



The Transfiguration, by Ukrainian artist Ivanka Demchuk

Shine the Light Transfiguration Sunday

We began our journey of Epiphany when the Magi, or Wise Men, visited Jesus soon after his birth, a “manifestation” or revealing of the true King of Israel. It was that **light** of the star that guided the Wise Men to Jesus. As we come to the end of Epiphany and celebrate the Transfiguration, **light** is once again a main focus; this time, the **light** is bright and dazzling. However, instead of pointing to Jesus as the King of Israel, the light now points to Jesus as the Son of God! But instead of a prolonged celebration, Jesus instructs his disciples to tell no one what they had seen. Soon we will enter Lent, and the future of Jesus becomes far from bright. Darkness awaits. But in the very end, the light will prevail!

February 11, 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 11, 2024—Transfiguration Sunday

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

PRELUDE: O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright.....Arranged by Cathy Moglebust

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*OPENING HYMN: O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright.....158

The choir sings stanza 1. All sing stanza 2.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We are brought here today to glimpse the hope that Christ has for us.

We pray that God frees us from our fears so that we can see and feel that hope!

It can be easier to stand here in the familiar darkness of the valley of our comfort.

But Christ calls us to the light of the mountain top to receive a new vision.

With Christ as our guide, we step into the brightness of renewal and grace.

Let us open our hearts to Christ, ready for all the ways he will transform! AMEN.

*CONFESSION

God of change and glory, we confess to you and to one another the many ways we fail to live the lives you want for us. We insist on staying in the valley of our fear and hurt, when you long to lead us to the mountaintop of renewal and redemption. We make ourselves busy with many things, and neglect to listen to your voice. We choose to see the worst in the world around us, and look past your signs of hope. We are quick to voice our dissent with one another, and refuse to see your face in the persons with whom we disagree. We withdraw and withhold, focusing on our own anger, and disappointments, and closing our hearts to your transforming grace. O Holy Light of the world, forgive us. Open our eyes to your endless possibilities. Give us courage to listen for your call to us. Take our hearts of stone, and make them new again with your love. AMEN.

*ASSURANCE

God's light has come into the world to shine into all the places of darkness, hurt, disappointment, and despair in our own lives and in the life of our world. When we dare to confess our sins and allow God to enter in, we receive the gift and the power of God's transforming grace and forgiveness and we are made new. **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,

(continued on page 3)



SCRIPTURE: Mark 9:2-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one on earth could brighten them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

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: Walk in Light.....Karen Marrolli

And we shall study war no more.

Come, O people,

O come and walk in the light of the Lord.

And we shall walk the paths of peace.

Come, O people,

O come and walk in the light of the Lord.

The night is far spent; the day is at hand.

And we shall study war no more.

Dona nobis pacem. (Grant us peace)

Come, O people,

O come and walk in the light of the Lord.

So let us cast off the works of night,

So we may wear a Shield of Day.

Come, O people,

O come and walk in the light of the Lord.

Evermore and evermore...

And we shall walk in paths of peace.

Dona nobis pacem. (Grant us peace)

Come, O people,

O come and walk in the light of the Lord.

Evermore and evermore...

-Based on Isaiah 2:4-5 and Romans 13:12

SERMON: "Mountains and Valleys".....Rev. Addie Stong

*HYMN: God of Change and Glory.....177

The refrain may be sung in harmony.

