

Order of Worship
 St. John's United Church of Christ
 500 West Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446
 10:15 AM – January 5, 2020

We Gather For Worship
“Another Road”

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE The Three Kings – Wilbur Held

INTROIT Of the Father's Love Begotten

*OPENING HYMN As with Gladness Those of Old.....#159

*REFLECTION ON THEME

*WE CONFESS OUR SINS

Gracious God ~ As yet another year begins, we are given the opportunity to choose which road we will take and whose guidance we will follow. The options are many and the voices demanding our attention often drown out your still, small voice of wisdom, strength and calm. Forgive us for choosing the easy way, the popular path, or listening to the voice that is the loudest, while ignoring the voice within that is life-sustaining and true. Grant us courage beyond our own and a deep desire to walk with you on the road that leads to wholeness and the life that really is life. This we pray in Jesus' Name. 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 #125, Refrain
 Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

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	5	Sun	8:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Second Sunday after Christmas – Epiphany Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary Sunday School for All Ages Morning Worship, Sanctuary Communion
Jan	6	Mon	6:30 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Prayer Shawl Girl Scouts Stewardship
Jan	7	Tue	7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	NAMI Girl Scouts AA
Jan	8	Wed	5:30 PM 6:00 PM	United Voices Children's Choir
Jan	9	Thu	7:00 AM 8:00 AM 1:00 PM 6:15 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Prayer Walk Soup Prep Stampers United Ringers Yoga Chancel Choir
Jan	10	Fri	8:00 AM 6:00 PM	Soup Cooking Chess Club
Jan	11	Sat	9:30 AM 10:00 AM	Unhanging of the Greens Art of Living
Jan	12	Sun	8:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:15 AM	The Baptism of Christ Morning Worship, Sanctuary Sunday School for All Ages Morning Worship, Sanctuary Manna Sunday, Soup Sale, Enlightener Due Date

St. John's United Church of Christ
 500 West Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446
 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. Bertollette, D. Min., Senior Pastor
 Adelaide L. Stong, M. Div., Associate Pastor
 Lisa Delp, Church Administrator
 David L. Furniss, M.S.M., Minister Of Music
 Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children and Youth
 Leroy Horst, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor Bill Bergey, Custodian
 Pricilla Ponist, Council President

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 5, 2020

John 1:(1-9), 10-18

Another Road

In the United Church of Christ, we often say that we take the Bible too seriously to read it literally. Once we have determined to take the Bible both seriously and not literally, how do we approach this sacred text? One way is through the practice of Lectio Divina, which is Latin for “divine reading.” Lectio Divina, an ancient way of reading the Bible, was introduced by a gentle and loving theologian named Gregory of Nyssa (c. 330-395). Lectio Divina is not complicated. A scripture passage is read four times, and each time the experience of the passage is deepened. You can practice Lectio Divina on your own, with a prayer partner or in a small group. This week set aside twenty minutes to try Lectio Divina with the passage from today.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:1-4

Prepare Find a quiet place where you will be comfortable. You might want to light a candle, play some inspirational music, or spend a few minutes with a beautiful or sacred image. Invite God to join this reading with you, by praying a short prayer like “Meet me here, God.”

Lectio (Read) You may want to read the passage aloud. On the first read, listen carefully for any words or phrases that jump out at you. What do you notice? What catches your attention? What surprises you?

Meditatio (Reflect) Read a second time. This time ask yourself if you can imagine being part of this story or passage. What does it look, sound, taste, smell, feel like to be part of this scripture? How does the passage remind you of themes, thoughts or feelings in your own life or in the world today?

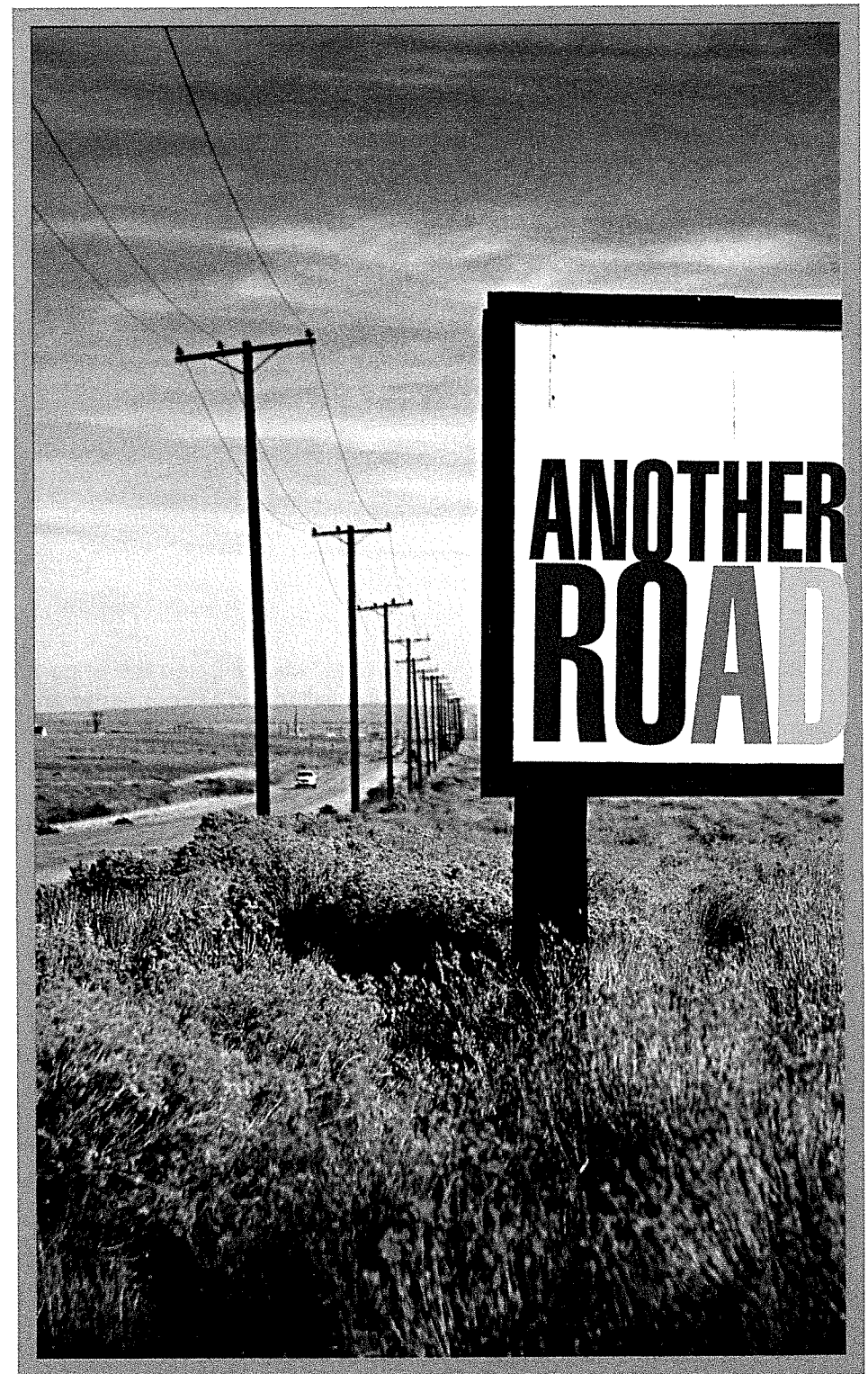
Oratio (Respond) Read a third time. Ask, “From what I’ve heard and shared, what do I believe God wants me to do or be? How is God inviting me to change? From the lens of scripture, what transformation might be possible in my life?” You may want to record your thoughts in a journal.

