



*"At the Synagogue in Capernaum", 11<sup>th</sup> Century*

## Shine the Light

### Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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." Epiphany means "manifestation" or "appearance." As we continue through the season of Epiphany, we discover that more and more people discover the power and authority of Jesus, even "unclean spirits!" The forces that work against health and wholeness know all too well that Jesus is not just another miracle worker or holy man. The unhealthy forces know Jesus as the real and tangible presence of God.

January 28, 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 28, 2024—Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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

PRELUDE: Cantique de Jean Racine.....Gabriel Fauré

*O Redeemer divine, our sole hope of salvation,*

*Eternal Light of the earth and the sky,*

*On this Thy holy day, we kneel in adoration,*

*O Savior, turn on us Thy loving eye!*

*Send down on us the fire of Thy grace all consuming,*

*Whose wondrous might dispersed the powers of hell,*

*And rouse our slumbering souls with radiance all illumining,*

*That they may waken Thy mercy to tell!*

*O Christ bestow Thy blessing on us, we implore Thee,*

*Who here are gathered on penitent knee,*

*Accept the hymns we chant to Thine everlasting glory,*

*And these Thy gifts we return unto Thee!*

*-English text by Harold Heiberg*

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*OPENING HYMN: Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race

*Stanza 1: All; Stanza 2: Choir in canon; Stanza 3: All in canon; Stanza 4: All*



1. Di - verse in cul - ture, na - tion, race, We  
2. God, let us be a bridge of care Con -  
3. When cha - sms wid - en, storms a - rise, O  
4. God, let us be a ta - ble spread With



come to - geth - er by your grace. God, let us be a  
nect - ing peo - ple ev - 'ry - where. Help us con - front all  
Ho - ly Spir - it, make us wise. Let our re - solve, like  
gifts of love and bro - ken bread, Where all find wel - come,



meet - ing ground Where hope and heal - ing love are found.  
fear and hate And lust for pow'r that sep - a - rate.  
steel, be strong To stand with those who suf - fer wrong.  
grace at - tends, And en - e - mies a - rise as friends.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Siblings in Christ, what hopes do you bring to worship?

**We bring hope for health and wholeness.**

What pain do you bring to worship? Physical pain?

**From illness and injury.**

Emotional pain?

**From sad and scary life situations.**

Mental pain?

**From dis-ease of many kinds.**

With all of these burdens, it's a miracle that any of us have made it to this time of worship!

**But where else would we be?**

**We yearn to feel God's presence and to know that wholeness is possible.**

Only when we bring all of who we are before God,

can we fully experience God's powerful, healing, and freeing love.

**Come, let us enter this time of worship with our whole selves.**

Come, let us worship! Amen.

**\*CONFESSION**

Loving God, we have a complicated relationship with power. On one hand, your love and the example of your Son's life empowers us to do what is right, to do what is most lifegiving, to do that which honors the dignity of all people, most importantly the most vulnerable among us. On the other hand, we confess that at times, our love of power has overtaken the power of your love. Forgive us for times that we have used whatever power and privilege we have earned or have been handed, to build a higher pedestal for ourselves, rather than a longer table for our neighbors. Help us to learn what to do with power not from the world around us, but from your son Jesus, whose greatest power was his lifting up of the powerless. It is in that spirit and in His name that we pray. Amen.

**\*ASSURANCE**

The power of Christ is that of compassion and mercy. When we dare to come before God and confess our shortcomings and our mistakes, God responds, each and every time, with forgiveness and offers us a clean slate and another chance. May we take that chance, may we live into and up to the grace we are offered and may we, in turn, offer it to others. Amen.

**\*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.

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff contains the first line of the response, the second staff the second line, and the third staff the third line. The melody is written in a treble clef.

*(continued on page 4)*



SCRIPTURE: Mark 1:21-28

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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: All Things New.....Elaine Hagenberg

*Light after darkness, gain after loss,  
Strength after weakness, crown after cross;  
Sweet after bitter, hope after fears,  
Home after wandering, praise after tears.*

*Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end,  
He is making all things new,  
Springs of living water shall wash away each tear,  
He is making all things new.*

*Sight after mystery, sun after rain,  
Joy after sorrow, peace after pain;  
Near after distant, gleam after gloom,  
Love after loneliness, life after tomb.*

*Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end,  
He is making all things new,  
Springs of living water shall wash away each tear,  
He is making all things new.*

*-Frances Havergal and adapted from Rev. 21:5-6*

SERMON: "Casting Out and Calling In".....Rev. Addie Stong

\*HYMN: We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness.....179  
Stanzas 1 and 2 may be sung in harmony.



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



\*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.*



\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*CLOSING HYMN: When in Our Music God Is Glorified.....561

Stanza 1: All

Stanza 3: Higher Voices

Stanza 2: Lower Voices

Stanza 4: All

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Improvisation on *When in Our Music God Is Glorified*.....Andrew Paulson

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***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

Andrea Baxter, Director for Worship Renewal (Trinity Lutheran)

Combined Trinity Choir and Chancel Choir

***Thank you to the Trinity Choir and Chancel Choir for leading worship at the 8:30am service at Trinity and 10:15am service at St. John's today!***

## Copyright Information

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### *Gather Us In*

Text and Music: Marty Haugen  
© 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.

