

Community Labor Day Service
Sunday, September 6, 2026

Who is my neighbor?

Shenkel United Church of Christ
Temple United Methodist
Cedarville United Methodist
Open Table United Church of Christ
First Baptist, Pottstown
Saint John's United Church of Christ

Worship Service

~Gathering Together~

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: Rejoice, people of God! Celebrate the life within you, and Christ's presence in your midst!

C: Our eyes shall be opened! The present will have new meaning, and the future will be bright with hope.

L: Rejoice, people of God! Bow your heads before the One who is our wisdom and our strength.

C: We place ourselves before this God, that we may be touched and cleansed by the power of God's Spirit.

Opening Hymn

"Love Divine All Loves Excelling"

(See insert)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Righteous God, we live in a world where human life is exploited and abused. Violence is taken lightly, and people are often viewed as objects. Images of hunger and war and murder flash before us until we become nearly hardened. Where we have taken on these values of the world, forgive us. Give us tender hearts, help us to reflect your grace and mercy, and give us courage to challenge the wrongs we see; through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

- Silence for noticing the voice of the Divine in the sounds of nature around us. —

Words of Grace

Our God is a God of grace and transformation. When we ask, God gives us the courage and strength to live out our faith in the workplace and the marketplace, as well as in the sanctuary.

Special Music

Zack Jackson and Caitlin Parsons

"The Prayer of St. Francis"

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture

Micah 6:6-8

Witness to Truth

Joel Dugan

Special Music – Layne Kling, Joy Jannotti, Jim Jannotti

“Jesu, Jesu”

Chorus:

Jesu, Jesu
Fill us with your love
Show us how to serve
The neighbors we have from you.

Scripture

Luke 10:29-37

Witness to Truth

Rev. Zack Jackson

Hymn for Reflection: “What Does Our God Require of Us?”

~Sharing Blessings with Others~

Offering for the Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities

Offertory Susan Royer and Joy Jannotti

“Coro”

Prayers of the People

Offering for the churches

Offertory

“Siyahamba”

Special Music – Amber Taylor

“When He was on the Cross”

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation

Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on the same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

All: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ’s table.

This table is for all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God’s people.

Communion Prayer

P: God be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to God.

P: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy, for calling forth the creation and raising us from dust by the breath of your being.

We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none.

We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless.

We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory. We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time, to be the good news. Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in glory. We bless you gracious God for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy.

**All: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty,
the whole universe speaks of your glory,
O God Most High.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!
Hosanna in the Highest!**

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover.
Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying: "This is my body which is for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."
In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it for the remembrance of me."
Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Holy One, show forth among us the presence of your life-giving Word and Holy Spirit, to sanctify us and your entire church through these holy mysteries. Grant that all who share the communion of the body and blood of our risen Savior may be one in Jesus Christ.
May we remain faithful in love and hope until the perfect feast with you Savior in the eternal joy of your heavenly realm.

All: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen

P: Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.
The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.
These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are now ready.

Sharing the Elements

(There are gluten free options on each bread tray. We are serving only grape juice. The elements will be passed to the congregation, please hold them so that we may all commune together.)

Prayer after Communion

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn

“Draw the Circle Wide”

Benediction

Postlude

Thank you to all of the musicians participating in the worship service today.

Zack Jackson

Layne Kling

Amber Taylor

Jim Jannotti

Caitlin Parsons

Joy Jannotti

Susan Royer

Thank you to “Mrs. Rogers” aka Pam McShane

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in - to ev - ery trou-bled breast;
 3 Come, al-might - y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re - ceive;
 4 Fin - ish, then, your new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less may we prove;

Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer - cies crown;
 Let us all in you in - her - it, let us find your prom-ised rest;
 Sud-den-ly re - turn, and ne - ver, ne-ver-more your tem - ples leave.
 Let us see your great sal - va - tion per-fect - ly re - stored in you;

Je - sus, you are all com-pas-sion; pure, un-bound-ed love im - part.
 Take a - way our love of sin-ning; Al-pha and O - me-ga be;
 You we would be al - ways bless-ing, love you as your an - gels love,
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,

Vis - it us with your sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 End - of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 Pray and praise for your un - fail - ing, wound-ed arms out - stretched a - bove.
 Crowned as saints, we ev - er shall be lost in won - der, love, and praise.

