Order Of Worship
St. John's United Church Of Christ
500 West Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446
10:15 AM – January 7, 2018

We Gather For Worship

"Defining Moments"

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE O Morning Star - Robert Sloan
Susan Sands, Soloist; Grace Bruen, Flute

INTROIT O Morning Star

*OPENING HYMN This Is a Day of New Beginnings……#417
(Sing stanzas 1,2,3, and * alternate stanza 4)

*REFLECTION ON THEME

*WE CONFESS OUR SINS
God, so often we spend our energy thinking back to a time before life got complicated and hard. We long for the days before we experienced great loss, deep disappointment, or painful regret. Instead of asking you to comfort us in the midst of the mess, we creatively seek to avoid discomfort altogether so that we don't have to feel the realities of human living. Forgive us for not inviting you into this new day with us, no matter what it might bring. Forgive us when we only look back, instead of looking forward to the life you have waiting for us. With each breath that we take, may we allow your spirit of peace to fill us and wash over us. When trouble comes, when pain hits us, when life takes an unexpected turn, meet us there. AMEN.

*WE ASK FOR MERCY Hymn #13, Stanza 2
God forgives all our transgressions, all who suffer, gently heals;
God redeems us from destruction, and with us so kindly deals.

*WE RECEIVE GOD'S GIFT OF GRACE

*WE OFFER OUR PRAISE AND THANKS
Glory to God! Glory to God! Glory to God in the highest!
Glory to God! Glory to God! Glory to God in the highest!

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

Jan.	7	Sun		**The Baptism of Christ**
			8:00 AM	Morning Worship, Sanctuary
			9:00 AM	Sunday School for All Ages
			10:15 AM	Morning Worship, Sanctuary
				Communion, Confirmation Class
Jan.	8	Mon	1:00 PM	Azul Dance
			6:30 PM	Prayer Shawl
			6:30 PM	Girl Scouts
			7:00 PM	Boards
			8:00 PM	Council
Jan.	9	Tue	9:30 AM	Men's Breakfast
			1:30 PM	Quilters
			6:00 PM	Eagle Boards
			7:00 PM	Brownies/Girl Scouts
			7:30 PM	AA
Jan.	10	Wed	5:30 PM	United Voices
			6:30 PM	Children's Choir Rehearsal
Jan.	11	Thu	7:00 AM	Prayer Walk
			1:00 PM	Stampers
			6:15 PM	United Ringers
			7:00 PM	Yoga
			7:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Jan.	12	Fri	6:00 PM	Chess Club
			7:00 PM	Lansdale Montessori School Open House
			8:30 PM	AA
Jan.	13	Sat	10:00 AM	The Art of Living
			9:00 AM	Pro-Act Pancake Breakfast
Jan.	14	Sun		**Second Sunday after Epiphany**
			8:00 AM	Morning Worship, Sanctuary
			9:00 AM	Sunday School for All Ages
			10:15 AM	Morning Worship, Sanctuary
				Manna Sunday, Baptism, MLK Day Service Project, Health Ministry Meeting, Enlightener Due Date

St. John's United Church Of Christ
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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

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 clearly labeled).

Worship Assistants

Ushers: Team Leader Thomas Beggs; Richard Boorse, Don Huntsinger, Dick Sands, Ted Kasander, Ben Kasander, Donna Walter, Jean Parks, and Patti Thomas
CD Technician: Bob George
Driver: Jo-Ann Sine
Greeters: April & Bradley Hamlen
Elder of the Morning: Susan Popjoy
Acolytes: Ray Stahler and Connor Sivco
Junior Church: Liz Rivett
Chancel Flower Ministry: Bill & Sue Morris
Nursery Staff: Cindy and Darcy Reese
Social Hosts: Kim & John Sands
Kitchen Monitor: Steve Bossert
Umbrella Ministry: Jean Roshong
United Adult Class: Teacher – Steve Butz, "Beloved", Mark 1:4-11

Chancel Flowers

In memory of Richard R. Schmidt's January 10th birthday from his cousins Bob & Jane Keim
In memory of Eileen Crockett Laird's January 13th birthday by her sister Pat, & Jonathan and Ken Rieker
In memory of William Truscott from Emilie Truscott

We Listen For God's Word

SCRIPTURE Genesis 1:1-5 (pg. 1)

Mark 1:4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Susan C. Bertolette, 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 Psalm 29 - Heinrich Schütz
Chancel Choir

SERMON "The First Day"
Adelaide L. Stong, M. Div.
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SILENCE

We Respond in Faith

*HYMN Down Galilee's Slow Roadways (See insert)

JOYS, CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WE HAND OVER TO GOD OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; when I call answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; come and listen to me.

