



***St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
September 13, 2026***

FLOOD AND PROMISE

*Please stand in body or in spirit

GATHERING SONG

"This is the Day"

UNISON WELCOME

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

"The peace of Christ be with you"

"And also with you"

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

adapted from Taught by Love

Come, walk with God in these moments of worship!

We celebrate God's covenant with us and all humankind.

Come, let us find refuge and strength as we gather.

We know that God is with us in this place.

The Most High lives in us and among us.

The whole universe is God's dwelling place.

We have come to hear what God would have us do.

We seek the courage to do what God intends.

Let us offer our prayers and praises, songs and stories, to God!

***HYMN #295**

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

from Taught by Love

Teach us your word in this hour, faithful God, for we want to communicate your truth to our children and their children. We want to follow your commandments, to love you with all our hearts. We intend to walk in the ways you set before us.

Preserve us, we pray, and grant us courage to face each day's challenges. Help us to live by faith and to serve with abiding trust. Amen.

***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Covenanting God, may your Holy Spirit bind these readings of your Word to us, heart and soul, that we and our children may live in your presence for as long as the heavens are above the earth. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 8:24-27

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 46 (The Inclusive Bible)

God is our refuge and our strength, who from of old has helped us in our distress.

Therefore we fear nothing – even if the earth should open up in front of us and mountains plunge into the depths of the sea, even if the earth’s waters rage and foam and the mountains tumble with its heaving.

There’s a river whose streams gladden the city of God, the holy dwelling of the Most High.

God is in its midst, it will never fall – God will help it at daybreak.

Though nations are in turmoil and empires crumble, God’s voice resounds, and it melts the earth.

YHWH Sabaoth is with us – our stronghold is the God of Israel!

Come, see what YHWH has done – God makes the earth bounteous!

God has put an end to war, from one end of the earth to the other, breaking bows, splintering spears, and setting chariots on fire.

“Be still, and know that I am God! I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted upon the earth.”

YHWH Sabaoth is with us – our stronghold is the God of Israel!

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Safe”

Neath Ham, guitar

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Roxanne Davenport

Children’s Corner will be offered following the Children’s Message

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17

SERMON

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH

Hymnal Companion C-12

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (DEBTS)

INVITATION TO GIVING

OFFERTORY

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE #706**

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

adapted from Whispers of God

We remember your steadfast love and mercy, which has drawn us into covenant with you, O God. Through these offerings we give thanks for your patience and loving-kindness. Direct these gifts toward the realization of your purposes for us. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

***HYMN #26**

“God of Creation, All-Powerful”

***COMMISSION & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (seated)

Join us for Family Fun Day outside (weather permitting) after worship!

Birthdays this week: 09/15 Larry Stenger; 09/18 Catherine Kinton and Swann Kongkeattikul; 09/19 Perry Skipper; 09/20 Virginia (Ginni) Parker.

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Guest Organist	Doug McCulloh
Choir Director	Gary Crum
Deacon in Charge	Chris Willman-Bunge
Lector	Judy Hodges
Children's Corner	Rebecca Pound
Media Coordinators	Neath Ham
Bulletin cover	"Rainbow" © Estate of John August Swanson, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given in memory of my beloved husband Jack A. Davenport by Roxanne Davenport.



St. John's Vision

We are called to love, to learn, to worship and to witness in Christ
as a congregation that welcomes everyone,
and seeks service that will advance God's realm on earth.

St. John's Mission

To grow in love of God and neighbor

Worship Resources:

Call to Worship adapted from Taught by Love: Worship Resources for Year A by Lavon Bayler

