

ARCH STREET  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 29, 2024 /10:45 a.m.

**"We are God's lighthouse:  
a compassionate and inclusive community  
that welcomes everyone to join us as  
we do justice, promote equity,  
show kindness, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with God."**

*ASPC's Revised Mission Statement*

## Order of Worship

**Prelude**

J. Donald Dumpson

**Work of the Community**

Carla Jones Brown

**\*Song of Praise**

Great Is Your Mercy

Congregation

**Great is Your mercy towards me  
Your loving kindness towards me  
Your tender mercy I see; day after day!**

**Forever faithful towards me  
Always providing for me  
Great is Your mercy towards me, great is Your grace.**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God

**People: May our worship reflect God's glory.**

Leader: The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

**People: May we see each other as the handiwork of God.**

Leader: Let our prayer and praise, our singing and proclamation project the love of God.

**People: Let us commune with Christians around the world,  
with Christians throughout time.**

**All: Let us worship with joy!**

**\*Hymn** (*see insert*)

The Mighty God With Power Speaks

Congregation

**Invitation to Tell The Truth**

**Prayer of Confession**

**God of Endless Mercy, we have often been swallowed up by our greed and selfishness, desiring that which we do not have, filling our lives with things that do not save us. We have often been swept away by the floods of our own making, polluting your creation, neglecting to be faithful stewards of the earth. We have often attacked one another and led lives of violence, sending missiles instead of accepting refugees, ignoring your commandments.**

**Lord have mercy, for we have sinned and fallen short of your glory  
Christ have mercy, for we are broken and need your salvation. Lord**

**have mercy upon us and hear us as we pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.**

*A moment for silent reflection and confession*  
Leader: We entrust these prayers to you O God. Amen  
**All: Amen.**

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

**\*Passing the Peace** Amen, Amen, Amen! Congregation  
Leader: Peace of Christ be with you.  
**People: And also with you.**

**\*Sung Response of Thanksgiving** Thank You, Lord Congregation  
**Thank You Lord (3x), I just want to thank you Lord.**  
**Been So Good (3x), I just want to thank you Lord.**  
**Saved My Soul (3x) I just want to thank you Lord.**

### **Scripture Reading** Mark 9:38-50 NRSV

<sup>38</sup>John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” <sup>39</sup>But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup>Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup>For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

<sup>42</sup>“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup>If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup>And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup>And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup>where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

<sup>49</sup>“For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup>Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God  
**People: Thanks be to God**

**Sermon**

Salt, Fire, and Stumbling Blocks

Carla Jones Brown

**Response to the Word** *(see insert)* Take Us As We Are, O God

Congregation

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

**\*Offering of Self**

**\*Offering Music**

**Benediction**

Carla Jones Brown

***\*Please stand as you are able.***

# 13 The Mighty God with Power Speaks

(Psalm 50)

1 The Might - y God with pow - er speaks, and all the world o - beys;  
 2 God comes not with a si - lent form, but rid - ing on the winds;  
 3 The heavens de - clare your jus - tice, Lord, as end - less as the sky;

from dawn un - til the set - ting sun, God's won - der earth dis - plays.  
 be - fore God's face, the rag - ing storm its blast of thun - der sends.  
 a - gainst the taunts of dis - be - lief, our God will tes - ti - fy.

The per - fect beau - ty all a - round from Zi - on's height shines forth;  
 All hail the Judge, in bold ar - ray, whose prom - ise is to bless;  
 Re - ceive my heart - felt gift of thanks, as hon - or to your might;

and stars a - cross the fir - ma - ment so bright - ly beam their worth.  
 who sees our sins, yet al - so feels our thirst for righ - teous - ness.  
 re - fresh my faith with each new day; pro - tect me through the night.

This paraphrase, set to a familiar English folk melody, focuses on the opening narrative section of Psalm 50 without attempting to summarize God's speeches in the latter portion of the psalm. Both parts bear witness to God's sovereignty, God's justice, and God's providence.

