

“Comparison, Competition, and Justifiable Righteousness”

“He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt.”



CHRIST CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Founded 1743

A Creation Justice Church

An Open and Affirming (ONA) Congregation





CHRIST CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 26, 2025

WORSHIP 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM



GATHERING

Gathering Music

Justin McLaughlin, pianist

Welcome, Announcements

Call to Worship, Ringing of the Bell

Prelude

"Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

arr. James Koerts

Justin McLaughlin, organist

PRAISING *(Please rise whether in body or in spirit.)*

Opening Words *(responsive)*

One: We come to worship. We come to learn of our God who is righteous and faithful.

Many: We come to this sanctuary, and even though the world's voices are sounding out, we pause now to listen for God's voice.

One: This is a good, creative pause, one that helps us catch the vision that the Spirit of God places into our consciousness.

Many: Therefore, as we worship, we deliberately turn away from what the world wants us to hear and listen for the truth God wants us to hear.

One: Let us open our hearts to the Holy One, pray for God's mercy, that we may dare to open our lives to God's justifying grace.

Many: We seek to live by faith and hope, tuning our hearts to sing of God's grace and streams of mercy which never cease.

Hymn

"Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"

No. 459

Invocation *(unison)*

Our hearts are open before you, O Holy God. We approach you in worship knowing you are present. Please be merciful as we stand in awe and reverence of your righteousness. Please melt our pretenses and false pride. Change our thoughts and our speech that we might worship you, our Redeemer, with genuine humility. Amen.

Response

"Jesus, Lamb of God"

No. 800

Words of Assurance

Response of Joy

“From All that Dwells Below the Skies”
(Please be seated.)

No. 27

AFFIRMING

Children’s Moment (10:30)

Joys and Concerns

Chancel Choir (10:30)

“Steal Away”
Chris Hynum, saxophone

arr. Helvey

May the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Morning Prayers and the Lord’s Prayer (*unison, on screen*)

LISTENING

Christian scripture

2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18

⁶As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

¹⁶At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! ¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion’s mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel reading

Luke 18: 9-14

⁹**He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:** ¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God,

be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Sermon

Pastor Galen Russell

“Comparison, Competition, and Justifiable Righteousness”

“He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt.”

Moment of Quiet Reflection

RESPONDING

Offering our Gifts, Tithes, and our Stewardship Offerings

Offertory (9:00)

“Amazing Grace”

arr. Faber

Duet: Connor Templin, and Justin McLaughlin

(10:30)

“Let All Things Now Living” (Ash Grove)

arr. Cindy Berry

(Please rise whether in body or in spirit for the remainder of worship.)

Response

“Dream God’s Dream” (refrain only)

Sing! No. 120

Prayer of Dedication

Song

“Dream God’s Dream”

Sing! No. 120

Blessing

Postlude

“Hallelujah! What A Savior”

arr. Carol Tornquist

End of Worship - Beginning of Service



Our Church in Action

WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH!! If this is your first time to Christ Church, please fill out a “Connection” card found at the entrances to the sanctuary or pew racks, and put it in the box. Or visit <https://2hac.page.link/mdHS>. Please visit our website: www.ETownUCC.org for more information. Welcome!!

ALTAR FLOWERS TODAY are presented by Dave and Dori Heisey, in loving memory of their parents, Herb and Jane Hoover, and Earl and Ruth Heisey.

ALTAR FLOWER ORDERS: Please call Denise Clissold (717) 689-3333 with your order and wording for your tribute. Or, if you would like a special request with your flower arrangement, please contact Diane in the office.

A SPECIAL CONSISTORY MEETING will be held today after worship following the 10:30 am worship service, downstairs in the Social room and on Zoom. On the agenda is the 2026 Ministry Spending Plan, also known as our Operating Budget.

CHRISTMAS IN NOVEMBER—October's Outreach Focus. This year we will be receiving gifts for "Our Home, Our Hope" all during the month of October. Please pick up a gift tag and purchase your gift. All gifts should be wrapped, brought to the church, and placed in the boxes in the front and rear of the sanctuary. These gifts will be dedicated in worship on Sunday, November 2nd, at both services.

NOVEMBER'S ONE DAY MISSION TRIP is cancelled. Due to lack of signups, the one day mission trip to Mission Central has been canceled. Please stay tuned for one day mission trip opportunities in 2026.

BRING YOUR COFFEE TO CHURCH! Once again, this Sunday the Marketing and Evangelism Committee will be selling an attractive 18 oz Tumbler with a laser engraving of the Christ Church UCC logo during cookie time and after the 10:30 service, perfect for coffee or tea. Perfect for any beverage, and a great holiday gift. And with the purchase, all coffee refills are free! We had a great response last week, but we have plenty of supplies left. Be sure to pick one up this Sunday.

OUR NURSERY: We have need of volunteers for our nursery during worship at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Please sign up in the hallway, or call/email the church office.

THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR PROFILE IS COMPLETE! This profile will now be submitted to the Penn Central Conference and to the new Keystone Conference of the UCC. It will also be distributed throughout the UCC denomination. We plan to utilize some additional advertising opportunities of the Associate Pastor position of Christ Church. Our goal is to get the word out! See the Weekly NET for the detailed Search Committee article.

