



Follow Me

Second Sunday in Lent

Our journey into the season of Lent continues as Jesus shares some hard truths with the often-short-sighted disciples. This sacred season serves as an opportunity to reorient ourselves toward God, something that disciples in every age have struggled with. It's a call for a renewed dependence on God in light of self-confidence, self-determination, and our attempt to seek control instead of first listening. Lent is designed to create a space of learning and self-discovery in a world that tells us that we are the true masters of our destiny. The danger is losing sight of the Kingdom of God in favor of our own kingdom of comfort, security, and arrogance.

February 25, 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 25, 2024—Second Sunday in Lent

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

PRELUDE: Teach Me, O Lord, Your Holy Way.....Setting by Robert Buckley Farlee

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO LENT

What is something that distracts you from your walk with God?

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Lent calls us to follow Jesus wherever he leads us,
even through the wilderness of suffering and into the valley of death.

Lent calls us to repent and be faithful in all our living; to trust the One who sustains us.

Lent calls each of us to take up our cross,
to trust the One who bears it with us.

Lent calls us to journey with God.

Let us worship God, who walks with us, one day and one step at a time. AMEN.

***OPENING HYMN: Beneath the Cross of Jesus**.....190
Stanzas 1 and 2 may be sung in harmony.

***CONFESSION**

Gracious and guiding God, we confess that we are already finding ourselves growing weary of our walk through the Lenten wilderness. We avoid the rough patches, we hesitate to follow you, and we question our commitment, especially when we face the challenges that true discipleship brings. Are we really willing to examine, surrender, repent, follow, and offer our whole selves to you in service? Forgive us for times we have turned away from your call and instead focused on our own desires. Free us from our stubbornness and fears and help us to listen and trust with open minds and hearts. May we be reminded of and inspired by both the cost and joy of discipleship as you lead us forward on our journey toward the Cross. **AMEN.**

***ASSURANCE**

The journey of discipleship is never easy, but we can be assured that we are not and will never be on this journey alone. When we place our sins, our truth, our life and our trust into God's hands, God receives them and holds them with tender love, mercy, and care. We are forgiven and set free from all that burdens us. **Thanks be to God! AMEN.**

***SUNG RESPONSE: Will You Come and Follow Me**



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SCRIPTURE: Mark 8:31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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: God so Loved the World.....John Stainer

*God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoso believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

*For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world;
but that the world through Him might be saved.*

-John 3:16-17

SERMON: "Reorienting...".....Rev. Addie Stong

*HYMN: Teach Me, O Lord, Your Holy Way.....465

Stanza 1: All; Stanza 2: Lower Voices; Stanza 3: Higher Voices; Stanza 4: All

JOYS & CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/SUNG RESPONSE: O Lord, Hear My Prayer



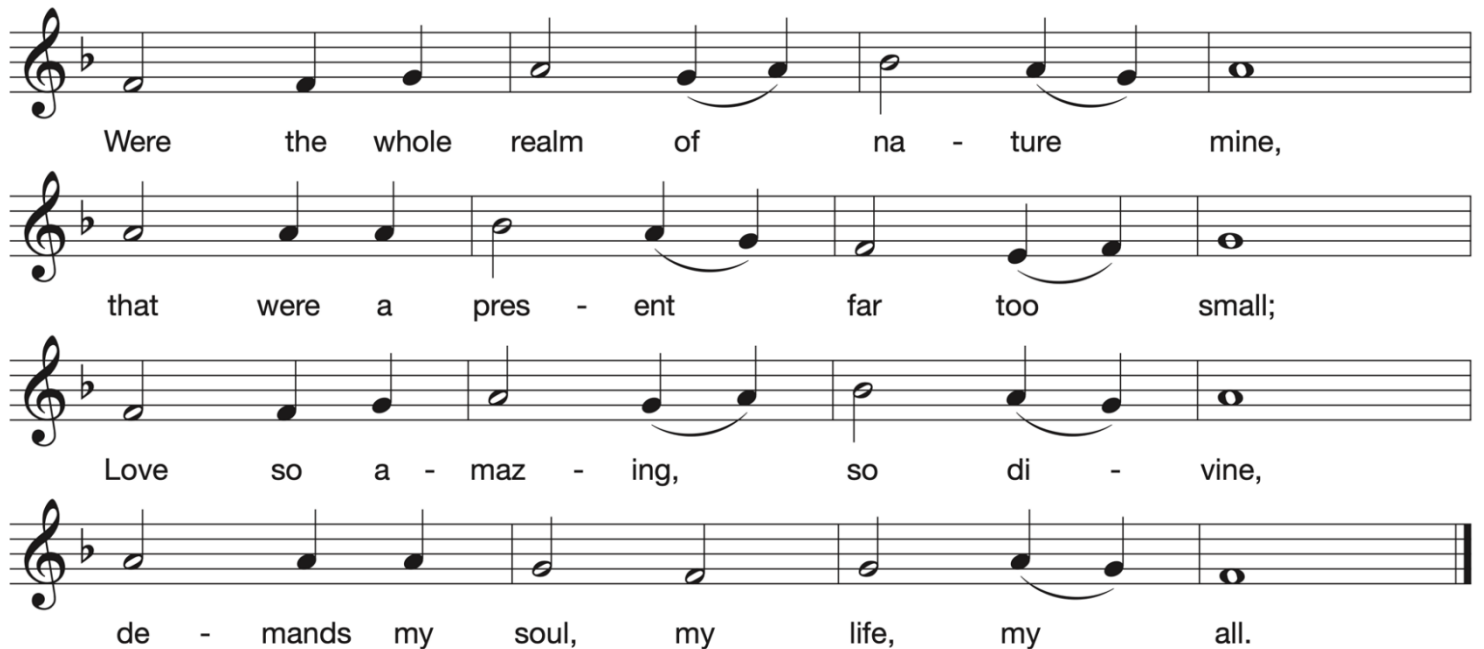
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OFFERING: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross.....Setting by Victor Labenske