# Take Us As We Are, O God 312

Capo 3: (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (A)  
 F B $\flat$  F B $\flat$  F C

1 Take us as we are, O God, and claim us as your own. As  
 2 Bless us for your ser - vice, Lord; no pow - er we de - vise will  
 3 Break us o - pen to dis - close how bro - ken - ness can heal, wher -  
 4 Give us to the world you love as light and salt and yeast, that

(Em) (Am) (Em) (D) (G)  
 Gm Cm Gm F B $\flat$

once you chose to tell your love in hu - man flesh and bone, so  
 ev - er give us strength e - nough or make us tru - ly wise, yet  
 ev - er bro - ken loaves suf - fice to give a crowd a meal and  
 we may nour - ish in your name the last, the lost, the least, un -

(D) (Bm) (Em) 1-3 4  
 F Dm Gm (Asus)(A) (A)  
 Csus C C

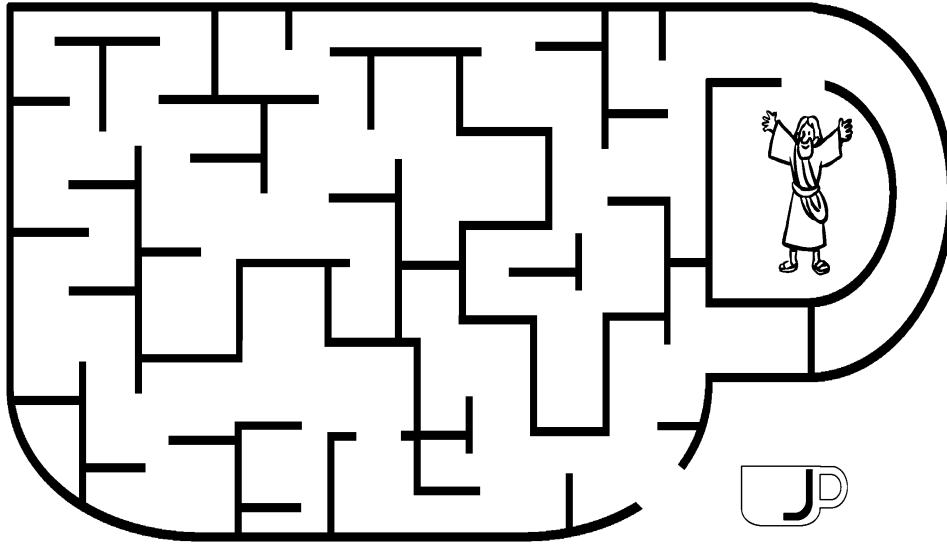
let our lives be used to make your sav - ing pur - pose known.  
 by your prom - ise we can know the peace your grace sup - plies.  
 graves break o - pen to re - lease new life from death's dread seal.  
 til at length you call us all to your un - end - ing feast.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This Lord's Supper text is organized around the fourfold liturgical shape traced by Dom Gregory Dix in *The Shape of the Liturgy*: take, bless, break, give. It considers how the phrase "Body of Christ," used for sacramental bread, can also be applied to the baptized people of God.

## Maze

Jesus used the symbol of a cup of water given in his name to tell his followers to do good works whenever they can so they would be more like him. Draw a path from the man to the cup of water he is searching for.



## Word Find

Twelve words from today's Gospel story are hidden in the puzzle below. Some are printed upside down, backwards, or at an angle. One is already done for you. How many can you find?

### WORD LIST

~~CASTING~~

CHRIST

CUP

DEMONS

FIRE

FOLLOWING

KINGDOM

POWER

SALT

TEACHER

WATER

WORM

W	U	R	S	V	Q	B	E	Y	N	C	U	P
O	O	D	N	E	V	Q	B	H	J	L	B	O
A	A	R	O	J	K	I	N	G	D	O	M	L
W	R	R	M	Y	R	F	F	B	R	T	U	I
E	C	F	E	S	H	G	T	C	Z	M	E	E
D	C	V	D	Q	T	R	E	H	C	A	E	T
G	N	I	W	O	L	L	O	F	K	L	Y	T
N	K	V	F	U	J	K	D	W	Q	N	B	C
I	E	R	D	U	X	Q	P	O	W	E	R	P
T	R	E	F	T	B	C	W	N	M	S	T	R
S	W	V	I	T	D	N	C	Q	Y	A	L	O
A	C	H	R	I	S	T	B	G	G	L	O	O
C	R	T	E	P	R	G	T	W	A	T	E	R

**WELCOME to Arch Street Presbyterian Church**  
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**WELCOME TO ARCH STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

We are grateful you have chosen to join us for worship. Arch Street Presbyterian Church has a rich history and a vital future before it. We aim to be an inviting, caring, and committed congregation in the heart of Center City Philadelphia. If you wish to learn more about this congregation or get involved at a deeper level, please reach out to us via our website. Someone from our pastoral staff will reply to you. You can also find more information about us at [www.archstreetpres.org](http://www.archstreetpres.org).