



# The Presbyterian Church of Llanerch

Celebrating The 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 11, 2016

11:00 a.m.

## Gathering

As you come to worship, take a few moments to bring yourself before God—your present state of mind and preoccupations, as well as your desire to meet God during this time.

[Our service begins when the voluntary begins, and we turn our attention toward God, in worship.]

The \* indicates the parts of the service where the congregation is invited to stand; **bolded responses** indicate congregational responses.

## GREETING AND WELCOME

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Like a woman who finds a missing coin,  
God rejoices in our salvation.  
Like a shepherd who finds a lost sheep,  
God rejoices in bringing us home.  
Let us worship God.

### \* PRAYER OF THE DAY

### \* OPENING HYMN

401

“Here in This Place”

*Gather us In*

## CALL TO RECONCILIATION

## PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

Creator of the universe, we imagine that we are in familiar territory, that we know what to expect of this hour, that we will leave much the way that we came. Do not abandon us to our foolishness. In judgment,

illumine our darkness. In mercy, bear us home—until we recognize your presence wherever evil is confronted, truth is spoken, and life is restored.  
AMEN.

### \* SUNG RESPONSE 399 “God Welcomes All” Sung Twice

--*Themba Amen*

♪ “God welcomes all, strangers and friends; God’s love is strong and it never ends.” ♪

## ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

As a potter holds a piece of clay, God holds and shapes our lives. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

### \* PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ has been released among you, and may it go with you!

And also with you!

## Word

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER TO TIMOTHY

1: 12-17 [Page 207]

### A READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Luke 15: 1-10 [Page 78]

The words of Scripture, inspired by God.

Thanks be to God.

## The Proclamation of the Word

## SERMON

--Rev. David Stipp-Bethune

**“We All Preach; if necessary, we use words.”**

## THE BLESSING OF BACKPACKS

[Our children will be asked to come forward with their backpacks and place them on the communion table. The congregation will be invited to come forward and attach bag tags to each backpack. Then the congregation will participate in blessing each child with the refrain below:]

God, bless this bag and [name the child] who will use it. Be with him/her as he/she learns and grows this year. Show him/her how to serve you and help him/her to teach us all about your love. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

### \* HYMN

26

*Earth and All Stars*

“Earth and All Stars”

[Adding verse 4 below, singing verse 4 in the hymnal as verse 5]

**4. Classrooms and labs, Loud boiling test tubes! Sing to the Lord a new song! Athlete and band, Loud cheering people! Sing to the Lord a new song! God has done marvelous things. We too sing praises with a new song!**

THE COMMISSIONING OF OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

COMMISSIONING PRAYER

O Holy God, the time has come with our Sunday school begins. As we prepare to share the stories of your love with our children, we ask your blessing on those who have volunteered to teach and guide them. We bless you and we thank you for these witnesses who will help us share your love with others. O Lord of Life and Love,

Hear our prayer.

Bless, O God, all who will teach our children in the coming days and weeks and months.

Give them the wisdom to find inspiration for each child. Give them the energy and creativity and love that will make their work a blessing to our children. O Lord of Life and Love,

Hear our prayer.

Bless, O God, our children, and this whole congregation, that we may be faithful stewards and “preachers”—proclaimers of your love and justice, able to share and show your works of grace and compassion. O Lord of Life and Love,

Hear our prayer.

Bless, O God, each one gathered here that we will seek every opportunity to grow in our knowledge and love of you. Grant that we may see you more clearly, love you more dearly, follow you more nearly. O Lord of Life and Love,

Hear our prayer.

And bless, O God, these our cherished children, those whom we have promised to love and nurture at their baptism. Keep them safe, keep them excited, keep them ever seeking to learn more and to develop their gifts. Grant that through their study, they may gain the tools to grow in love and faith and service, all their days. O Lord of Life and Love,

Hear our prayer.

And let all God’s people say:

AMEN.

**Response**

\* AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH

--The Confession of Belhar

We believe that any teaching which attempts to legitimate such forced separation by appeal to the gospel, and is not prepared to venture on the road of obedience and reconciliation, but rather, out of prejudice, fear, selfishness and unbelief, denies in advance the reconciling power of the gospel, must be considered ideology and false doctrine.

Therefore, we reject any doctrine which, in such a situation sanctions in the name of the gospel or of the will of God the forced separation of people on the grounds of race and color and thereby in advance obstructs and weakens the ministry and experience of reconciliation in Christ. AMEN.