Stanza 1: Higher Voices; Stanza 2: Lower Voices; Stanza 3: All

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS (^Indicates New Council Members)

DEACONS: ^Sumiko Booraem, Rick Fanciullacci, ^Judy Johnston, ^Judy Leslie, ^Rickie Lee Sands, Scott Vanderburg

EDUCATORS: Kathy & Tom Allebach, Mary Billy, Sarah Hogan, Margie Jewell, ^Barbara MacMullen, ^Kim Sands

ELDERS: Sally Atkiss, Chriss Bodde, ^Bill Cagney, Susan Fitzpatrick, Anne Kinsey, ^Emilie Truscott

TRUSTEES: Bob Bertolette, Brad Hamlen, ^Steve Hendricks, ^Brian Hutchinson, ^Alan Malachowski, Dan Panachyda

OFFICERS:

President – Mark Bruen

Treasurer – Matt Carson

Vice President – ^Deborah Dayton

Finance Committee Chair – Grace Bruen

Secretary – Wendy O'Connor

Personnel Committee Chair – ^Margie Jewell

Pastor: Sisters and brothers in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for particular service in the ministry of the church, whether gathered or scattered. Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

Council Members: I am.

Pastor: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

Council Members: I do, relying on God's grace.

Pastor: Members of this community of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them.

We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

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



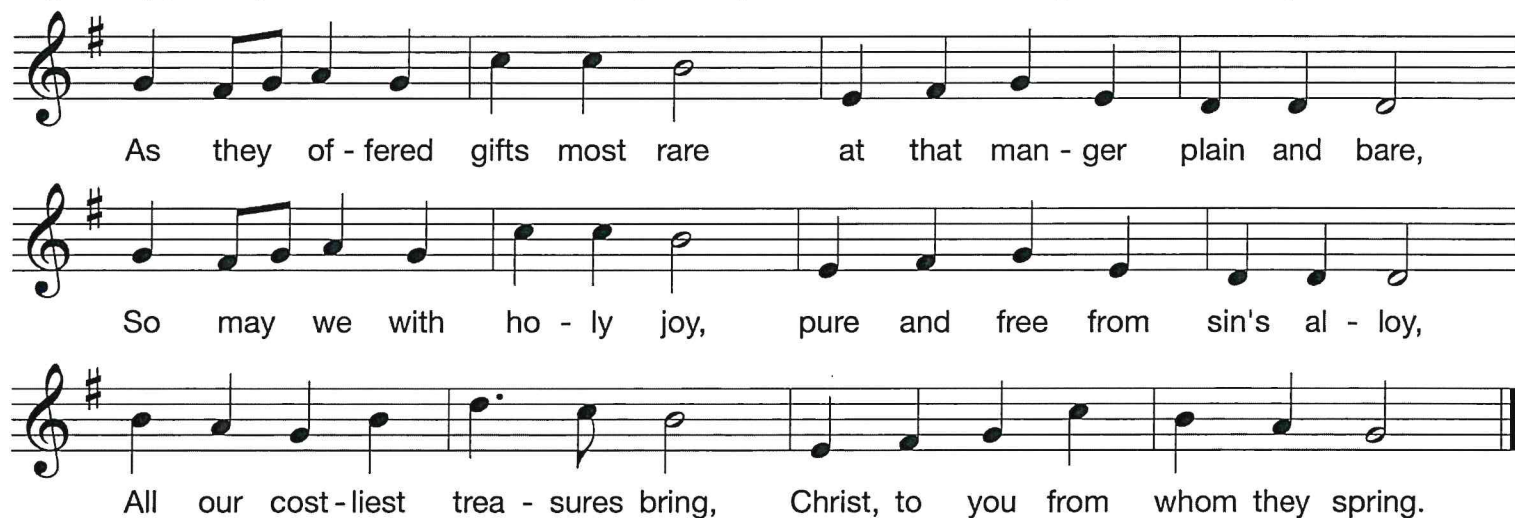
O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.