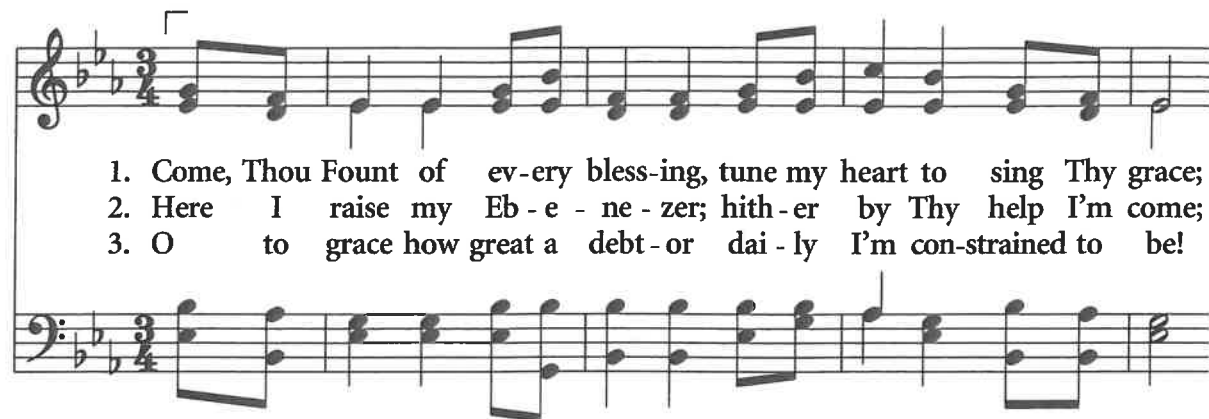
Prayer of Invocation from Taught by Love: Worship Resources for Year A by Lavon Bayler

Prayer for Illumination from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, edited by Kimberly Bracken Long

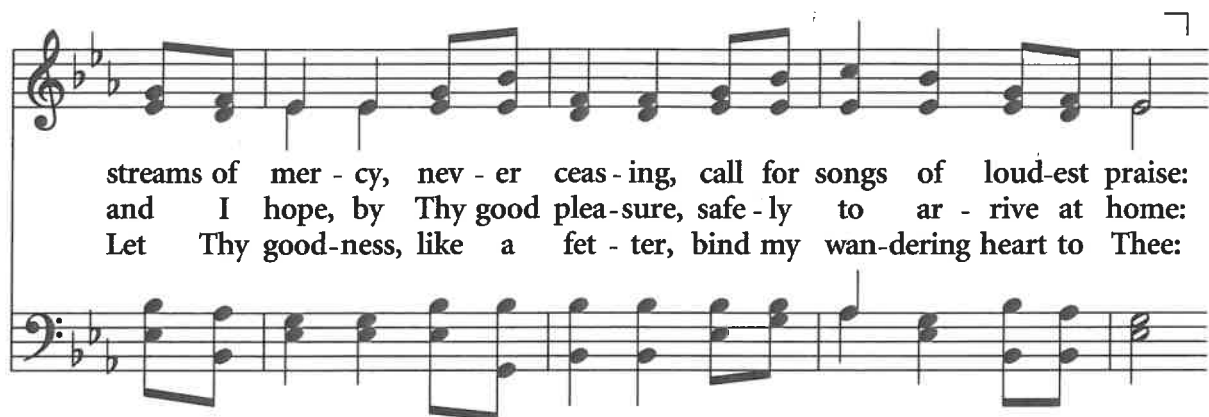
The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation

Prayer of Dedication adapted from Whispers of God: Liturgical Resources for Year B by Lavon Bayler

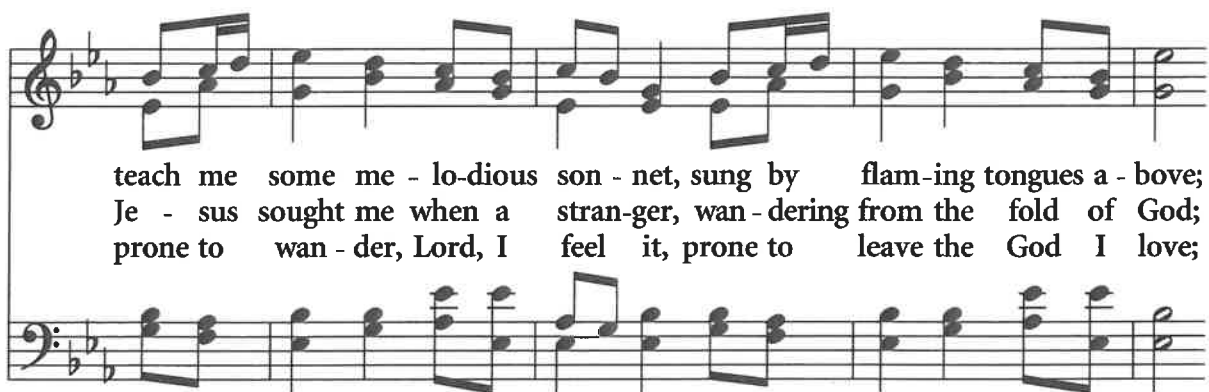
295 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



