockhart, Sylvia Weed (mother of Kathryn Jablokow), Lauren Frazer (sister of Jeanne Hyczko), Sophia Southerling (friend of Amy Baker), Barbara LaNore (sister of Lynda Smyth), Bruce D. Meissner (son of Judy and Bud Meissner), Sylvia Jolly, MM Harris, Herb Harris, Debbie Garrettmeyer (niece of Marlyn Whyte), Gary Lynch (son of Doug Lynch), Wayne Wilkerson (father of Amy Baker), Chris Popescu (aunt of Joanne Bates), Herb Ewald (husband of Lynda Ewald), Marty Bell (cousin of Alice Price), Elizabeth Cole (granddaughter of Nancy Webb Cole), Doris Boerner, Victor V. Johnson (brother of Pete Johnson), Helen Porter (mother of Joe Porter), Janet Wells (mother of Gwen Bihn), Suzy Paravla (daughter of Susan Davis), Linda Maisenhelder, Pat Slimmer and Rosie (friends of Anne and Ray Rife), Marian Kupper, Christine Kim (wife of Stephen Kim), Will Pompilli (son of Teresa Pompilli), Phyllis Frazier, Nick Cupo, Sr., Joanne Hawkins (mother of Nick Cupo).

For Pastoral Care: To notify the church of an illness, hospitalization, death, or to request prayer, contact a minister or call your Deacon or the Church Office at (215) 887-4530.

435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness
2 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures

of the sea. There's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice,
of the mind. And the heart of the E - ter - nal

which is more than lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's
is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were but more

sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
faith - ful, we would glad - ly trust God's Word, and our lives re -

where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
flect thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of our Lord.

These stanzas, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and

649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

CHOCTAW

*Shilombish holitopa ma!
 Ishmminti pulla cha
 hatak ilbusha pia ha
 is pi yukpalashke.*

CREEK

*Po ya fek cha he thlat ah tet
 ah non ah cha pa kas
 cha fee kee o funnan la kus
 um e ha ta la yus.*

NAVAHO

*Nizhónítgo joo bá diits' a'
 yisdáshítinígít,
 lah yóóiiyá, k'ad
 shénáhoosdzin,
 doo eesh'ít da út'ée.*

As was his custom, the author wrote this hymn to accompany his sermon on 1 Chronicles 17:16–17, preached on January 1, 1773; he called it “Faith’s Review and Expectation.” Much of its current popularity comes from this now-familiar tune, an association that began in 1835.