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" Words: Charles Wesley, 1747; Word alterations ©1993 The Pilgrim Press; Tune: BEECHER.
 This hymn appears as # 43 in *The New Century Hymnal*, sufficient copies of which may be found in our pew racks.

What Does Our God Require of Us?

Micah 6:8 Chorus

Words and Music by:
Bryan Sirchio

GaddD Dsus Cadd2 Dsus GaddD Dsus Cadd2 Dsus GaddD Dsus

What does our God re-

Cadd2 Dsus Gadd2 Dsus Cadd2 Dsus GaddD Dsus

quire of us? What does our God re - quire of us? What does our God re-

Cadd2 D Cadd2 GaddD D/F# Cadd2 Dadd2/F# GaddD D/F#

quire of us? Do jus-tice. Love kind-ness. Walk hum-bly

Cadd2 Dsus/F# GaddD D/F# Cadd2 Dadd2/F# GaddD D/F#

in God's love. Do jus-tice. Love kind-ness. Walk hum-bly

Cadd2 R Dadd2/F# F Dadd2/F# G

1. 2. D.S. al Fine 3. Fine

in God's love. ritard

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos' (We Are Marching in the Light of God)

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music. The first system begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The melody is in the soprano part, with lyrics underneath. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment. The second system continues the melody and includes a first ending marked '1 D' and a second ending marked '2 D'. The third system features a key change to C major, indicated by the removal of the F# sharp. The fourth system concludes with a 'Last time, end' marking and a final key signature change to D major, indicated by the addition of a D sharp. The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, notes, rests, and chord symbols (G, D7, C, G7, D).

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-khos', si - ya -
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are

hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-khos', Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
march-ing in the light of God. We are march-ing in the

nyen' kwen - khos', Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya -
kha - nyen' kwen-khos', light of God. We are march-ing, march-ing, we are
light of God. the light of God.

ham - ba, Oo, si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-khos'.
ham - ba, ham - ba, march-ing, Oo, we are march-ing in the light of God.
march-ing, march-ing,

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos' (We Are Marching in the Light of God) Words and Music: South African Folk Song
This hymn appears as #526 in *The New Century Hymnal*, sufficient copies of which may be found in our pew racks.

1st Communion Song

Be Gentle When You Touch Bread

in Memory of Rev. Porter W. Seiwel

Author Unknown

Debra E. Brauner

♩ = 85 % G B- A-7 C D

1. Be gen - tle, be gen - tle, when you touch bread. In
lov - ing, be lov - ing, when you drink wine. In
gen - tle, be lov - ing, when you touch bread. Be

6 G B- A-7 C

bread there is beau - ty of sun and of soil.
wine there is beau - ty as clear as the sun.
gen - tle, be lov - ing when you drink wine.

10 E- C E- C D

Winds and rains car - essed it, Christ him-self has blessed it. Be
Be
Be

14 G B- A-7 C to Coda 1. Gsus G D 2. Gsus G B-

gen - tle, be gen - tle when you touch bread.
lov - ing, be lov - ing when you drink 2. Be wine.
gen - tle, be lov - ing. Share bread and

19 E- C E- C

Warm as a flow - ing riv - er, Beau - ty of hu - man toil,

23 E- C A7 Dsus D D.S. al Coda

Free - ly re - ceived, Joy - ful - ly shared in the spir - it of one who cared. Be

27 G

wine.

