



Follow Me

Ash Wednesday

*"You return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
you are dust,
and to dust you shall return."*

Genesis 3:19

February 14, 2024

7:00 pm

Order of Worship
St. John's United Church of Christ
500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446
7:00 pm—February 14, 2024—Ash Wednesday

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

As you enter the sanctuary, we ask that you prepare for worship in silence.

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather tonight to turn away from the desire for worldly success and perfection.

Repent, and turn back to God.

Turn away from the need to be in control of everything and everyone.

Repent, and turn back to God.

Turn away from greed and the love of power.

Repent, and turn back to God.

As we come before God on this Ash Wednesday and as we enter the season of Lent,

may we turn back to God.

May we seek forgiveness, may we seek healing, may we seek wholeness.

May our hearts be renewed in this time of worship.

***SUNG CONFESSION:** Give Me a Clean Heart.....Hymn 188

***ASSURANCE**

When we repent, when we confess our need for our hearts to be cleansed and fixed, God does indeed make us new with the healing powers of love and grace. Though we are not worthy of these priceless gifts, still, God offers them and they are ours. May we say “thank you” by claiming them for ourselves and sharing them with others. **Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN:** Just as I Am.....Hymn 207

Stanzas 2 and 3 may be sung in harmony.

REFLECTION.....Rev. Addie Stong

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 51.....p. 657

The Psalm will be chanted by the cantor, and the Response sung by all when indicated by R. The first Response will be sung twice, once by the choir and then again by all. The Response will be sung once by all every time after.

REFLECTION.....Rev. Dale Davis

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:1-15

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. “So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. “Pray, then, in this way: **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. “For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

ANTHEM: Jesus Is Calling.....Aaron David Miller

*Softly, tenderly, Jesus is calling to you.
See, on the portals he’s waiting and watching, watching for you and me.
Come home, come home, you who are weary.
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling sinners to come home.
Time is now fleeting, moments are passing, passing from you and me.
Shadows are gathering, nighttime is coming, coming for you and me.
Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and me.
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and me.
Come home, come home, you who are weary.
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling sinners to come home.
-Will Thompson*

COMMUNION AND ASHES

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*CLOSING HYMN: Dust and Ashes Touch Our Face.....Hymn 186

The stanzas are sung by soloists. All sing the refrain.

*BENEDICTION

*As the service concludes, we ask that you exit the sanctuary in silence as you begin your Lenten journey.
Your offering can be placed in plates at entrances to the sanctuary or given by scanning the QR code on page 4.*

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dale Davis, Interim Senior Pastor
Rev. Addie Stong, Associate Pastor
Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music
Chancel Choir

Copyright Information

All texts and music are reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE A-721709 or are in the public domain.

February 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.
- Tonight'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 evenings'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.

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 |
| | Mark Bruen, Council President |

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."

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!



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.

Sunday, March 24: Palm Sunday (cont.)

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