



The Dream of the Magi (2004), He Qi

Shine the Light

Epiphany Sunday

Our Epiphany theme is **Shine the Light**, a reference to the prophet Isaiah: “Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.” Jesus has been born! We now enter the church season of Epiphany. Epiphany means “manifestation” or “appearance.” As evidenced through the visit of the Magi (or three kings) who followed the guiding star, it becomes clear that the birth of Jesus was meant for the whole world. The Magi, from the world of the Gentiles, recognize and honor the God of Israel by worshipping the “newborn king.”

January 7, 2024
10:15 am

Order of Worship
St. John's United Church of Christ
500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446
10:15 am—January 7, 2024—Epiphany Sunday

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

PRELUDE: Brightest and Best.....Setting by Aaron David Miller

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*OPENING HYMN: Arise, Your Light Is Come.....164
Stanza 2 may be sung in harmony.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, shine, for our light has come; and the glory of God is with us today!

The three kings who diligently searched for Jesus moved beyond their familiar surroundings; they understood there was something more in life to be revealed.

Like those Magi of long ago, we come to worship in search of God's word for our lives.

We are searching for so many things, things like inner-peace, the answers to hard questions, the right words to share in times of trouble and distress.

We gather knowing there is light in the midst of the world's darkness and chaos.

Arise, shine, for our light has come; and the glory of God is with us today!

*CONFESSION

Loving God, could it be that our searches for meaning are misguided and end up causing more heartache? We search for recognition, power, and prestige. Even though we are a people of faith, we often get seduced by the allure of approval and popularity. Instead of focusing on a deeper search for Jesus in our lives, we search for things that, in the end, do not satisfy. God of wonder, guide us toward the Christ who brings serenity, satisfaction, and joy. Bring us closer to the true meaning of our life's true purpose; one in which we, like the Wise Men, share the real treasures, the treasures that matter, with our loved ones, strangers, and friends. Give us the courage to trust your guiding light on life's journey. Amen.

*ASSURANCE

In the same way God guided the Magi, God desires to guide us into new life and abundant joy. When we confess our sins, God's forgiveness abounds and we are given the freedom to live without worry or fear. **Thanks be to God!**

SUNG RESPONSE: Gather Us In

Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
van-ished 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.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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.

SERMON: "There's Another Road"Rev. Dale Davis

ANTHEM: We Three Kings.....Arr. Victor Labenske

JOYS & CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/SUNG RESPONSE: O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come



O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.
How can we fail to be re - stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?

***INVITATION TO OFFERING/SUNG RESPONSE: As with Gladness Those of Old**

Today's offering will be brought forward and dedicated during the singing of the response. If you didn't get a chance to drop your offering in the plates by the entrances, you are welcome to place your offering in a plate up front after the service or scan the QR code found in the bulletin to give electronically.



As they of - fered gifts most rare at that man - ger plain and bare,
So may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
All our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.

COMMUNION

Christ's table is open to all. Everyone is welcome to participate in the sacrament of communion. The outer circle of the communion plate contains wine, all of the inner circles contain grape juice. Gluten-free bread and individually packaged elements are available upon request.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*CLOSING HYMN: Brightest and Best.....NCH 157

Stanza 1: All

Stanza 4: Higher Voices

Stanza 2: Lower Voices

Stanza 1 (repeated): All

Stanza 3: All in Harmony

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Brightest and Best.....Setting by Wilbur Held

Following worship, you are invited to join us for fellowship in Assembly Hall.

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dale Davis, Interim Senior Pastor

Rev. Addie Stong, Associate Pastor

Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music

Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children and Youth

Copyright Information

All texts and music are reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE A-721709.

Gather Us In

Text and Music: Marty Haugen

© 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.

O Christ the Healer we Have Come

Text: Fred Pratt Green

© 1969 Hope Publishing Company

As With Gladness Those of Old

Text: William C. Dix; alt.