INVITATION TO PRESENT GOD’S TITHES, OUR GIFTS, AND OFFERINGS

\* SUNG RESPONSE #606 “Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow” --*Doxology*

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. AMEN.”

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

[The Minister begins the prayers, and invites the congregation to join in the praying of our Lord’s Prayer.]

...Seal in us the works of your love and justice as we pray together with the words Jesus taught us to use when we pray:

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.

**Sending**

\* HYMN

649

*Amazing Grace*

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

\* ANNOUNCEMENTS

\* BLESSING & CHARGE

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While our worship service ends, our Christian service is just beginning...

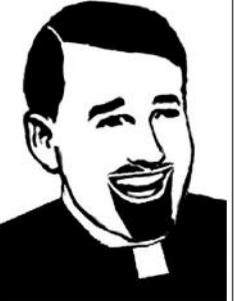
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**The flowers for This Morning’s Worship Service** are generously shared with us by the Schmoll Family in honor of those who serve our community as First Responders and in remembrance of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice 15 years ago on 9/11.

**Leading This Morning’s Worship Service Are:** Georgia Marshall Schrom, Minister of Music; Rev. David Stipp-Bethune, Pastor.

**Service Notes for This Morning’s Worship Service:**

1. Our Prayers of the Day, of Forgiveness, and of Illumination were crafted with suggestions from the Feasting on the Word worship Companion: liturgies for Year C, edited by Kimberly Bracken Long.
2. Our Affirmation of Faith this morning was taken from our denomination's newest confession, The Confession of Belhar, as we continue to explore the newest addition to our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Confessions.

<p>RFB <small>radio free babilon</small></p> <p>Presents</p> <p><b>COFFEE WITH JESUS</b></p> <p>Messing With Them</p> 	 <p>On the road to Emmaus, Jesus, why did you keep your identity hidden from those two guys for so long?</p>	 <p>For the dramatic effect it had on them, Joe. There they were, bummed, confused, needing a lift. So I gave them some good news.</p>	 <p>But, Jesus! You were totally messing with them!</p>	 <p>Punked 'em good, didn't I?</p> <p>It's called a <i>practical</i> joke for a reason, Joe. And it still cracks me up.</p>
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A Service of

# Light in the Darkness

In deep awareness of the Violence, Fear-Mongering, Polarization, Racism, Terrorism prevalent in our culture, We invite you to join us for a time of reflection and prayer as we reclaim our call to be a people of light in the darkness.

Seven voices will speak to Biblical texts on "light"

A time for prayer  
A time for singing

In a "reverse-tenebrae", we will begin in darkness and depart after the blessing reclaiming the light of Christ that cannot be contained.

*The light shines  
in the darkness,  
and the darkness  
did not overcome it.*

John 1:5

**Tuesday, September 20, 2016**  
**Beginning at 7:00 pm**  
**Oxford Presbyterian Church**  
8501 Stenton Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19150

**Hosted by the Presbytery of Philadelphia**

# BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

It's that time of year, again! Summer isn't quite over, but school starts soon. And here's a list of favorite "Back to Church" activities to put on your fall calendar! Don't miss out!

September 11<sup>th</sup>: Worship time returns to 11:00am. Rally Sunday. Commissioning of our 2016-17 Sunday School Program. Blessing of Backpacks during worship!

September 18<sup>th</sup>: Sunday School begins!

September 25<sup>th</sup>: Kick off for "Church Has Left the Building"

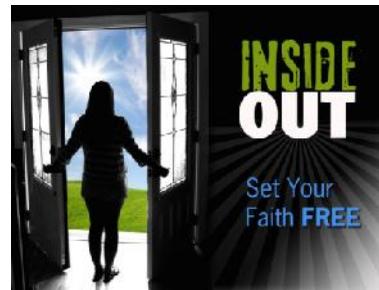
October 2<sup>nd</sup>: World Communion Sunday! Worship includes the Lord's Supper!

October 9<sup>th</sup>: Blessing of the Animals Service.

Blessing  
of the  
Backpacks



Blessing of the Animals



## WAYS YOU CAN HELP OUR MINISTRY... and take part in it:

### PARTICIPATE IN WORSHIP WITH US:

11 a.m. on Sunday Mornings

### PARTICIPATE IN HELPING OTHERS:

We receive gifts for CHESTER EASTSIDE MINISTRIES food and outreach ministries on the third Sunday of each month. **Our next offering is Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>!** Please bring your gifts to worship and include them in the special dedication during worship!

