



Shine the Light

Baptism of Christ

As we continue to explore our Epiphany theme of **Shine the Light**, we are once again reminded that the light of the world has been born among us in the person of Jesus.

Though it feels like we were just gathered around a baby in a manger, today we find ourselves with adult Jesus on the banks of the Jordan River. Jesus' baptism affirms who he is and to whom he belongs and provides the foundation for the beginning of his ministry. God's voice from above claims him as his own beloved son and in so many ways, ignites the light within him ~ a light that will shine for all people, including us.

January 14, 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 14, 2024—Baptism of Christ

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

PRELUDE: *Fanfare from Three Movements of Sound*.....Kenneth Danchik

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*OPENING HYMN: *Crashing Waters at Creation*.....326

*CALL TO WORSHIP

When Jesus was baptized, the heavens opened, the holy Spirit came down like a dove, and there was a voice from heaven saying:

“This is my dearly loved son, with whom I am delighted.”

That same spirit descends upon us this day and that same voice calls us by name.

May we have ears to hear and hearts to receive the love and purpose that is offered to all of God's beloved children.

We have been claimed by the God who is still speaking.

Come, let us listen, let us worship!

*CONFESSION

Loving God, week in and week out, in the midst of worship, we are reminded of your love for us and we are assured of your forgiveness and grace. Forgive us for times when we fail to remember the power of those priceless gifts and for when we fail to live differently in this world because of them. Remind us, throughout this time set apart for worship, and in our daily living, that we are named and claimed by You, a God who is pleased with us, not because of what we do, but because of who we are and in whose image we have been created. May we honor You in all that we are. Amen.

*ASSURANCE

We are indeed loved by God, and every time we confess our sins, claim our mistakes, and ask for help, we are cleansed anew and offered an abundance of acceptance, grace, and forgiveness. Just as we are claimed by God, may we claim God's forgiveness as the gift that it is and may it transform us, inside and out. **We are forgiven, loved, and free! 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. (continued on page 3)



SCRIPTURE: Mark 1:4-11

So, John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And the whole Judean region 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 strap 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 upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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.

ANTHEM: Down Galilee's Slow Roadways.....John D. Horman, Setting by Michael Burkhardt

*Down Galilee's slow roadways a stranger traveled on
from Nazareth to Jordan to be baptized by John.*

*He went down to the waters like soldier, scribe, and slave,
but there within the river the sign was birth and grave.*

*Arising from the river he saw the heavens torn;
it seemed the sky so open revealed the Spirit's form.*

*The holy dove descended amid a glorious voice:
"You are my own beloved, my child, my heart, my choice."*

*We too have found a roadway; it led us to this place.
We all have had to travel in search of hope and grace.
But now beside this water again a voice is heard.
"You are my own, my chosen, beloved of your Lord."*

-Sylvia G. Dunstan

SERMON: "Stepping In".....Rev. Addie Stong

REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Siblings in Christ, through the sacrament of baptism God's Spirit has been poured out upon water: Water that flows freely for all who will receive it, water from the streams of God's saving power and justice, water that brings hope to all who thirst for righteousness, water that refreshes life, nurtures growth, and offers new birth, water that unites us with one another and with Christ. Today we come to the waters, to renew our commitments in each other's presence, to Christ who has raised us, the Spirit who has birthed us, and the Creator who is making all things new. And so I ask: Do you accept the freedom and power God gives in baptism to resist injustice, hatred, and oppression?

We do.

Will you proclaim the good news and continue to live as disciples of Christ?

We will.

Will you be a living witness to the gospel and remember who you are and who's you are – a beloved child of God?

We will.

Will you remain faithful members of Christ's church, serving Christ in the world?

We will.

Come upon us Holy Spirit!

Come upon these waters.

As it is poured out, let these waters be to us drops of your mercy.

Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.

Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus.

Let these waters make us long for your coming reign.

Glory to you, Most Holy God.

Glory to you, Jesus Christ, Savior and Lord.

Glory to you Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness!

Eternal One, God-in-three, all glory is yours, now and forever. Amen!

Today is a time to recall the promises of your baptism, made either by you or on your behalf by your parents and other loved ones. Today is a time to remember who you, and who's you – a beloved child of God.

Amen.