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INVITATION TO SHARE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY From Heaven Above to Earth I Come - Richard Proulx

*WE OFFER UP OUR GIFTS
Praise God, the Giver and the Gift. Hands, hearts and voices now uplift:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Breath of Glad Surprise, Freeing our spirits, opening eyes:
Three in Oneness, love communing, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
- Brian Wren © 1988 Hope Publishing Co., Reprinted Under License #1397

*HYMN Arise, Your Light Is Come…….#164

*COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

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*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 10/29/17	
A Look at the Week of December 24, 2017	
Attendance 9:30 AM	218
Attendance 5:00 PM	210
Attendance 11:00 PM	231
Attendance Christmas Day Communion 8:30-10:30 AM	45
Offering For Current Income	$20,009.54
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	$1,728.00
A Look at the Week of December 31, 2017	
Attendance 9:30 AM	122
Offering For Current Income	$8,418.26
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	$219.00

OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION IN SOUTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA WWW.PSEC.ORG

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Communitas

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

1441 Laura Lane, Suite 100, Pottstown, PA 19464
484-949-8774

January 7, 2018

The stories of Advent and Christmas have been preparing us for our *epiphany*.

Epiphany is the season of seeing in the church. It is the time in the church year when we are all called to a deeper understanding of who Jesus is and what Jesus means to each one of us. The stories of Advent and Christmas have been preparing us for our *epiphany*.

One of the many layers found in the Gospels is the constant paradox between knowledge and belief. Jesus was confronted with it all the time. The story always unfolded in this manner. Jesus would come into town, preach, teach, and perform miracles. Then he would leave and there would be those who saw and believed in Jesus and there would be those who saw and did not believe. The metaphor of Jesus giving sight to the blind is a clever way the disciples use to illustrate this reoccurring phenomenon.

The same challenge exists in the church today. We are faced with the same dilemma. Do we have the ability to see Jesus, like the shepherds and Wisemen? Do we have the gift of seeing Jesus as the revelation of God in our day and time? Or are we blinded in our understanding?

We are at a disadvantage. We do not have the angel's proclamation or the baby in the manger. We do not have the benefit of being eyewitnesses to the miracles of Jesus. What we do have are the sacred symbols of our faith—the bread and wine. What we do have are our own private stories of how Jesus has been present in our lives. Stories of Jesus being revealed to us in very holy and sacred times and ways.

Epiphany is about revelation, the signs of God's promise and hope that encourages us and strengthens us to face a new day. Let us prepare our lives for the revelation of the Christ Child!

-Rev. Sharon S. Morris
Associate Conference Minister

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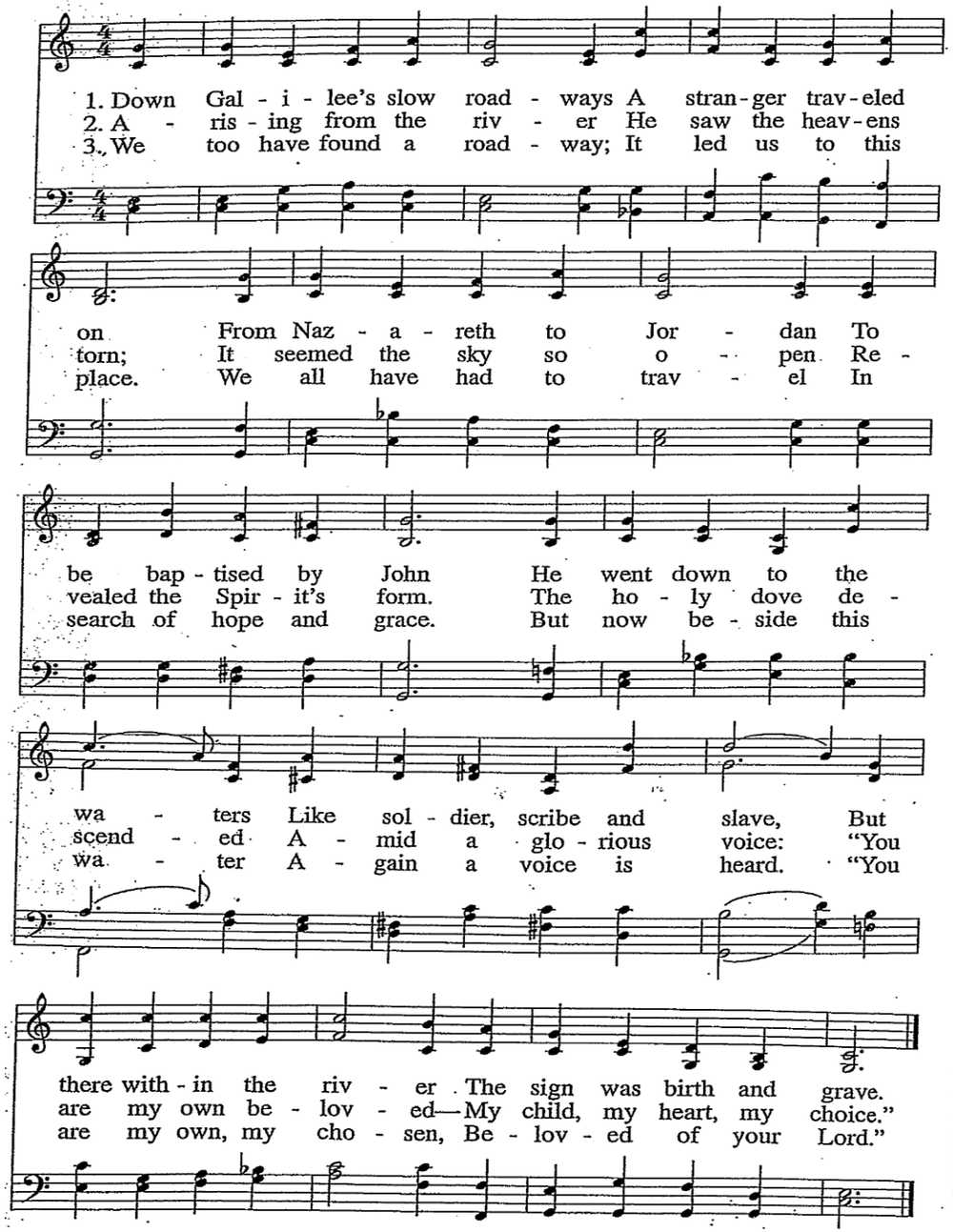
16 Down Galilee's Slow Roadways