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: This Little Light of Mine**



1. This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon - na let it shine; this lit - tle light of mine,
2. All - through the night, I'm gon - na let it shine; all - through the night,
3. Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon - na let it shine; ev - 'ry - where I go,
I'm gon - na let it shine; this lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon - na let it shine,
I'm gon - na let it shine; all - through the night, I'm gon - na let it shine,
I'm gon - na let it shine; Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon - na let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright.....Setting by Mark Sedio

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

United Ringers
Chancel Choir

Copyright Information

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Gather Us In

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

Walk in Light

Text: Adapted by Karen Marroli
© 2016 Birnamwood Publications

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 11, 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: Anne Kinsey

CD Technician: Matt Rivett

Chancel Flower Ministry: Tracey & Mark O'Neill

Driver: Gale Linderman

Umbrella Ministry: Marcia Stacy

Chancel Flowers

In memory of David T. Evans' birthday from his daughter, Jeane, Bob and Beth Fritz

In memory of Jean's Parents, Mr. & Mrs. Mark Moyer, from Jean and Tom Beggs

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 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
A Look at the Week of February 4, 2024	
Attendance: 10:15 am, February 4	140
Attendance: 5:30 pm, February 7	19
Offering For Current Income	\$10,682.50
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$1,604.50

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

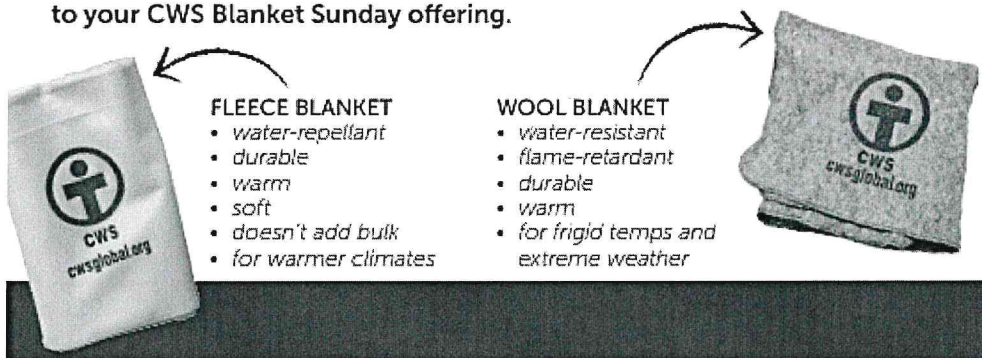
or visit our website at <http://www.st-johns-ucc.org>

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
Mark Bruen, Council President

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church World Service Blanket Offering – Today!

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 5:00-6:45 pm – Please note the corrected time!

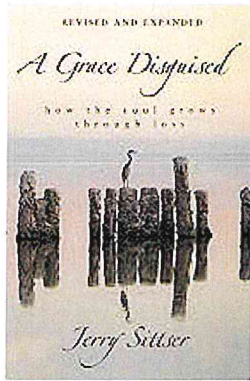
Followed by Worship, Imposition of Ashes, and Communion
in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm



Join us on **Sunday, February 18**, for a special time of worship at 10:15 a.m. when Mary Chantry, President of the local conference of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, is joined by other members of the Society in sharing their ministry of caring for the suffering and needy.

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a cherished mission partner with St. John's. Inspired by the call of the Gospel to serve, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul serves through the ministry of charity and justice. You won't want to miss learning about this society and its mission which began in Paris, France in 1883. Today, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is active in 150 countries with a local conference based here in Hatfield. If you want to experience God's love at work, please join us!

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."

Save the Date: Soup Sale, Sunday, February 25



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.

Spring Goodie Boxes



Please bring your donations (for packages for young people living away from home) to the church Library through March 3rd. We will be preparing 24 boxes. Donations of non-perishable, small, sturdy food items, school items, or personal items are greatly appreciated. Send the name and complete USPS address of your student to the church office (office@st-johns-ucc.org) or Bonnie Weber before March 3rd. Also, verify the address if your student previously received a package. Send questions to Bonnie Weber at bonweber@gmail.com. Many thanks for your continued support!

