

Order Of Worship
 St. John's United Church Of Christ
 500 West Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446
 10:15 AM – December 3, 2017

We Gather For Worship

“Where Are You, God?”

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Sleepers Awake - Ludwig Krebs

INTROIT Keep Awake, Be Always Ready

*OPENING HYMN Come, O Long-Expected Jesus.....#122

*REFLECTION ON THEME

*WE CONFESS OUR SINS

As we live in this broken world and as we journey into this Advent season, we find ourselves asking, "Where are you, God?". We find ourselves in a state of uncertainty and darkness as we wait for the light of Christ to be born among us. Forgive us for resorting to frustration, fear, and avoidance when we know that growth often takes place in the darkest and messiest times of life. Too often, we allow the darkness to consume us and deceive us into believing that there is nothing worth waiting or watching for. We forget that asking "Where are you, God?" is not the end of the story, but opens us up to seeing God revealed to us in unexpected ways and places. Assure us that the sacred darkness of Advent is not about the absence of light around us, but the light that is within us—the light of hope in Christ that can never be extinguished. Amen.

*WE ASK FOR MERCY Hymn #133, Stanza 4
 O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
 Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
 We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
 O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

*WE RECEIVE GOD'S GIFT OF GRACE

*WE OFFER OUR PRAISE AND THANKS Hymn #129, Stanza 2
 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
 Now you know of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
 God has opened heaven's door, and you are blessed forevermore.
 Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

This Week At St. John's

If you would like more information please contact the church office 215.855.5489 or office@st-johns-ucc.org

Dec.	3	Sun	8:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:15 AM	First Sunday of Advent (Year B) Morning Worship, Sanctuary Sunday School for All Ages Morning Worship, Sanctuary Communion, Soup Sale, Confirmation Class
Dec.	4	Mon	1:00 PM 6:30 PM 6:30 PM	Azul Dance Prayer Shawl Girl Scouts
Dec.	5	Tue	1:30 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Quilters Eagle Scout Boards Brownies/Girl Scouts NAMI AA
Dec.	6	Wed	12:00 PM 5:30 PM 6:30 PM	Noon Communion United Voices Children's Choir
Dec.	7	Thu	6:15 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	United Ringers Yoga Chancel Choir
Dec.	8	Fri	6:00 AM 8:30 PM	Chess Club AA
Dec.	9	Sat	10:00 AM 10:00 AM	The Art of Living White Gift Rehearsal
Dec.	10	Sun	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 4:00 PM	Second Sunday of Advent One Worship Service at 10:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages Morning Worship, Sanctuary White Gift Sunday, Manna Sunday, Cookie Sale Artist Series Christmas Concert

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 Office: 215.855.5489 email: office@st-johns-ucc.org
 If you would like more information about St. John's please speak with one of the staff or visit our website at <http://www.st-johns-ucc.org>
 Susan C. Bertolette, D. Min., Senior Pastor
 Adelaide L. Stong, M. Div., Associate Pastor
 Lisa Delp, Church Administrator
 David L. Furniss, M.S.M., Minister Of Music
 Grace Bruen, Interim Children's Choir Director
 Leroy Horst, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor Bill Bergey, Custodian
 Anne Kinsey, Council President

December 3, 2017

A nursery for children kindergarten age and younger is available. While children are always welcome in worship, this is available for your convenience if they become restless.

Junior church is available following the children's message for children 1st through 4th grade. Parents may pick up children downstairs following the 10:15 service.

If you would benefit from having the worship bulletins or hymns in large print, please see one of our ushers.

Please ask an usher for an audio device if you are having difficulty hearing the service.

CD's of this morning's service are available by contacting the church office.

Reminder: The wheelchairs, first aid kit and the automatic external defibrillator (AED) are stored in the "First Aid Closet" in the narthex (the door is labeled with the Red Cross).