### *Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race*

Text: Ruth Duck  
© 1992, 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 28, 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](https://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:** Mark Methlie, Team leader; Jen Gilbert, Sarah Hogan, Bonnie & Walt Weber

**Elder of the Morning:** Chriss Bodde

**CD Technician:** Robin MacMullen

**Chancel Flower Ministry:** Sarah Baker & Bob Keim

**Driver:** Jo-Ann Sine

**Umbrella Ministry:**

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Weekly amount needed for Current Income 2024  | \$7,884.62 |
| Weekly amount needed for OCWM 2024            | \$798.00   |
| <b>A Look at the Week of January 14, 2024</b> |            |
| Attendance: 10:15 am, January 14              | 92         |
| Attendance: 5:30 pm, January 17               | 24         |
| Offering For Current Income                   | \$5,705.50 |
| Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission       | \$727.50   |
| <b>A Look at the Week of January 21, 2024</b> |            |
| Attendance: 10:15 am, January 21              | 117        |
| Attendance: 5:30 pm, January 24               | 27         |
| Offering For Current Income                   | \$7,465.00 |
| Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission       | \$559.00   |

To give online through our secure platform, visit  
<https://app.easytithe.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](mailto: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](mailto:office@st-johns-ucc.org)

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|-----|----|-----|--|---|
| Jan | 28 | Sun | 9:00 am<br>10:15 am  | <b>Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</b><br>Connect 3, Activity Room<br>Morning Worship, Sanctuary<br>Combined Choir with Trinity Lutheran Church<br>Elders Meeting, Library<br>Fellowship, Assembly Hall  |
| Jan | 30 | Tue | 7:00 pm  | AA  |
| Jan | 31 | Wed | 5:00-7:00 pm<br>5:30 pm<br>6:00 pm<br><br>6:45 pm<br>7:30 pm | <b>Wednesday Night Live</b><br>Community Meal, Assembly Hall<br>Evening Worship, Fireside Room<br>Children's Music, Music Room<br>Adult Education, Library<br>United Ringers Handbell Ensemble, Sanctuary<br>Chancel Choir & Friends, Sanctuary |
| Feb | 2  | Fri | 6:00 pm  | Chess   |
| Feb | 3  | Sat | 10:00 am-3:00 pm   | Girl Scout Drive-Thru Cookie Sale   |
| Feb | 4  | Sun | 9:00 am<br><br>10:15 am                                      | <b>Fifth Sunday after Epiphany</b><br>Praying Hands Stitchers, Library<br>Connect 3, Activity Room<br>Morning Worship, Sanctuary<br>Congregational Meeting & Vote<br>Congregational Dinner, Assembly Hall                                       |
| Feb | 6  | Tue | 7:00 pm  | AA<br>NAMI  |
| Feb | 7  | Wed | 5:00-7:00 pm<br>5:30 pm<br>6:00 pm<br><br>6:45 pm<br>7:30 pm | <b>Wednesday Night Live</b><br>Community Meal, Assembly Hall<br>Evening Worship, Fireside Room<br>Children's Music, Music Room<br>Adult Education, Library<br>United Ringers Handbell Ensemble, Sanctuary<br>Chancel Choir & Friends, Sanctuary |
| Feb | 8  | Thu | 1:00 pm  | Stampers  |
| Feb | 9  | Fri | 6:00 pm  | Artist Series Midwinter Gala at PineCrest Country Club<br>Chess   |
| Feb | 10 | Sat | 9:30 am  | Women's Retreat   |
| Feb | 11 | Sun | 9:00 am<br>10:15 am  | <b>Transfiguration</b><br>Connect 3, Activity Room<br>Morning Worship, Sanctuary<br>Church World Service Blanket Offering<br>Installation of New Council Members<br>Fellowship & Girl Scout Cookie Sale, Assembly Hall<br>Enlightener due date  |

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **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.

### **Save the Date: Ash Wednesday, February 14**

Community Meal from 6-6:45 pm  
Followed by Worship and Communion  
in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm

### **Wednesday Lenten Book Study**

Join us beginning Wednesday, February 21, at 6:00 p.m. in the St. John's Library (and on Zoom) when we begin this year's Lenten book conversation. This year's book is titled, **A Grace Disguised: How the Soul Grows Though Loss** by Jerry Sittser. Everyone experiences loss, some of it tragic and unexpected, sometimes predictable. Regardless of the kind of loss we experience, Jerry Sittser suggests our souls have the opportunity to grow.

We will host this study for five consecutive Wednesdays, concluding on Wednesday, March 20. Contact Rev. Dale or the church office if you plan to attend via Zoom so we can share the link with you.

The book is available on Amazon and there are two editions, a revised and expanded version, along with a January 1, 1996 version (if you scroll down) which is much less expensive, especially if you buy it "used."





Presents

**The Midwinter Gala**

A Celebration of the St. John's Artist Series

**6-9pm, Friday, February 9**

PineCrest Country Club

**Here are three reasons why you should attend the Midwinter Gala!**

1. You will enjoy appetizers with butler service, a delicious dinner with dessert, and an open bar with beer, wine, and soda – all included with your ticket.
2. You will hear a special performance by the North Penn High School Navy Jazz Combo and be the first to hear the upcoming concerts in the 2024-2025 St. John's Artist Series season.
3. You will have the opportunity to bid on items and experiences from local businesses and individuals in a silent auction, with all proceeds supporting the St. John's Artist Series.

**Still not convinced?**

While we receive generous support from patrons and volunteers, additional funding is needed to maintain our promise to keep concerts free for all. The St. John's Artist Series does not receive funding from St. John's United Church of Christ – all financial support comes from you! This night is an opportunity to support the St. John's Artist Series, celebrate all that it does for the community, and possibly take home one-of-a-kind items and experiences in the silent auction!

*Ready to purchase tickets? Wondering what to wear?  
Looking for the address of PineCrest Country Club?*

Visit [www.stjohnsartistseries.org/midwinter-gala](http://www.stjohnsartistseries.org/midwinter-gala),  
scan the QR code below, or stop by the main office.



**Registration closes at 11:59pm on Wednesday, January 31. Get your ticket today!**