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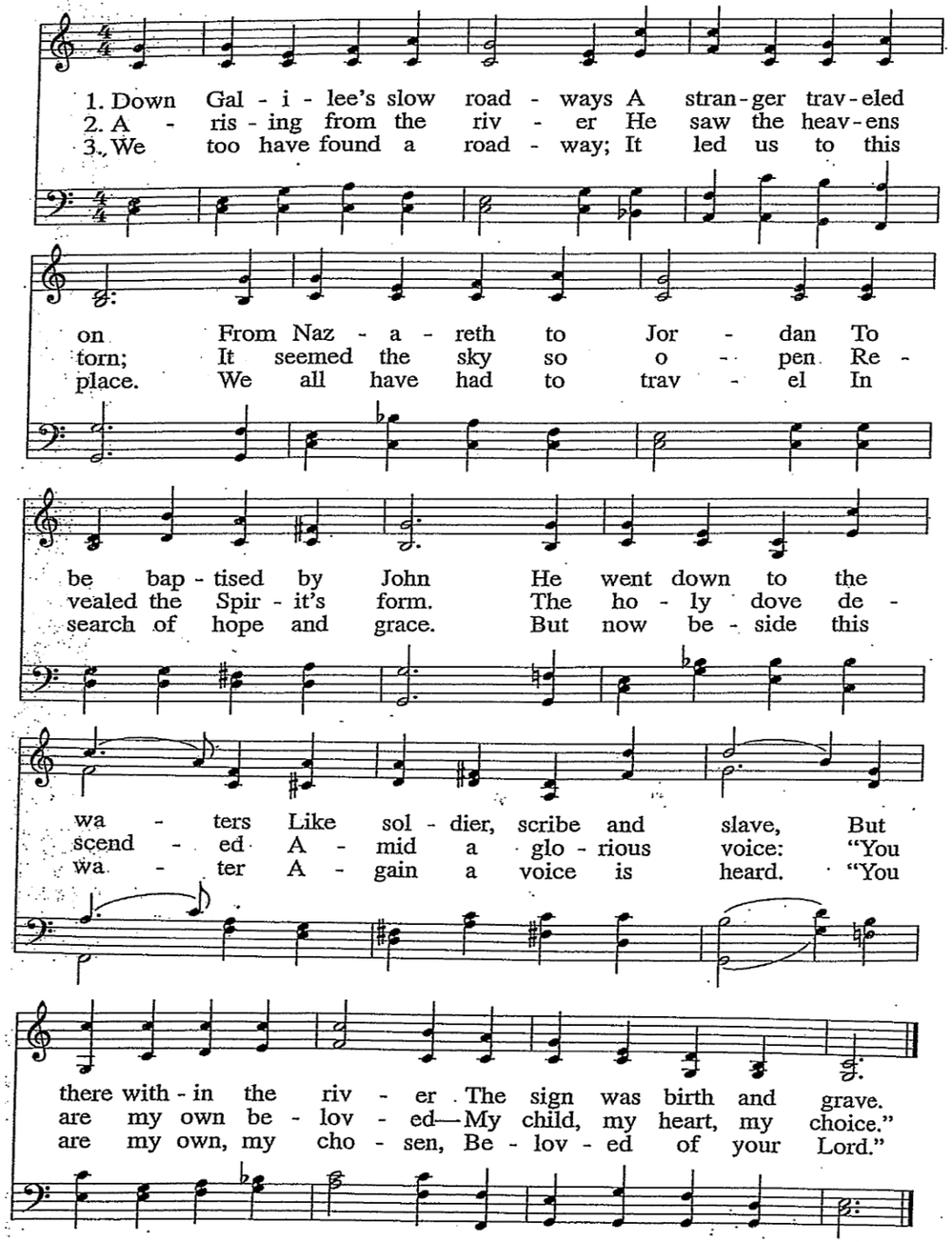

Sacrament Of Holy Communion

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.

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