### PARTICIPATE IN THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER:

Our congregation believes and attests to the power of prayer. We pray "together" in church and we pray "together" as individuals. Here are some of the things we are praying:

**For the victims of natural and human-caused disasters--especially those affected by the devastating flooding in SOUTH LOUISIANA and the victims of Hurricane Hermine; | for everyone going "back to school;" | for the victims of violence and terrorism, all over the world and in our own country | For Gerard Schrom's father (who suffered a fall at his home in Florida) | For Jeanne Twining (who is in failing health) | For Michelle Siegle (Eleanor Siegle's daughter-in-law who suffered a massive stroke), | For Jack Bellwoar and for Gail | For Steven Joachim (Eleanor Siegle's great-grandson) | For Phoenix Hoyle, June Hoyle's grandson (June is our Preschool Director) | For Cindy Guilfoil (who is undergoing chemotherapy for cancer) | For Kelly Diorio's Mother (who is fighting lung cancer) | For Matthew | For Ben | Thanksgiving and safe-keeping for first responders, good neighbors, helping people, and disaster planning | For our congregation in our New Beginnings discernment small group meetings | For our congregation, our elders and deacons, our pastor | Our Church Staff: Kelly DiIorio, Georgia Schrom, David Pokorny, and Rev. David Stipp-Bethune | Our Preschool staff, students, and families | For the Families, Friends, Communities enduring violence and bloodshed--that justice may roll down like waters.**

By adding these prayers to your personal prayers, we engage God together.

### WE REALLY DO WANT TO HEAR YOUR FEEDBACK:

Our hope and prayer is that our worship services, programs, and ministry opportunities are both meaningful and helpful to you, and we'd appreciate knowing how well or how not-so-well that we're doing. Comments, feedback, and helpful criticisms are welcome—please make notes or suggestions, and sign them. You can drop them off, mail them to the church office, or e-mail them to the church office or pastor. Please be aware we can only consider signed responses. Thank you for your help.



# The Presbyterian Church of Llanerch

www.llanerchpres.org | E-mail: llanerchpres@verizon.net | Phone: 610.789.1639

Street Address: 211 Lansdowne Road; Havertown, Pennsylvania 19083

**Pastor**

Rev. David Stipp-Bethune

**Communications Coordinator**

Kelly Diiorio

**Minister of Music**

Georgia Marshall Schrom

**Ministers**

Members of the Congregation

## OUR MISSION

The Presbyterian Church of Llanerch is an inclusive Christian community whose members have been: saved by God's grace, united by God in Jesus Christ, and given by God as a light to the nations. Our mission is patterned after the example of Jesus Christ, who came "not to be served but to serve." To that end, we seek to think with the mind of Christ, to love with the heart of Christ, and to act as the Lord requires, doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with our God.

## WELCOME!

We are grateful that you are choosing to worship with us! Worship at "Llanerch" is our signature event each Sunday, and we hope and pray that you find today's service meaningful and that you experience authentic fellowship with our faith community. Child care for younger children is provided in our nursery (ask one of our ushers if you need directions) and a time of fellowship with coffee and treats follows our worship service. Information about our ministry and activities is included in our bulletin and in the brochure in your pew. You may also connect with us online at [www.llanerchpres.org](http://www.llanerchpres.org) or find us on Facebook (The Presbyterian Church of Llanerch). Our pastor is Rev. David Stipp-Bethune and can be contacted through the church office, or the Pastor's Study at 610-789-1820, or via e-mail: [revdrstipp@msn.com](mailto:revdrstipp@msn.com).

## KNOW YOU ARE MOST WELCOME TO JOIN US IN THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES:

- Today 09/11 Worship for the 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost will include the commissioning of our Sunday School program, the Blessing of Backpacks for children and teachers, and 9/11 Remembrances and Blessings. PLEASE NOTE: Worship will begin at 11:00am—and continue at 11:00am until Memorial Day weekend, next year!
- Monday 09/12 Session meets at 7:00pm.
- Wednesday 09/14 The Presbytery of Philadelphia gathers at Valley Forge Presbyterian Church for a post General Assembly report and discussion.
- NEXT Sunday 09/18 Worship for the 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. Our Sunday School program begins for the season!



Direct your phone or tablet computer to our Church's website by scanning the image on the left.



Search for "The Presbyterian Church of Llanerch," then click on "Like."