© 1993 The Pilgrim Press

January 7, 2024

- 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.
- 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: Grace and Mark Bruen, Team leaders; Mary Billy, Anne Haines, Gerry Linderman, Rickie Lee Sands, Ginny Wilkinson

Elder of the Morning: Anne Kinsey

CD Technician: Griff Francis

Chancel Flower Ministry: Kelly Bresadola

Driver: Jo-Ann Sine

Umbrella Ministry: Judy Johnston

Chancel Flowers

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

Poinsettia

In memory of loved ones, Herb & Kay Crouthamel and James David Krail, from Debbie Krail and family

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Weekly amount needed for Current Income 2023 | \$7,788.46 |
| Weekly amount needed for OCWM 2023 | \$865.00 |
| A Look at the Week of December 24, 2023 | |
| Attendance: 10:15 am, December 24 | 139 |
| Attendance: 10:15 pm, December 10 | 147 |
| Attendance: NO Wednesday Night Live on December 27 | |
| Offering For Current Income | \$11,093.75 |
| Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission | \$829.50 |
| A Look at the Week of December 31, 2023 | |
| Attendance: 10:15 am, December 31 | 77 |
| Attendance: 5:30 pm, January 3 | 17 |
| Offering For Current Income | \$9,391.00 |
| Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission | \$200.00 |

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

Scan here for online giving



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 Paulson, M.M., M.A., Minister of Music Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children & Youth
 Lisa Delp, Church Admin. Leroy Horst, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor Bill Bergey, Custodian
 Liz Rivett, Council President

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 | 9:00 am | Epiphany Sunday Praying Hands Stitchers, Library |
| | | | 10:15 am | Connect 3, Activity Room Morning Worship and Communion, Sanctuary Fellowship |
| Jan | 8 | Mon | 7:00 pm | Zoom Council |
| Jan | 9 | Tue | 6:30 pm | Girl Scouts |
| | | | 7:00 pm | AA |
| Jan | 10 | Wed | 5:00-7:00 pm | Wednesday Night Live Community Meal, Assembly Hall |
| | | | 5:30 pm | Evening Worship, Fireside Room |
| | | | 6:00 pm | Children's Music, Music Room Adult Education, Library |
| | | | 6:45 pm | United Ringers Handbell Choir, Sanctuary |
| | | | 7:30 pm | Chancel Choir, Music Room |
| Jan | 12 | Fri | 6:00 pm | Chess |
| Jan | 14 | Sun | 9:00 am | Baptism of Christ Connect 3, Activity Room |
| | | | 10:15 am | Morning Worship, Sanctuary Communications Coordinator Update Fellowship, Enlightener due date |



Presents

The Midwinter Gala

A Celebration of the St. John's Artist Series

6pm, Friday, February 9, 2024

Come and support the St. John's Artist Series with dinner, drinks, entertainment, and a silent auction. All proceeds from the Midwinter Gala support the St. John's Artist Series! Tickets are \$100 per person and include an open beer/wine/soda bar, a delicious buffet dinner with dessert and appetizers, a special program featuring the North Penn High School Navy Jazz Combo, and access to the silent auction. Mark your calendars and register today by visiting: www.stjohnsartistseries.org/midwinter-gala or by scanning the QR code below.



The final day to register is January 31!

Silent Auction Information

Our silent auction promises to showcase one-of-a-kind items and experiences. While we won't share all of the items with you today, we are excited to tell you about the following:

Tickets, merchandise, and memorabilia from the Philadelphia Eagles, Philadelphia Union, Philadelphia Flyers, Philadelphia 76ers and the Philadelphia Phillies, including an *autographed Dallas Goedert football and an autographed Travis Konecny jersey!*

Items and experiences from WIP-FM, Philadelphia Zoo, Ambler Theater, and other Philadelphia and North Penn Valley area businesses and individuals!

The St. John's Artist Series would like to thank all of our donors, businesses, Philadelphia sports teams, and their affiliates for their participation.



Communications Coordinator Update

The Personnel Committee will host an info/Q&A session during Social Hour following the 10:15 Service on Sunday, January 14, about our new Communications role. Stop by to view the Job Description and learn more about this new position to help St. John's engage with our members and broader community.

Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Community Meal from 5:00-6:45 pm

Followed by Worship and Communion in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm