

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	29	Sun	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 11:30 AM	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany In-Person Children's Choir One Worship Service, Sanctuary New Member Sunday Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary Congregational Dinner, Assembly Hall
Jan	30	Mon	7:30 PM	Wind Ensemble
Jan	31	Tue	7:00 PM	AA
Feb	1	Wed	7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Artist Series Concert – Svyati Duo Zoom Children's Choir
Feb	2	Thu	6:30 PM 7:30 PM	United Ringers Chancel Choir & Friends
Feb	3	Fri	6:00 PM	Chess
Feb	5	Sun	8:00AM 9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Morning Worship, Sanctuary In-Person Children's Sunday School Praying Hands Stitchers, Library Morning Worship, Sanctuary
Feb	7	Tue	7:00 PM	NAMI, AA
Feb	8	Wed	7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Zoom Confirmation Class Zoom Children's Choir
Feb	9	Thu	6:30 PM 7:30 PM	United Ringers Chancel Choir & Friends
Feb	10	Fri	6:00 PM	Chess
Feb	12	Sun	8:00AM 10:15 AM	Sixth Sunday after Epiphany Morning Worship, Sanctuary Morning Worship, Sanctuary Installation of New Council Members



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>

Rev. Dale Davis, M. Div., Interim Senior Pastor

Rev. Adelaide L. Stong, M. Div., Associate Pastor

Andrew G. Paulson, M.M., M.M.Ed., Minister of Music

Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children & Youth

Lisa Delp, Church Administrator

Leroy Horst, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor

Bill Bergey, Custodian

Bill Leslie, Council President

Standing or Sitting?

January 29, 2023

Order of Worship
St. John's United Church of Christ
500 West Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446
10:15 AM – January 29, 2023 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

We Gather For Worship
“Standing or Sitting?”

PRELUDE Of the Father's Love Begotten.....Wilber Held
This hymn is incorporated in today's anthem, Walk in Light.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

*OPENING HYMN O Savior, Let Me Walk with You.....#503
Stanza 1: All, Stanza 2: Higher Voices, Stanza 3: Lower Voices, Stanza 4: All

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: God has gathered us in, inviting us, uniting us, speaking to us, shaping us!

All: Yes, and how should we dedicate ourselves to this living, empowering, and loving God of our lives and of all creation?

Pastor: What is it we can bring? What would be the best way to honor the Lord of the universe?

All: We can bring true selves. We can bring our hungers, our hopes, our fears and doubts, right along with our gratitude.

Pastor: And for what purpose, to what end?

All: In order that we might know what is good. To grow in loving kindness, to discover the courage to seek justice, and to walk more humbly with our God.

*EPIPHANY RESPONSE Gather Us In

Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
van-ish-ed a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.

- The Nursery will be open for you to use mindfully, if your little one needs a break. No volunteers will be on duty, so a parent, grandparent, or responsible adult must stay with their child. We ask that all those that make use of the nursery wear a mask if you are sharing that space with other families.
- **Today's worship available later online on St. John's Facebook Page, Website or YouTube Channel:** youtube.com/stjohnsucclansdalepa
- Please ask a Hospitality Team member 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 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

Hospitality: Bill Leslie, Team leader; Bob Bertolette, Brian Hutchinson, Margie Jewell, Gale Linderman, Scott Vanderburg

Elder of the Morning: Deb Hendricks

CD Technician: David Douglass

Chancel Flower Ministry: Sarah Baker & Bob Keim

Driver: Jo-Ann Sine

Umbrella Ministry:

Please join us immediately after worship for an important Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary. Following the meeting, you are invited to a Congregational Dinner in Assembly Hall where you may greet Zack!

2022 Contribution Statements

You may pick up your 2022 contribution statements on Sunday mornings in the Narthex and throughout the week in the Church Office.

To give online through our secure platform, visit <https://app.easyithe.com/app/giving/stjohnsucc>



Scan here for online giving

*Don't let the light that You've given me die, And don't desert my mind.
But let the one who serves You Praise You again and again. He lives in as True Light.*

In the beginning...

*You are the one who judges right from wrong. Your glory excites no envy.
But let the one...*

*This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I want the world to know. God gave the world True Light.*

Hold on to the True Light I'm gonna let it shine...

True Light I'm gonna let it shine...