MEMBERS AT CHRIST CHURCH CAN PROVIDE MEALS WHEN THERE IS A NEED. We are fortunate to have a core group of volunteers in our congregation who help when needed, for example after surgery, or a recent illness to make meals. If you find yourself in need, we are just a phone call away. Call Nadinne Ziegler at 717-341-9811 or email her at nmziegler@comcast.net. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please let Nadinne know.

MEMBERS REQUESTING PRAYERS:

- ✝ **Joan Adair**, Penny's mom, Joan Adair, is with Hospice Care at the family's home
- ✝ **Carolyn Best, Rob Best's wife** is recovering at home with pancreatitis
- ✝ **Nancy Pippart** fell at home and is at Abbeyville Nursing and Rehab in Lancaster
- ✝ **Sarah Schreiber** recovering at home from surgery
- ✝ **All our Members at Home** value our prayers as they are unable to attend worship
- ✝ **Several in our church** who quietly face crises caused by mental illness

STEWARDSHIP - DREAMING GOD'S DREAM Planning for 2026 requires a review of our needs and our expected resources. It is very helpful for us to know your planned support of Christ Church in the coming year. Please return the 2026 pledge card today during worship if you have not yet done so. Or you can complete the form online through Realm Connect, or from the "Give" tab on the church website. Additional pledge cards are available at the front entrance and rear of the sanctuary.

MELODIES AND DISCOVERIES November 5th will conclude our Melodies and Discoveries Bible class. We will have class October 29th and November 5th, from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. No meal will be served at these remaining classes.

HELP MARKETING AND EVANGELISM WITH THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS PARADE THEME! We're getting ready for this year's Christmas Parade, and we need your help! We're looking for a theme that highlights Holiday Traditions—especially those that bring families and faith together. Do you have a favorite Christmas tradition that could inspire our parade theme? We'd love to hear your ideas! Submit your suggestions by November 9th to the church office. Let's work together to make this year's parade a joyful celebration of the season and our shared traditions!

A SOCIAL COMMITTEE SPOOKTACULAR "THANK YOU" for the abundant donations of candy for the well attended Candy Crawl! It was a graveyard smash! We would not be able to do what we do without YOU!

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, November 22nd, from 9:00 am to noon. Join us here at Christ Church for a delicious breakfast and then a fun tie-dyeing event. Watch for more details to come!

This Week at a Glance

SUNDAY 10/26

Carillon rehearsal	8:20 AM
Worship and Faith Formation	9:00 AM
Cookie Time	10:00 AM
Worship	10:30 AM
Compost bucket collection	11:45 AM
Special Consistory meeting	11:45 AM
Lancaster Association meeting,	
Trinity UCC, 200 E Market St, Hallam, PA	3:00 PM

MONDAY 10/27

Boy Scouts	7:00 PM
Green Team (Zoom)	7:00 PM

TUESDAY 10/28

Staff Meeting	10:30 AM
Carillon Choir	7:00 PM
Contemp. Christian Conv. (Zoom)	8:00 PM

WEDNESDAY 10/29

Mental Health Ministry training-Lititz Moravian	9:30 AM
Children choir rehearsals	5:30 PM
Melodies and Discoveries Bible Study	6:00 PM
Chancel Choir rehearsal	7:30 PM

THURSDAY 10/30

Praise! rehearsal	7:00 PM
-------------------	---------

SUNDAY 11/2 CHRISTMAS IN NOVEMBER

Worship and Faith Formation	9:00 AM
Cookie Time	10:00 AM
Worship	10:30 AM
Worship Commission	11:30 AM

APPRECIATIONS FOR SUNDAY OCTOBER 26TH

Lay Leaders:	9:00 Dale Mease 10:30 Dale Mease
Acolyte:	9:00 Madie Spayd 10:30 Clementine Ortiz
Ushers:	9:00 Dave Heisey, Jason Henry 10:30 Bill Ansalvish, Ken and Mary Smeltz
Nursery:	Izzi Holden
Sound/Video Tech:	Sound Media Team: Tom Downing, Chris Eurich, Dale Mease, Wes Runnels, Garrett Runnels
Musicians:	Duet with Connor Templin and Justin McLaughlin, Chris Hynum, saxophone, Chancel Choir with Conner Ulrich, and Justin McLaughlin, pianist, organist
October Cookie Time:	Sponsored by Finance Committee
Cover Art:	Used with permission Pharisee_15154

APPRECIATIONS FOR SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2ND:

Lay Leaders:	9:00 Brooke Bensinger 10:30 Ann Dinsmore
Acolyte:	9:00 TBD 10:30 Madie Spayd
Ushers:	9:00 Kendra Snyder, Brooke Bensinger 10:30 Terry Black, Alec Splain, Derek Nolt
Nursery:	Izzi Holden 10:30 Kim Wolgemuth
November Cookie Time:	Will be sponsored by Board of Faith Formation

MINISTERS: ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Our Church Staff

Lead Pastor	Rev. Dr. Galen E. Russell, III
Associate Pastor	
Director of Music	Conner Ulrich
Organist	Justin McLaughlin
Director of Carillon Choir	Ruthann Ressler
Director of Youth Choirs	Ali Spayd
Director of <i>CollectiveSpirit</i>	Jan Stouffer
Office/Business Administrator	Diane Walmer
Treasurer	Cris Dinsmore
Facility Manager	
Church Phone: 717-367-1208	Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. (9 AM - noon & 1-5 PM)
Website: www.etownucc.org	Email: christchurch@etownucc.org