Worship Assistants

Ushers: Team Leaders, Nancy Roberts & Roger Atkin, Brian Hutchinson, Judy & Alan Johnston, Ginny Wilkinson and Herb & Marilyn Nannen

CD Technician: Bob George

Driver: Jo-Ann Sine

Greeters: Linda & Leroy Horst

Elder of the Morning: Gayle & Bob George

Acolytes: Emily Donahue and Ryan Donahue

Junior Church: Jen DiPlacido

Chancel Flower Ministry: Thelma Brunner

Nursery Staff: Pam Ace and Susan Scarpiello

Social Hosts: Sally & Steve Jarinko

Kitchen Monitor: Aly Faga

Umbrella Ministry: Jean Roshong

United Adult Class: Teacher – Susan Popjoy, "Two-Sided Coin", Isaiah 64:1-9

Chancel Flowers

In memory of Russell and Ella Heebner from the Wenner Family

In memory of loved ones and her husband Fred from Thelma Brunner

In memory of loved ones from Faye Rhoads

In memory of Eloise Atkin's Dec. 8th birthday from Roger Atkin and family

In memory of Marian Gilbert from the Donald Gibson family, the Robert Gibson family, and the Lawrence Gibson, Jr. family

We Listen For God's Word

SCRIPTURE Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (pg. 520)

Mark 13:24-37

"But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE and LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE "HOPE"
Susan C. Bertollette, D. Min.

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

ANTHEM O Come, O Come, Emmanuel - arr. Kile Smith
Chancel Choir

SERMON "Know the Signs"
Adelaide L. Stong, M. Div. Min.

SILENCE

We Respond in Faith

*HYMN All Earth Is Waiting.....#121

JOYS, CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WE HAND OVER TO GOD OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS Hymn #124, Stanza 3

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.

INVITATION TO SHARE

OFFERING AND PRESENTATION OF THE BREAD AND CUP

OFFERTORY Savior of the Nations, Come - Dietrich Buxtehude

*WE OFFER UP OUR GIFTS Hymn #159, Stanza 3

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger plain and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.

Sacrament Of Holy Communion

PASTOR: Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

PEOPLE: In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

COMMUNION PRAYER

PASTOR: God be with you.

PEOPLE: And also with you.

PASTOR: Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE: We lift them to God.

PASTOR: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

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

PASTOR: Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made. We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith in every generation who have given themselves to your will, and especially for Jesus Christ, whom you have sent from your own being as our Savior. We praise you for Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection, and for the calling forth of your church for its mission in the world. Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere:

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!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BLESSING OF THE ELEMENTS

PASTOR: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died.

PEOPLE: Amen.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS (Wine outer circle, grape juice inner circles, gluten free bread available)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: (Unison)

We give thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus 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; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*HYMN O How Shall I Receive You

#102, Stanzas 1 and 3

*COMMISSION & BLESSING

*POSTLUDE Sleepers Awake - Jan Bender

*Denotes Congregation Standing If Able

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in the Assembly Hall, the room below the sanctuary. All Are Welcome!!!

Weekly amount needed for Current Income	\$12,872.00*
Weekly amount needed for OCWM	\$1,141.00*
*as of 11/2/17	
A Look at the Week of November 19, 2017	
Attendance 8:00 AM	64
Attendance 10:15 AM	159
Offering For Current Income	\$6,634.47
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$614.00
A Look at the Week of November 26, 2017	
Attendance 8:00 AM	66
Attendance 10:15 AM	141
Offering For Current Income	\$6,357.84
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$888.00

****Important Notice****

All donations designated for 2017 should be received in the church office by Sunday, December 24, 2017. Any donations received after Sunday, December 24, 2017, will be credited to your 2018 donation account. Thank you!

Poinsettia Donations: If you would like to donate a poinsettia this Christmas Season in memory or honor of a loved one, please call the church office. You may also fill out the donation form below and deposit it in the offering plate. Your donation may be in any amount, and the poinsettias will be delivered to our home-bound after Christmas Day.


Poinsettia Donation Form 2017:
In memory of _____
From: _____
Amount \$ _____
Envelope # _____



What is White Gift Sunday?

White Gift Sunday is a beloved tradition at St. John's that reminds us what this Advent season is all about. Here's how it works: We invite you to bring gifts of all kinds and for all ages to church with you on Sunday, December 10th. All sorts of gifts are welcome, but toys & clothing for children & youth are especially appreciated. Gifts should be wrapped in white paper & clearly marked with regard to size, gender & age for whom the gift would be most appropriate. Gifts are brought forward by the congregation during the worship service as Christmas carols are sung. The gifts received on December 10th will be distributed to folks in need at Living Water UCC in Philadelphia, Christian Network Outreach Church in Norristown, and Urban Promise in Camden.

Please note: on White Gift Sunday there will be only one worship service at 10:15 am.