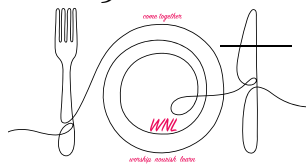


Wednesday Evening Worship • 5:30pm • December 13, 2023
St. John's United Church of Christ • 500 West Main Street • Lansdale, PA • 19446



You are invited to stand when indicated by an asterisk and speak the words in bold if able.

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP AND ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING**

In the height of our Advent journey, we pause to think of joy and peace...

We are choosing to center our lives around the light of joy and of peace.

We light these candles tonight to symbolize the joy and peace that come when we recognize and rely upon God as our strength, our guide, and the source of all love.

We anticipate the day when joy and peace are born among us, and even amid the cheer of this season, we long for a joy and a peace that stays and lasts and abides with us.

Grant us the courage and mindfulness to seek and experience that which is deeper and fuller than happiness or stillness ~ true joy and deep peace. May these gifts and all the gifts of this advent season center us and sustain us in the face of sorrow, uncertainty, and fear. Amen.

ANTHEM

While By My Sheep, Traditional German Carol
Vin Wiemelt, piano

SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:1-6

REFLECTION

JOYS AND CONCERNS

HOLY COMMUNION

SHARING THE SACRED MEAL

Holy Communion is served by intinction. You are invited to take a piece of bread and dip it into a chalice of non-alcoholic grape juice. A gluten-free station is also available. All are welcome!

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.**

***SUNG BENEDICTION**

Now Bless the God of Israel – Music on Reverse Side of Bulletin

Offering for this service can be placed in the baskets by the door or can be given electronically by scanning the QR code below. Thank you for supporting St. John's United Church of Christ!



Worship Leaders: Rev. Addie Stong, Rev. Dale Davis, Andrew Paulson, and Members of the Congregation
NOW BLESS THE GOD OF ISRAEL

The musical score is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'In ten - der mer - cy, God will send the day - spring from on high, our ris - ing sun, the light of life for those who sit and sigh. God comes to guide our way to peace, that death shall reign no more. Sing prais - es to the Ho - ly One! O wor - ship and a - dore!' The score ends with a double bar line.

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our ris - ing sun, the light of life for those who sit and sigh.
God comes to guide our way to peace, that death shall reign no more.
Sing prais - es to the Ho - ly One! O wor - ship and a - dore!

Text: Ruth Duck, 1985, © 1992 GIA Publications
Tune: FOREST GREEN, Traditional English Melody

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