



Follow Me

Third Sunday in Lent

The best teachers you've ever had were the ones who challenged you, knew you could do more, and pushed you in just the right ways. Deep down, you knew these teachers cared for you, wanted good for you, and were invested in your long-term success. They weren't so much wishing for you to achieve fame, but to live a life of thoughtful integrity. Jesus is that kind of teacher. He challenges us, and it pinches a bit. If we stay the course, there is so much Jesus can teach us!

March 3, 2024
10:15 am

Order of Worship
St. John's United Church of Christ
500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446
10:15 am—March 3, 2024—Third Sunday in Lent

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

PRELUDE: Little Children, Welcome.....323
The prelude time will be used to learn today's opening hymn.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO LENT

"When has your ego gotten the best of you?"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lent is the season when we take a serious look at ourselves.

Praising God is powerful, but we've also been invited to follow Jesus.

That means getting into spiritual shape. It includes taking a look at the parts of ourselves we've pushed out of sight and out of mind.

Worship is our safe place, the place in which God is ready to cast light on our shadows and release our deepest fears.

Worship is the moment when we are opened and filled, renewed and restored.

**God is growing our minds, growing our souls,
and growing our servant hearts in remaking the world!**

*OPENING HYMN: Little Children, Welcome.....323

*CONFESSION

God of grace and glory, each one of us looks for signs of acceptance and validation. It's natural. But what if we find that our ego is trapped through the constant need for approval, or through the need to constantly criticize others in order to feel good? What if we are living life in which we are constantly focusing on what others do and think; comparing ourselves to everyone around us? Jesus would say we are focusing on the need for greatness and missing the point of life. He even went as far as to take a child into his arms as a lesson in humility. God, forgive us for the times we have mistaken self-ambition for service, and mistaken power for prerogative and privilege. Teach us, Lord, that your definition of power comes in the form of including those who are powerless and vulnerable; those who speak from the margins, and those whom we often regard as not-as-good. Lord, hear our prayer.

*ASSURANCE

The journey toward wholeness begins with a simple step. An honest assessment of self, combined with the opportunity to confess that we have missed the mark. God hears and sympathizes. God freely forgives. Our faith is rooted in progress, not perfection. **Thanks be to God!**

*SUNG RESPONSE: Will You Come and Follow Me

Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?

Will you set the pris - 'ners free and nev - er be the same?

(continued on page 3)



SCRIPTURE: Mark 9:30-37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it, for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them, and taking it in his arms he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

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: Children's Medley.....Arranged by Marilyn Ham
The anthem includes a Mozart Sonata in C Major, Praise Him All Ye Little Children, Music Box Dancer, and Jesus Loves Me.

SERMON: "Greatness on Jesus' Terms"Rev. Dale Davis

*HYMN: Awake, Awake to Love and Work.....89

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

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call an - swer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me.

OFFERING: What a Friend We Have in Jesus.....Setting by Robert Hobby

*SUNG RESPONSE: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Were the whole realm of na - ture mine,
that were a pres - ent far too small;
Love so a - maz - ing, so di - vine,
de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff ends with a comma, the second with a semicolon, and the fourth with a double bar line.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN: What a Covenant.....471
The refrain may be sung in harmony.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Awake, Awake to Love and Work.....Setting by Michael Burkhardt

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

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Will You Come and Follow Me
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O Lord, Hear My Prayer
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March 3, 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

Worship Assistants

Hospitality: Grace and Mark Bruen, Team leaders; Mary Billy, Anne Haines, Gerry Linderman, Rickie Lee Sands, Ginny Wilkinson

Elder of the Morning: Susan Fitzpatrick

CD Technician: Griff Francis

Chancel Flower Ministry: Tracey & Mark O'Neill

Driver: Gale Linderman

Greeters: Anne & Eric Kinsey, Judy Johnson

Chancel Flowers

In memory of Nancy Kirk from her daughter, Barbara Kirk

In memory of Charles May's March 4th birthday from his wife Connie

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 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
A Look at the Week of February 25, 2024	
Attendance: 10:15 am, February 25	129
Attendance: 5:30 pm, February 28	23
Offering For Current Income	\$8,391.84
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$638.00

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

Spring Goodie Boxes – Due Today!!



Please bring your donations (for packages for young people living away from home) to the church Library through **today, 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!

The **March Women's Retreat** will be held in the church library on **Saturday, March 9 at 9:30 am**. Please join us when St. John's Praying Hands Stitchers will discuss the history, mission and 20 years of their ministry. Light refreshments will be served. All women are welcome!



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.



**OFFERING DATE:
MARCH 10, 2024**

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery. Your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

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

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 New Council Members Orientation, Library 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
Mar	11	Mon	7:00 pm	Council - Zoom
Mar	12	Tue	6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Girl Scouts AA
Mar	13	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	14	Thu	1:00 pm	Stampers
Mar	15	Fri	6:00 pm	Chess
Mar	16	Sat	10:00 am	Rose Pruning Workshop, Library and Outdoors
Mar	17	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am 11:30 am 1:00 pm	Fifth Sunday in Lent – Girl Scout Sunday Connect ³ , Activity Room Morning Worship, Sanctuary Fellowship, Assembly Hall Rose Pruning Workshop (Rain 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, 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
triumphant 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