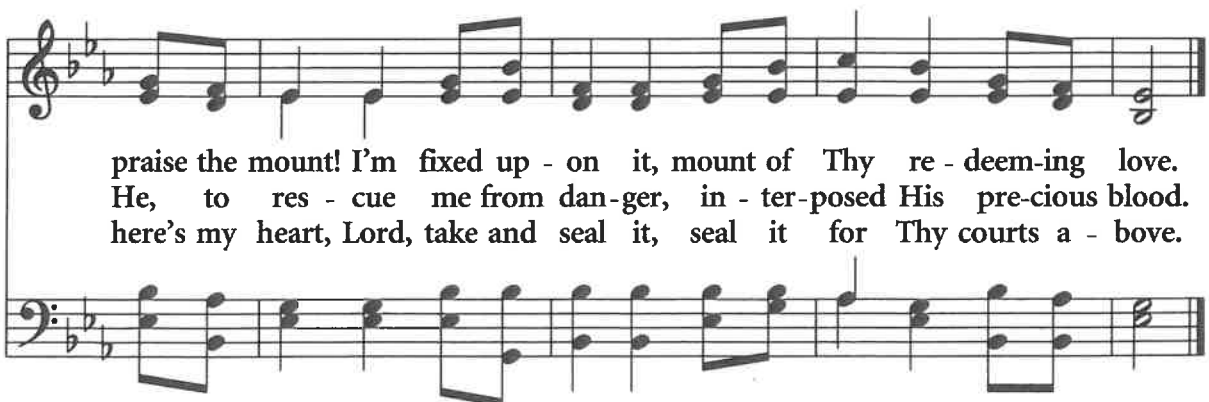
1. Come, Thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
 2. Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by Thy help I'm come;
 3. O to grace how great a debt-or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise:
 and I hope, by Thy good plea-sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home:
 Let Thy good-ness, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to Thee:



teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a stran-ger, wan-dering from the fold of God;
 prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of Thy re - deem-ing love.
 He, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed His pre-cious blood.
 here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts a - bove.

WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758 (1 Sam. 7:12)

MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part Second, 1813

NETTLETON

8.7.8.7 D

Lower key, No. 669

26

God of Creation, All-Powerful

Unison

1. God of cre - a - tion, all - power - ful, all - wise,
 2. God of the a - ges, through time's trou - bled years
 3. God of re - demp - tion, who wrought our re - birth,
 4. God of Your peo - ple, Your Word still stands fast —
 5. God of our now, all our trust is in You,

Lord of the u - ni - verse rich with sur - prise,
 You are the One in whom his - tory co - heres;
 called out Your church from the ends of the earth,
 do for us now as You've done in the past!
 Cov - e - nant God, ev - er faith - ful and true;

Mak - er, Sus - tain - er and Ru - ler of all,
 na - tions and em - pires Your pur - pose ful - fill,
 still You are Sav - ior — put dark - ness to flight;
 Yours is the King - dom — Your tri - umph we claim,
 Sov - ereign Cre - at - or, Re - deem - er and Lord,

we are Your chil - dren — You hear when we call.
 mov - ing in free - dom, yet work - ing Your will.
 o - ver - come sin by sal - va - tion's pure light!
 chal - leng - ing e - vil in Je - sus' strong name.
 now and for - ev - er Your name be a - dored!

WORDS: Margaret Clarkson, 1987

MUSIC: Trad. Irish melody; harm. David Allen, 1986

Words © 1987 Hope Publishing Company. Harm. © 1986 Word Music, LLC.

SLANE
10.10.10.10

NEWS IN THE PEWS September 13, 2026

The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton, pastor@sjucc1811.org (641) 260-1868 (cell)
Tonya Schwartz, Office Administrator, manager@sjucc1811.org (717) 263-8593 (office)
Gary Crum, Music Director | Barbara Motichka, Organist
Roxanne Davenport, Director of Children & Youth
The Rev. Stephen W. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

TODAY:

11:15 am Family Fun Day – Church Grounds (Weather Permitting)
Bible Study on the Book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 8 Zoom (link in Friday e-blast)

Monday, September 14

1:30 pm Book Study (Learning to Walk in the Dark- Chapter 5) – Conference Room 111

