

# *The Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost*

## *September 22, 2024*

Hymn Sing

Welcome, Announcements and Passing the Peace

Call to Worship: (Based on Psalm 1)

L: Blessed are those who delight in God's law, who take time to ponder its meaning.

**P: They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and whose leaves do not wither.**

L: But those who reject God's way are like parched and dried out earth in which nothing good grows.

**ALL: So let us worship and praise God as we seek to live nourished and shaped by God's righteousness. Alleluia!**

\*Opening Hymn "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" Page 158

Opening Prayer

Children's Sermon

Prayer of Confession (From Mark 9:35)

L: Lord Jesus Christ, there are times when we all feel like victims - pawns in the power plays that are so much a part of life these days. As usual, however, you look into our hearts and question what part we play in these power games. We know that in your eyes it is not social status, wealth, or reputation that counts, and we confess how easily our lives can become enmeshed in such worldly values. You risked personal comfort and security when you reached out to those on the edge of your society, lepers, and sinners - people whom others considered unclean.

**P: Forgive us when we fail to meet your challenge to identify with those whom society would call worthless.**

L: You showed us that discipleship is a journey into servanthood and powerlessness.

**P: Forgive us for being tempted to pursue power and to favor competition over compassion. To not seek your wisdom from above.**

L: You, Lord, saw the good in everyone and showed us exactly what it means to be the servant of all.

**P: While too often we see others as rivals in the race for success, influence, and popularity.**

L: "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."

**ALL: Imprint these words on our hearts and put your living Spirit within us, we pray, so that we serve others and you with wisdom, understanding, love, and compassion. Amen**

Assurance of Forgiveness:

L: When we submit ourselves to God, we are drawn into the heart of divine love and forgiveness. Out of that deep love for us, God sent Jesus into the world to save sinners - and to make all things new. And so I declare to you, in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

Offering "Seek Ye First"

Doxology Page 95

\*Hymn "As the Deer" Page 2025

Scripture James 3:13-4: 7-8 Mark 9:30-37

Sermon: *Growing in Wisdom Part 1*  
Solo ""

Pastoral Prayer  
Lord's Prayer

\*Closing Hymn "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" Page 334

Benediction

Lay Readers

8:30 am: Mary Anne Farley

10:00 am: Alice Murphy

Coffee Hour

Jeanine Farrell

Joyce Bartlett

Join us for coffee hour after the service each Sunday in our Solarium. If this is your first time, please fill out the registration pad in the pew. Reminder: We want to get to know each other. If you see someone you don't know, greet them and introduce yourself.

***Church Happenings***

**Our Last Yard will be on September 28.** If you have items to donate this will be the final opportunity until next spring.

**All are Encouraged to Join Our Secret Prayer Pal. If you have inserted your name you may take your prayer pal out today.**

**Youth Group meets tonight at 5:30 till 7:00 pm.**

**Men's Fellowship Group** will meet on Tuesday morning at 10 am in the Solarium. Questions, call Pastor John 508-451-5858.

**You are Invited to join a holiday fair workshop on Tuesdays** from 9 am till 12 pm. Questions call Sue DeMartino 508-648-4844.

**Pastor John offers a Bible Study session every Thursday** morning at 10 am. He covers the Scripture that is offered during the following Sunday services. All are welcome to join the group.

**The Gift Baskets are being created.** We need ideas for new baskets and items to be put into these wonderful gifts. Please bring in your donations and give your ideas to Sue DeMartino or Ellie Eaton.

**The Next Church Council Meeting is on September 25 at 7:00pm.**



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After Pentecost  
September 22, 2024  
Pastor John Wesley Taylor  
Daniel Shinabarger  
Music Director***