*SUNG RESPONSE: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Today's offering will be brought forward and dedicated during the singing of the response. If you did not get a chance to place your offering in the plates during the collection, 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: Lift High the Cross.....198

Stanzas 2 and 4 may be sung in harmony.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Lift High the Cross.....Setting by David Cherwien

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

Worship Leaders

Rev. Addie Stong, Associate Pastor
Janet Morton, Liturgist
Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music

Abbie Lampe, Children's Message
Chancel Choir

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Will You Come and Follow Me

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O Lord, Hear My Prayer

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February 25, 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/stjohnsuccclansdalepa
- 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: Sally Atkiss

CD Technician: Robin MacMullen

Chancel Flower Ministry: Sarah Hogan

Driver: Scott Vanderburg

Umbrella Ministry:

Chancel Flowers

In memory of James "David" Krail's February 26th birthday from Debbie Krail and family

Weekly amount needed for Current Income 2024	\$7,884.62
Weekly amount needed for OCWM 2024	\$798.00
A Look at the Week of February 11, 2024	
Attendance: 10:15 am, February 11	135
Attendance: 7:00 pm, Ash Wednesday, February 14	70
Offering For Current Income	\$6,432.50
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$1,184.50
A Look at the Week of February 18, 2024	
Attendance: 10:15 am, February 18	112
Attendance: 5:30 pm, February 21	31
Offering For Current Income	\$5,813.00
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$245.00

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

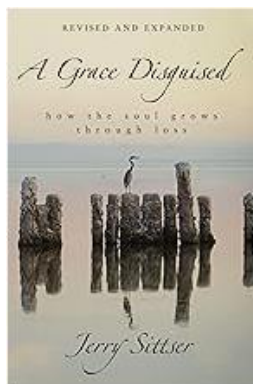
If you would like more information about St. John's please speak with one of the staff

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
Mark Bruen, Council President

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday Lenten Book Study



We continue the Wednesday Lenten Book Study at 6:00 p.m. in the St. John's Library (and on Zoom). 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 four more Wednesdays, concluding on 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."

Soup Sale, Today!!!

Order forms available in the Narthex and Elevator Lobby



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.

Connect³ Mission Project

"Shine the Light" of love and Christian fellowship on the children of Malawi.

Back in November, Rev Chuck Monts and his wife Deb spoke to us about their work in Malawi. Our children learned about the children there, and learned a song they sing in church. When we asked what we could do to help the children there, Deb and Chuck suggested we help create a library, because the children have no books. They also suggested sending solar powered flashlights, because there is no electricity.

We have started a collection of books and flashlights to send to the children in Malawi.

If you would like to help with this project, there are three ways to do so:

- New or used children's books for all ages can be dropped off in the library
- Solar powered flashlights can be dropped off there, too
- If you would like to contribute money to cover the cost of shipping (or to buy more books), please mark your contribution "Malawi mission project"

Thank you for your support of this project and of the growing Christian community in Malawi.

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	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
Feb	27	Tue	6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Girl Scouts AA
Feb	28	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 Lenten Book Study, Library United Ringers Handbell Ensemble, Sanctuary Chancel Choir & Friends, Sanctuary
Mar	1	Fri	6:00 pm	Chess
Mar	3	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am 11:30 am	Third Sunday in Lent Connect 3, Activity Room Praying Hands Stitchers, Library Morning Worship, Sanctuary Fellowship, Assembly Hall Goodie Box Donations due date
Mar	5	Tue	7:00 pm	AA NAMI
Mar	6	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 Lenten Book Study, Library United Ringers Handbell Ensemble, Sanctuary Chancel Choir & Friends, Sanctuary
Mar	8	Fri	6:00 pm	Chess
Mar	9	Sat	9:30 am	Women's Retreat, Library
Mar	10	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am 11:30 am	Fourth Sunday in Lent – One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Daylight Saving Time begins Connect 3, Activity Room Morning Worship, Sanctuary Fellowship, Assembly Hall Elders Meeting, Library Enlightener due date



2024 Lily Donation Form

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

From _____

Amount _____ Envelope # _____

If you wish to make a donation toward Easter lilies in honor or in memory of a loved one, please fill out this donation form and place it in the offering plate, or contact the church office at 215-855-5489 or office@st-johns-ucc.org by Sunday, March 24, 2024

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 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

Good Friday: Chancel Choir

Palm Sunday: Chancel Choir

Easter Sunrise: Children's Choir, United Ringers

Easter Sanctuary: Chancel Choir, United Ringers, Brass