



Shine the Light

Fifth 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.” One of the things Jesus did was to make himself available to those who suffered illness, disease, and deep disturbance. He didn’t shy away. He didn’t leave others isolated in their struggles. Although his central mission was to share the news of God’s ever-present realm, he made time to be present to those in pain. It was Jesus’s way of saying, “Be present to those who are suffering. Show up!”

February 4, 2024
10:15 am

Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

10:15 am—February 4, 2024—Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

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

PRELUDE: *Cantabile on I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*.....John Behnke

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*OPENING HYMN: I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty.....50

Stanza 2 may be sung in harmony.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Today we are temporarily called away from engaging the world in order to see and hear what God is doing.

We gather to be reminded of the higher road, our higher angels, and the view of the world we know as God's kingdom.

We've come to worship knowing full well that we need to be nourished in the work of love.

We need our spirits refreshed, our vision for life renewed, and our lives reformed as part of God's restoration of the world.

We need to be reminded that we are God's people in a time when other voices are quick to call us away from what is sacred and holy work.

Come God, come Jesus, come Holy Spirit, and fill us with your presence and peace!

*CONFESSION

God of healing and wholeness, sometimes people share their pain, struggles, and suffering with us, and we quickly sympathize. Beyond that, we struggle with how best to be present to them. We think in terms of a "cure" or "fixing" or "advice giving" without understanding what might be needed is "healing." God, help guide us to become channels of healing so that those with whom we surround ourselves come to experience something more of both your and our presence. We confess that we can keep a certain kind of distance from others in pain. Maybe we want to protect ourselves from bearing the heartache. Maybe we're weary and tired ourselves, and don't have the energy or patience to be present to others in a way that soothes and comforts. Healing God, help us trust that what matters most is that we show up, and that we take the time to understand the depth of pain of those who are hurting. It's then your presence and power can be felt, and healing can happen. Amen.

*ASSURANCE

For all the heavy burdens we carry, and for all the ways we drift away from our sacred center, God, you are there. When we are brave enough to be honest with ourselves, you hear us, and forgive us, and release us from our sins. **Praise 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: Mark 1:29-39

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed by demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons, and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also, for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout all Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

ANTHEM: Ain'-a That Good News!.....African American Spiritual arr. Mark Patterson

<i>I got a crown up in-a that kingdom,</i>	<i>I got a robe up in-a that kingdom,</i>	<i>I got a Savior in-a that kingdom,</i>
<i>Ain'-a that good news!</i>	<i>Ain'-a that good news!</i>	<i>Ain'-a that good news!</i>
<i>I'm-a gonna lay down this world,</i>	<i>I'm-a gonna lay down this world,</i>	<i>I'm-a gonna lay down this world,</i>
<i>gonna shoulder up-a my cross.</i>	<i>gonna shoulder up-a my cross.</i>	<i>gonna shoulder up-a my cross.</i>
<i>Gonna take it home-a to my Jesus,</i>	<i>Gonna take it home-a to my Jesus,</i>	<i>Gonna take it home-a to my Jesus,</i>
<i>Ain'-a that good news!</i>	<i>Ain'-a that good news!</i>	<i>Ain'-a that good news!</i>

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: "The Healing Bridge"Rev. Dale Davis

*HYMN: Precious Lord, Take My Hand.....472

Stanza 2 and its refrain may be sung 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: I Love to Tell the Story.....522

The refrain may be sung in harmony.

Stanza 1: All Stanza 3: Lower Voices

Stanza 2: Higher Voices Stanza 4: All

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *Fantasia on I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*.....John Behnke

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
Children's Choir

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Gather Us In
Text and Music: Marty Haugen
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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.
© 1993 The Pilgrim Press

February 4, 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/stjohnsucclandsalepa
- 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

Elder of the Morning: Susan Fitzpatrick

CD Technician: Griff Francis

Chancel Flower Ministry: Mary Billy

Driver: Jo-Ann Sine

Umbrella Ministry: Judy Johnston

Chancel Flowers

In memory of Albert C. Munzinger's February 6th birthday from his daughter and grandson, Kay & Tony Fiala