Contemplatio (Rest) After the final reading, spend a few moments in silent contemplation, to listen for the voice of the still-speaking God.



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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January 5, 2020

- *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. Recent sermons can be heard on the Audio-Sermons page of our website <http://st-johns-ucc.org/podcast-audio>*
- **Reminder:** The wheelchairs and first aid kit are stored in the "First Aid Closet" in the narthex (the door is clearly labeled). **The automatic external defibrillator (AED) is located in the church Library on the wall closest to the Sanctuary.**

Worship Assistants

Ushers: Team Leader Jim Lederach; Mary Billy, Frances Fraelich, Griff Francis, Jenn Moyer, Kelly Bresadola, Joe Slover, Ethan Moyer, and Steve Bossert

CD Technician: Bob George

Driver: Jo-Ann Sine

Greeters: Bob & Gayle George

Elder of the Morning: Deborah Dayton

Acolytes: Christopher and Andrew DiPlacido

Junior Church: Rev. Patti Thomas

Chancel Flower Ministry: Bill & Sue Morris

Nursery Staff: Christine & Mike Albano

Social Hosts: Kim & Jonathan Sands

Kitchen Monitor: Barb MacMullen

Umbrella Ministry: Joyce Huisenga

United Adult Class: Teacher – Tom Collipp, "Choose Hope," Matthew 2:1-12

Chancel Flowers

In memory of Marie Evans' January 6th birthday from her daughter, Jeane, Bob Fritz and family

In memory of Yvonne DeCiotto's January 6th birthday from her husband, Joe

In memory of Richard R. Schmidt's January 10th birthday from his cousins Bob & Jane Keim

We Listen For God's Word

SCRIPTURE Jeremiah 31:7-14 (pg. 692)

John 1:10-18

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Rev. Addie Stong

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 The Glory of the Father - Egil Hovland
Chancel Choir

SERMON "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood"
Rev. Dr. Sue Bertollette

SILENCE

We Respond in Faith

* HYMN Jesus, Our Brother, Strong and Good.....#138

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

OFFERTORY O Little One Sweet - J. S. Bach
Chancel Choir

*WE OFFER UP OUR GIFTS Hymn #128, Stanza 4

What can I offer, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;
But what can I offer: all my heart.

HOLY COMMUNION

(Wine outer circle, grape juice inner circles, gluten free bread is available)

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

* COMMISSION

* POSTLUDE

*Denotes Congregation Standing, if Able

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

The Essence of Epiphany

11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Matthew 2:11-12

These words capture the essence of Epiphany—"going home by another road." Epiphanies are unexpected happenings or revelations that change our minds and our ways.

The beginning of Epiphany ends when the magi take another road home. All the gospel stories that follow over the next many Sundays in the Church season of epiphany are about people whose encounter with Jesus puts them on another road. The fishermen leave their nets; people leave their towns to hear Jesus preach on the mount; the disciples experience a transfigured Jesus and travel to Jerusalem.

Eventually, all of us take routes that we had never expected to travel, whether these involve changes in employment, health, relationships, retirement, death or divorce. When life forces us onto uncharted paths, we are challenged to hold onto what few practices of faith we might have or to experience anything that seems like holiness. The path is seldom easy, but within the real limitations of life, we may discover unexpected possibilities for work, life and love.

The spirit of Epiphany reminds us that God is a fellow adventurer on every road we travel. Awakened to divine companionship, every path can become a holy adventure with surprises and epiphanies around every corner. Now, let me be clear, I do not believe God is the source of downsizing, trauma, and tragedy; but God is the creative source of possibility.

In the season of Epiphany, God calls us to wake up to a revelation that stretches, surprises, and transfigures. Revelations can be found everywhere and in every situation, and they always call us to take another road.

- Rev. William P. Worley, PSE Conference Minister