God's love, God's grace, I'm gonna let it shine...

*-Keith Hampton (incorporating "This Little Light of Mine" and Grigor Narekatzi's "Book of Mournful Chants")
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POSTLUDE Toccata Brevis.....Daniel Gawthrop

*Denotes Congregation Standing, if Able

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Welcome Trinity Choir!

Today, we welcome the Trinity Choir from Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lansdale under the direction of Andrea Baxter (Director of Worship and Renewal at Trinity) to worship. They are joining our Chancel Choir as part of a two-week collaboration in which both ensembles rehearsed and led worship together at Trinity and St. John's. Today marks the final event of the collaboration, as both choirs led worship together at Trinity last week.

*WE CONFESS OUR SINS

God, you're always making the first move. You seek our hearts; you pursue our lives; like a shepherd, you seek to have us live together in harmony, to follow in the way of faithfulness, to love ourselves, as well as our neighbors and strangers. And yet, God, we confess how often we wander away. We like the idea of being faithful until it becomes too demanding, or too confusing, or too risky, or too unpopular. We like an easy faith, not a challenging one, not one that bruises our egos or our popularity. Return us, faithful creator, to our rightful place. Restore in us, loving sustainer, hearts of generosity, courage, and hope. Reclaim us, patient God, to the life and work of your ever-emerging kingdom. Amen.

*WE RECEIVE GOD'S GIFT OF GRACE

We Listen For God's Word

SCRIPTURE Micah 6:1-8 (Pg. 817)

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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 Walk in Light.....Karen Marroli
Combined Choirs
Sam Johnson, violin
Sung in English and Latin

*And we shall study was no more.
Come, O people, O come and walk in the light of the Lord.*

*And we shall walk the paths of peace.
Come, O people, O come and walk in the light of the Lord.*

The night is far spent; the day is at hand.

*And we shall study was no more.
Dona nobis pacem.*

Grant us peace.

Come, O people, O come and walk in the light of the Lord.

So let us cast off the works of night.

*So we may wear a Shield of Day.
Come, O people, O come and walk in the light of the Lord.*

Evermore and evermore.

*And we shall walk in paths of peace.
Dona nobis pacem.*

Grant us peace.

Come, O people, O come and walk in the light of the Lord.

Evermore and evermore.

-Based on Isaiah 2:4-5 and Romans 13:12 (adapted by Karen Marroli)
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SERMON "Standing or Sitting?"
Rev. Dale Davis

SILENCE

We Respond in Faith

*HYMN Renew Your Church.....#311
Stanzas 2 and 3 are sung in harmony.

JOYS, CONCERNS, PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WE HAND OVER TO GOD OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come (Tune: TALLIS' CANON)

O Christ, the healer, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.
How can we fail to be restored when reached by love that never ends?

-Fred Pratt Green
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AN AFFIRMATION OF JOINING THIS COMMUNITY OF FAITH
Welcoming Zack Elias

Zack,

Has your journey brought you to the place where you wish to affirm your baptism and join this Christian community faith and life? It has.

Will you continue, with all your heart, mind, soul and strength, to follow the way of Jesus Christ by loving and serving the world, even when it might mean being unpopular for seeking justice, peace and harmony? I will with the help of God.

Will you make every effort to grow in your faith, to find ways to unite with others who are on this journey, and to celebrate the presence of the Spirit in all of life, wherever you live and serve? I will with the help of God.

QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

Like you, Zack has chosen to continue his journey with Jesus Christ. Will you partner with him in our common effort to serve God and neighbor in all that we do?
We will with the help of God.

Will you nurture and celebrate his unique gifts, honoring the diversity of God's people and our unity in Christ's embrace?
We will with the help of God.

WELCOME

Zack, with joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as a full member of this community of faith. We promise you our friendship, prayers, and support, as together we strive in our faithfulness to Jesus Christ.

*WE OFFER UP OUR GIFTS As with Gladness Those of Old.....#159 (Stanza 3)
The response may be sung in harmony.

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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SUNG BENEDICTION True Light.....Keith Hampton
Combined Choirs
Kathleen Siddall, soprano

*This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine.
Almighty God is light. He lives in us as True Light.*

*In the beginning out of the darkness God created True Light. He lives in us as True Light.
Almighty God is Light. He lives in us as True Light.*