*HYMN: Jesus Loves Me.....327

Stanza 1: Higher Voices; Refrain: All in Harmony

Stanza 2: Lower Voices; Refrain: All in Harmony

Stanza 3: All; Refrain: All in Harmony

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



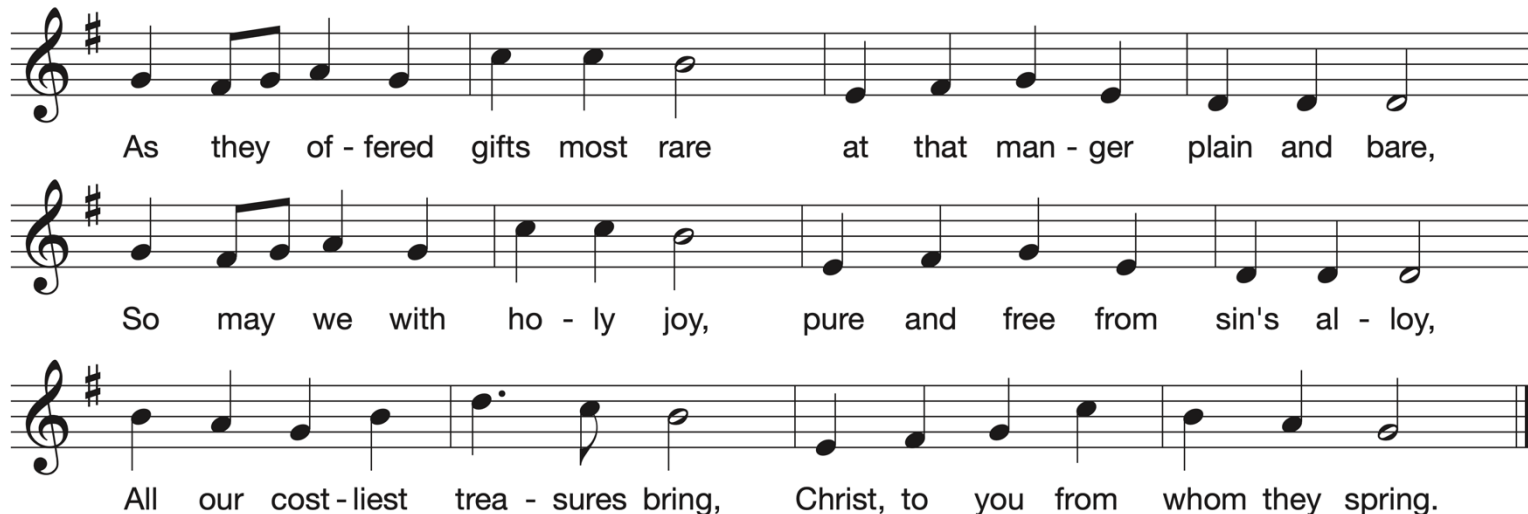
O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.



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.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***CLOSING HYMN: Go, My Children, with my Blessing.....82**
The hymn may be sung in harmony.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: Toccata in F.....Johann Pachelbel

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

Worship Leaders

Rev. Addie Stong, Associate Pastor
Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music
Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children and Youth
Deborah Dayton, Liturgist
United Ringers
Chancel Choir

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Gather Us In
Text and Music: Marty Haugen
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Down Galilee's Slow Roadways
Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan
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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.
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January 14, 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: Robin MacMullen, Team leader; Peter Conver, Griff Francis, Stefanie Giampa, Carol Luehrs, Jenn Moyer, Matt Rivett

Elder of the Morning: Debby Hendricks

CD Technician: Matt Rivett

Chancel Flower Ministry: Tony & Steve Butz

Driver: Scott Vanderburg

Umbrella Ministry: Marcia Stacy

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 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
A Look at the Week of January 6, 2024	
Attendance: 10:15 am, January 6	87
Attendance: 5:30 pm, January 10	22
Offering For Current Income	\$6,224.00
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$759.00

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	14	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am	Baptism of Christ Connect 3, Activity Room Morning Worship, Sanctuary Communications Coordinator Update, Assembly Hall Fellowship, Enlightener due date
Jan	16	Tue	7:00 pm	AA
Jan	17	Wed	5:00-7:00 pm 5:30 pm 6:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Wednesday Night Live Community Meal, Assembly Hall Evening Worship, Fireside Room Children's Music, Music Room Adult Education, Library Wind Ensemble, Sanctuary Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
Jan	18	Thu	1:00 pm	Stampers
Jan	19	Fri	6:00 pm	Chess
Jan	21	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am	Third Sunday after Epiphany Connect 3, Activity Room Morning Worship, Sanctuary Spud Lunch, Assembly Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Communications Coordinator Update – Today in Assembly Hall

Today, following worship, the Personnel Committee will host an info/Q&A session 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.



Spud Lunch – January 21

The Elders will be sponsoring a Winter Spud Lunch on Sunday, January 21, during Fellowship. Everyone is invited! All donations from the lunch will go toward our Current Expenses.

2023 Contribution Statements

You may pick up your 2023 contribution statement on Sunday mornings in the Narthex and throughout the week in the Church Office.



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



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.