In memory of Bud Moyer from his wife, Ruth, and family

In memory of Dick Yocum's February 9th birthday from his family

In memory of Barbara Wenner's February 10th birthday from her husband, Bill, and Shelly and Marissa Longcoy

Weekly amount needed for Current Income 2024	\$7,884.62
Weekly amount needed for OCWM 2024	\$798.00
A Look at the Week of January 21, 2024	
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
A Look at the Week of January 28, 2024	
Attendance: 10:15 am, January 28	127
Attendance: 5:30 pm, January 31	31
Offering For Current Income	\$16,623.84
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$517.00

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Saturday, February 10, 9:30am - Church Library

What could be better on a February morning than to hear garden stories and see slides of gardens? Marie Bertolette Carota hopes to inspire you with her passion for native plants and why we need to plant them. You will see various gardens and stages of her most recent project. Marie has a Bachelor of Science in Ornamental Horticulture from the University of Delaware and participated in the Longwood Gardens summer student program in 1974 before starting her own business. She has had 50 years of experience both in her clients' and her own gardens.

Come join your friends and get psyched for spring!

Church World Service Blanket Offering – Sunday, February 11

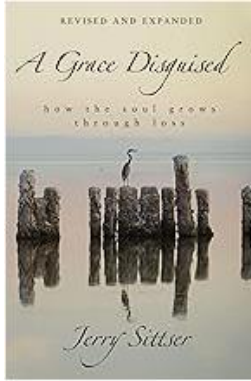
Imagine the possibilities of your compassion when you give generously to your CWS Blanket Sunday offering.



**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 Through 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."

Passing the Plate



We have received a number of comments recently regarding opportunities for collecting offering. In response to these comments, beginning on Sunday, February 18, Hospitality Team members will begin to once again pass offering plates to the congregation in the pews during the 10:15 service. The current practice of having plates by the entrances before the service will also continue for those who prefer that method. Electronic giving will also remain an option. This change will be the subject of brief announcements during the next two services and anyone with questions or comments can reach out to Bill Leslie any time.



A team of volunteers are needed to represent the welcoming atmosphere here at St. Johns. We are looking for greeters for the Sunday morning service at 10:15. We'd like 3 members each Sunday to serve as greeters at the back of the Sanctuary (2) and Back Door (1) entrance (formerly known as umbrella ministry) to welcome attendees. You can be paired with someone as well. Please consider this important ministry! There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex and Elevator lobby or you can call the church office or speak to an Elder.

Save the Date: Soup Sale, Sunday, February 25

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.

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

Feb	4	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am	Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Praying Hands Stitchers, Library Connect ³ , Activity Room Morning Worship, Sanctuary Congregational Meeting & Vote, Sanctuary Congregational Dinner, Assembly Hall
Feb	6	Tue	7:00 pm	AA NAMI
Feb	7	Wed	5:00-7:00 pm 5:30 pm 6:00 pm 6:45 pm 7:30 pm	Wednesday Night Live Community Meal, Assembly Hall Evening Worship, Fireside Room Children's Music, Music Room Adult Education, Library United Ringers Handbell Ensemble, Sanctuary 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 Chess
Feb	10	Sat	9:30 am	Women's Retreat
Feb	11	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am	Transfiguration Connect ³ , Activity Room Morning Worship, Sanctuary Church World Service Blanket Offering Installation of New Council Members Fellowship & Girl Scout Cookie Sale, Assembly Hall Enlightener due date
Feb	12	Mon	7:15 pm	Council – In Person
Feb	13	Tue	6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Girl Scouts AA
Feb	14	Wed	5:00-6:45 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm After Worship	Ash Wednesday Community Meal, Assembly Hall Children's Music, Music Room Adult Education, Library Evening Worship/Disposition of Ashes/Communion, Sanctuary Chancel Choir, Music Room
Feb	16	Fri	6:00 pm	Chess
Feb	18	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am	First Sunday in Lent Connect ³ , Activity Room Morning Worship, Sanctuary Representatives from The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will share their mission and ministry with St. John's Fellowship