

# Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 24, 2023

9:30 am

## Gathering as God's Family

Words of Welcome

Prelude

*The Solid Rock*

arr. R. House

Call to Worship

This is the day the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Come, let us the worship the Lord of Life.

\*Hymn 667

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*

LAUDES DOMINI

Prayer of Confession

**Loving God,**

**You love us, but we do not fully show that love to others.**

**We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns.**

**We guard our hearts from the brokenness of this world.**

**God of grace, fill us with your love so that we**

**might pour out your love**

**in even the most dry and barren places of this world**

**that thirst for your living water.**

**We ask this in Christ Jesus our savior.**

*(a moment for Silent Reflection and Confession)*

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the Good News of the Gospel!

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

\*Congregational Response 581

*Gloria Patri*

GLORIA PATRI (GREATOREX)

**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.**

\*The Sharing of the Peace of Christ

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The Peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you. **And also with you.**

\*Congregational Response 399

*God Welcomes All*

THEMBA AMEN

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;**

**God's love is strong and it never ends.**

*\* Those who are able, please stand*

***Bolded** text invites the congregation to respond*

# Proclaiming God's Word

Old Testament Lesson: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Pew Bible, NRSV (OT), p. 163

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

*(Ushers will collect prayer request cards during the anthem.)*

Anthem

*Still I Sing Alleluia*  
Chancel Choir

Kyle Pederson

*With Spirit before me, with Spirit behind, with Spirit below and beside me;  
with Spirit all around, even where affliction's found, I will sing, I will sound, "Alleluia."  
When darkness descends and the night never ends, when my shadows and demons surround me;  
when questions I spin echo answer less within, even then, even then, "Alleluia."  
Open us to You 'til we sing Alleluia.. Weave joy in our gain, bring us hope in our pain;  
hear all prayers that we offer to you, Lord; breathe life into death, draw us closer with each breath,  
that our lips may confess, Alleluia.  
Praise the Father, praise the Son, praise the Spirit who moves in and through all.  
All creation sound the word so profound; let us sing, let us live, Alleluia.  
Still I sing Alleluia.*

Time with the Children

*(After the message, children ages four through third grade may leave for Children's Worship Time.  
Parents may pick up their children in Room 207, located across the bridge, following worship.)*

Dedication of Christian Education Leaders

Congregation: **We promise to engage with enthusiasm the wonder of God's Word  
and work in this world, that we might find our place.**

Teachers: We promise to use our God given gifts to love and nurture  
those in our care.

Congregation: **We promise to support these teachers in their service and provide in all  
ways, for all to grow deeper in faith formation.**

New Testament Lesson: 1 John 4:7-16

Pew Bible, NRSV (NT), p. 241

Sermon

"Love Isn't À la Carte"

Dr. Tom Kort

# Responding to God's Word

\*Hymn 408

*There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

Concerns of the Church

*(Persons nearest the center aisle are asked to sign and pass the Act of Friendship pad toward the  
outside aisle. Please keep the cover open as the pad is returned.)*

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (Traditional)

**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.**

# Going Forth in God's Name

Offering of Our Gifts and Lives

*(To give online or via text message, click the "Give" tab at the top of our website.)*

Offertory

*Adagio*

A. Guilmant

\*Congregational Response 606 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD HUNDREDTH  
**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

\*Hymn 366

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

HYFRYDOL

\*Benediction

Postlude

*Thanksgiving Psalm*

M. Reger

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**Assisting:** Rev. Becca Bateman and Rev. Pauline Sexton **Lay Leader:** Marv Woodall

**New Life!** The rose on the Communion Table celebrates the birth of Remi Gage Gray, born on September 19, to Katherine and Michael Gray. The proud DPC grandparents are Jay and Barbara Belding.

The **flowers** are given today in loving memory of Verna and George Bishop, Stan Bishop and Daniel Bishop by Bill and Anne Bishop and family; in loving memory of Edward and Freda C. Agnew by Mariana Hoffman; and in loving memory of Gary Miller by his friend, Nancy Kitchen.



*Next Sunday, October 1, we return to 8:30 and 10:30 worship and education hour for all ages.*



**Today**, following the service, we gather in Fellowship Hall for **Fall Fun Fest**, an all-church event where we will share memories through a DPC timeline, enjoy a delicious apple dessert contest (winners announced at 11:15), share in activities for all ages, create new memories with photo stations, and much more!

**Souls Shot: Portraits of Victims of Gun Violence** is a traveling exhibit memorializing lives cut short. The artists have worked with the loved ones of the victims in an effort to raise awareness of the terrible cost to our communities and move people to take action. Souls Shot at DPC is open in the Celtic Cross Room for two final showings **today** from 12-4 pm and **Tuesday** from 6-8 pm.

**Flag Collection.** It is time again as Troop 48 is preparing to present flags for a proper burning retirement with residents of Pine Run Lakeview on October 7. Collection boxes for old flags will be located in the Andrews Hall lobby and the entrance to the sanctuary building under the bridge beginning **September 18 through October 6.**

**Sunday Education Hour.** Visit our website to explore the spiritually enriching offerings for children, youth, and adults that will occur in-between 8:30 and 10:30 worship service starting next Sunday, **October 1.**

**Element/Youth Group.** Element is BACK **tonight, 5:45 to 7:30!** Check your email or visit [www.dtownpc.org/youth](http://www.dtownpc.org/youth) for more information. We've got Moe's Southwest Grill for dinner, fun, faith and friends during this kickoff event you don't want to miss!

**DPC's Women's Retreat.** We are less than a week away from this unique chance to connect and grow together! We gather on Friday, **September 29**, 7 to 9 pm at DPC for an optional pre-retreat event and on Saturday, **September 30**, 8 am to 3 pm at Bev and Jeff Fulgham's Happiness Farm in Doylestown. On Saturday we'll be joined by Guest Speaker Chris Cavalieri, who specializes in Emotional Intelligence. Register today by visiting [bit.ly/DPCWomen](http://bit.ly/DPCWomen)

**Join the DPC Family.** We are excited to offer a fall Stepping Stones class for individuals interested in joining DPC. The class will meet from 9:30 to 10:15 am on **October 15, 22, and 29**, with new members joining the congregation on **November 5.** Officially joining the church provides deeper spiritual growth by committing yourself to God in this way. Those with interest in being a part of this class should email [dpc@dtownpc.org](mailto:dpc@dtownpc.org) with the subject line "Stepping Stones." Additional sessions are held seasonally. If you or someone you know have interest in joining a body of faith or are searching for a new one that aligns more with your spiritual needs, we encourage you to reach out and learn more.

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## NOMINATIONS for Ruling Elders and Deacons

The Nominating Committee will soon consider candidates  
to begin their service in June of 2024.

It is essential that the committee recommends individuals who reflect the diversity of our congregation as these new officers will join with current ones in seeking the will of Christ for all the matters before us. As prescribed in the *Book of Order*, we seek able, gifted persons of strong faith and dedicated discipleship because of their trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Your perceptions as to fellow members who possess such gifts are essential to the committee's work. If you have a recommendation of someone (including yourself), complete this form and place it in the offering plate, drop off at the church office or talk with any member of the Nominating Committee: Mark Chaikin, Kelly Huggins, Laura Mendelson, Chris Nardo, Caroline Rawlings, Kristen Roland, Marty Starner (moderator), Jeff Toner, and Rochelle Young. **The deadline for submitting nominations is tomorrow.**

Candidate's name:

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DPC activity or involvement:

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Additional comments:

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Your name:

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