Tuesday, September 15

NO YOGA – Will resume on 9/29

6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study via Zoom

Thursday, September 17

6:00 pm Dance Class – Fellowship Hall

6:00 pm Girl Scouts – Room 203

7:15 pm Choir Practice – Room 103

Sunday, September 20

8:45 am Godly Play Church School Class (Ages 3-K) – Room 119

8:45 am SPARK! Church School Class (Grades 1-5) – Room 115

8:45 am Scripture/Contemporary Issues (Grades 6-12) – Room 206

8:45 am Wired Word Adult Church School Class – Room 116

8:45 am Upper Room Adult Church School Class – Conference Room 111

10:00 am Sunday Worship – Sanctuary

3:00 pm Pickleball for New Players to Learn – Fellowship Hall

8:00 pm Bible Study on the book of Ecclesiastes Chapter 9 (link in Friday e-blast)

Bible and a Beer is an opportunity to talk about our faith in public. Join us on the 3rd Monday of the month at the Trojan Diner at 6:30 pm. Our next gathering will be September 21.

Sunday Night Bible Study Join Pastor Caroline on Sunday, September 13 at 8 pm via Zoom for a Bible study on the Book of Ecclesiastes Chapter 8 Zoom Meeting ID: 836 0593 5961 and Passcode 277938. A hyperlink is included in the weekly e-blast.

Monday Afternoon Book Study We will read Chapter 5 in Barbara Brown Taylor "Learning to Walk in the Dark" for our discussion on Monday, September 14, 1:30 PM in Conference Room 111. Come and join the conversation!

Chili Cook Off Our annual Chili Cook-Off will be held on Sunday, September 27. Sign up at the Welcome Center to bring chili, cornbread, rice, and/or desserts. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Power Packs program, ensuring children in our community have enough food to eat.

Cooking for Crowds Food Safety Class Join us on Tuesday, September 22, 5-8 pm in Fellowship Hall for a FREE class on safely cooking for crowds. Our partners at Penn State Extension will walk us through topics such as preventing cross contamination, controlling time and temperature, maintaining good personal hygiene, cleaning and sanitizing, and planning a successful food event. Sign up at the Welcome Center or by contacting the church office.

Franklin Together-Franklin County Reentry Coalition Many of the people we serve are securing safe housing, reconnecting with loved ones, and taking meaningful steps toward stability. To help them feel truly at home, we are asking for your support with essential household, cleaning, and hygiene items. At the Welcome Center there is a box for donations. Stop by to see the full list of items needed or see the e-blast. Monetary gifts toward supplies may also be made at <http://franklintogether.org/donate>.

Fall Quarter First Fruits in August, September and October will support Franklin Together-Franklin County Reentry Coalition, Homeless Matters of Franklin County, and the Fayetteville Fire Department. More information about each of these organizations is included in the Spirit. Thank you for your generosity in serving our neighbors and demonstrating God's love in action.

Beginners Pickleball On September 20 from 3pm-5pm the pickleball court welcomes new players who want to learn to play. Contact Harold Collier if interested at hcollier@comcast.net.

New Pinochle Group Forming On September 21 and September 28 from 3pm-5pm in the church library. Bring a friend and join the fun! Come play, learn and enjoy fellowship with others. All skill levels are welcome. New players are encouraged to join, we are happy to teach you how to play. Contact Harold Collier if interested at hcollier@comcast.net.

Kinusaiga Craft Night Join us on Monday, October 5 at 5:30 pm in room 202. All supplies are included. However, if you have an exacto knife or seam ripper, please bring it along. Cost is \$15. Sign up at the Welcome Center in the Lobby. Deadline to sign up is by Sunday, October 4. Any questions, please contact Chani Wolfe at wolfechani@gmail.com.

Evening of Fellowship Join us on Saturday, October 10, 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall to enjoy music, food and community with our other congregations. Please bring a dish to share. There is a sign up at the Welcome Center in the Lobby. We'll hope you'll join us for "dinner church!"

September/October Upper Room devotionals are currently available at the Welcome Center. We suggest a donation of \$1 for small print/\$2 for large print copies. If you would like to have a copy mailed to you, please contact the church office.

Want to Stay in Touch? Contact the Church Office to be added to our email list! You can sign up to receive our regular weekly emails, Diana's Devotionals, and/or be part of the Prayer Chain.