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	11	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am 11:30 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 Elders Meeting, Library Hospitality Meeting, 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/Imposition of Ashes/Communion, Sanctuary Chancel Choir, Music Room
Feb	16	Fri	6:00 pm	Chess
Feb	18	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am 11:30 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 Q&A with St. Vincent de Paul, Library Fellowship, Assembly Hall
Feb	20	Tue	7:00 pm	AA
Feb	21	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	22	Thu	Morning 9:30 am	Soup Prep Enlightener Folding
Feb	23	Fri	Morning 6:00 pm	Soup Cooking Chess
Feb	25	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am 11:30 am	Second Sunday in Lent Connect ³ , Activity Room Morning Worship, Sanctuary Soup Sale and Fellowship, Assembly Hall

LENT, HOLY WEEK, AND EASTER 2024 AT ST. JOHN'S ~ "FOLLOW ME"

Join us as we follow Jesus into the wilderness of Lent, through the passion of Holy Week, and to the glory of Easter!



Wednesday, February 14: Ash Wednesday

No 5:30pm Wednesday Night Live Worship
(Dinner will still be served from 5pm-6:45pm)

7pm – Ash Wednesday Service

Join us for worship with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes as we begin our Lenten journey.

Sunday, February 18: First Sunday in Lent

10:15am – Sunday Morning Worship
with representatives from St. Vincent De Paul

Wednesday, February 21

5:30pm – Wednesday Night Live Worship
with Holy Communion

6pm – Lenten Book Study: *A Grace Disguised*

Sunday, February 25: Second Sunday in Lent

10:15am – Sunday Morning Worship

Wednesday, February 28

5:30pm – Wednesday Night Live Worship
with Holy Communion

6pm – Lenten Book Study: *A Grace Disguised*

Sunday, March 3: Third Sunday in Lent

10:15am – Sunday Morning Worship

Wednesday, March 6

5:30pm – Wednesday Night Live Worship
with Holy Communion

6pm – Lenten Book Study: *A Grace Disguised*

Sunday, March 10: Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:15am – Sunday Morning Worship

Wednesday, March 13

5:30pm – Wednesday Night Live Worship
with Holy Communion

6pm – Lenten Book Study: *A Grace Disguised*

Sunday, March 17: Fifth Sunday in Lent

10:15am – Sunday Morning Worship

Wednesday, March 20

5:30pm – Wednesday Night Live Worship
with Holy Communion

6pm – Lenten Book Study: *A Grace Disguised*

Sunday, March 24: Palm Sunday

10:15am – Sunday Morning Worship

Join us for worship with a Palm Processional and Holy Communion to usher in Holy Week.

4:00pm – *Illuminare: The Music of Elaine Hagenberg*

Continue your Holy Week journey with the St. John's Artist Series Palm Sunday concert - a powerful afternoon with the St. John's Chancel Choir and Friends, pianist Vince Ryan, and full orchestra presenting music of this incredible living composer. A reception follows this inspirational afternoon.

Wednesday, March 27

No 5:30pm Wednesday Night Live Worship.

No 6pm Lenten Book Study

(Dinner will still be served from 5pm-6:45pm)

Thursday, March 28: Maundy Thursday

7pm – Maundy Thursday Service

Join us for an intimate, interactive worship experience around tables in Assembly Hall with Holy Communion and Hand Washing.

Friday, March 29: Good Friday

7pm – Good Friday Service

Join us for a moving Tenebrae worship service that includes a dramatic reading of the Passion story from the Gospel of Mark.

Sunday, March 31: Easter Sunday

7am – Easter Sunday Sunrise Worship

Join us for outdoor sunrise worship with Holy Communion at the bandshell at White's Road Park: An Easter Egg Hunt for children follows the service.

10:15am – Easter Sunday Sanctuary Worship

Join us for worship at St. John's with Holy Communion. Festive brass accompanies this festive service that concludes with the famous Widor Toccata organ postlude.

Music Ensembles at Special Services

Ash Wednesday: Chancel Choir

Good Friday: Chancel Choir

Palm Sunday: Chancel Choir

Easter Sunrise: Children's Choir, United Ringers

Easter Sanctuary: Chancel Choir, United Ringers, Brass