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2nd
Communion
Song

Let Us Break Bread Together

Spiritual

LET US BREAK BREAD Irr.
Black Spiritual
Arr. by Paul Hamill, 1983

Slowly (♩=50), in unison

Handwritten chords: Eb Fm Eb/G Ab Eb Fm Eb

1. Let us break bread to-gether on our knees;
2. Let us drink wine to-gether on our knees;
3. Let us praise God to-gether on our knees;

Handwritten chords: Eb Fm Eb/G Ab Eb Bb Eb

Let us break bread to-gether on our knees.
Let us drink wine to-gether on our knees.
Let us praise God to-gether on our knees.

Handwritten chords: Eb7 C7 Fm Bb

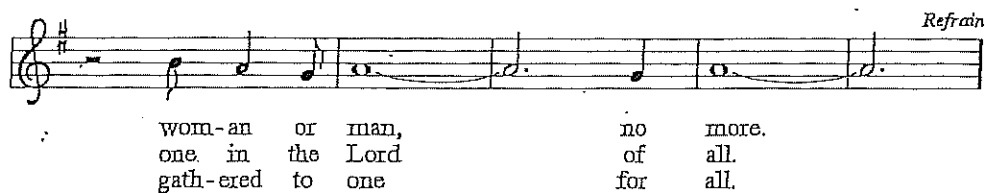
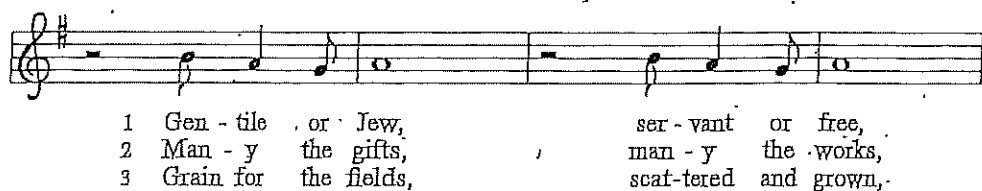
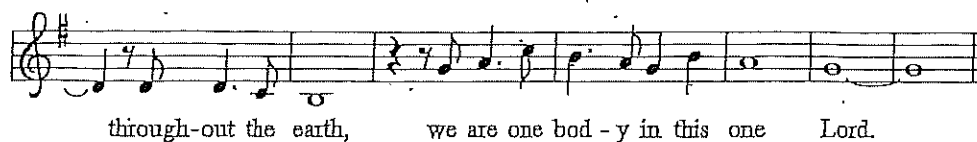
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris-ing sun,

Handwritten chords: Eb Cm Fm Bb7 Eb

O Lord have mer-cy on me.

3rd
Communion
Song

One Bread, One Body



Final Hymn

Draw the Circle Wide

♩=132

E^b A^b B^b E^b A^b B^b/G B^b

Draw the cir-cle wide. Draw it wid-er still.

♩=132

5 E^b/G A^b $B^b Dm7(b9)/A^b$ G G/B Cm $Fm7$ $A^b maj7$ B^b9sus

Let this be our song, no one stands a-lone, stand-ing side by side,

9 $Am7(\sharp5)$ B^b7 E^b A^b $Fm7$ E^b/G $Fm7$ $A^b maj7$ E^b A^b $Fm7$ E^b

draw the cir-cle wide. wide. wide.

To verses || Last time, Fine

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Verses

14 E^b A^b Fm^7 B^b E^b Fm^7

1. God the still - point of the cir - cle, 'round whom all cre -
 2. Let our hearts touch far hor - i - zons, so en - com - pass
 3. Let the dreams we dream be larg - er, than we've ev - er

17 Gm^7 $A^b maj^7$ B^b Cm Fm^7 B^b Gm^7 Cm^7

- a - tion turns; noth - ing lost, but held for - ev - er
 great and small; let our lov - ing know no bor - ders,
 dreamed be - fore; let the dream of Christ be in us,

20 Fm^7 Gm^7 $A^b maj^7$ Fm^7 A^b/B^b Gm/B^b A^b/B^b D.C.

in God's gra - cious arms.
 faith - ful to God's call.
 o - pen ev - 'ry door.

D.C.

2nd page of
 "Draw the Circle Wide"