



Follow Me

Fourth Sunday in Lent

As we continue our Lenten journey in the gospel of Mark, we hear Jesus, once again, reminding his disciples that whoever wishes to become great must become a servant, just like Jesus, who came not to be served, but to serve. If you've ever Googled a restaurant, you know that people are eager to write reviews and make comments on the service, particularly if it isn't good. But when is the last time we reviewed our service to others--the kind that Christ models and calls us to? Are we living with entitlement or humility? Are we more concerned about what we deserve to get or what we have to give? Are we demanding great service or are we demonstrating great service in the name of Christ?

March 10, 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 10, 2024—Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

PRELUDE: My Faith Looks Up to Thee.....Setting by Kevin McChesney

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO LENT

"What is stopping you from serving others?"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We are servants in training, gathered to learn and listen.

We are called as partners in Christ's service.

Our service requires us to do things that do not make sense to this world.

Our service requires us to share our resources with the needy and vulnerable.

Our service requires us to preach the good news of the Gospel in word and deed.

Our service requires us to be guided by God's wisdom in all that we do.

Our service requires us to honor, glorify, and worship.

Come, let us worship God!

*OPENING HYMN: O Savior, Let Me Walk with You.....503

Stanzas 2 and 3 may be sung in harmony.

*CONFESSION

Gracious God, we confess that like your disciples, James and John, we think that faithfully following you ought to earn us some sort of reward, benefit, or recognition. This does not make us bad, selfish, or insincere disciples, it simply makes us human. For getting stuck in that human way of thinking and for failing to look beyond our self-serving ways, forgive us. For chasing glory as the world sees it rather than how you see it, forgive us. For pushing ourselves to the front, when our presence is needed on the edges, forgive us. Keep reminding us that following you means turning our thinking upside-down and filling ourselves with the desire to serve others as willingly as you did. Forgive any reluctance on our part to follow your example. Replace our pursuit of promotion with a pure desire to listen to the needs of others and to respond in love: no strings attached. Amen.

*ASSURANCE

When we come before God to confess our sins, to claim our mistakes, and to own the limitations of our humanity, God offers us abundant grace and forgiveness that open us up to more life and more love. May we have the grace to accept these gifts this day and may they change and shape the way we live and serve in this world. **Amen!**

*SUNG RESPONSE: Will You Come and Follow Me



(continued on page 3)



SCRIPTURE: Mark 10:35-45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” And they said to him, “Appoint us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized you will be baptized, but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to appoint, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; instead, whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many.”

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: When the Poor Ones.....Miguel Manzano, setting by David M. Cherwien

*When the poor ones, who have nothing, still are giving;
when the thirsty pass the cup, water to share;
when the wounded offer others strength and healing:
We see God, here by our side, walking our way.*

*When our spirits, like a chalice, brim with gladness;
when our voices, full and clear, sing out the truth;
when our longings, free from envy, seek the humble:
We see God, here by our side, walking our way.*

*When compassion gives the suffering consolation;
when expecting brings to birth hope that was lost;
when we choose love, not the hatred all around us;
We see God, here by our side, walking our way.*

*When the goodness poured from heaven fills our dwellings;
when the nations work to change war into peace;
when the stranger is accepted as our neighbor:
We see God, here by our side, walking our way.*

-José Antonio Olivar, tr. Martin A Seltz

SERMON: “Guts, Glory, and Greatness”.....Rev. Addie Stong

*HYMN: Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?.....539

Stanza 5 may be sung in harmony.

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

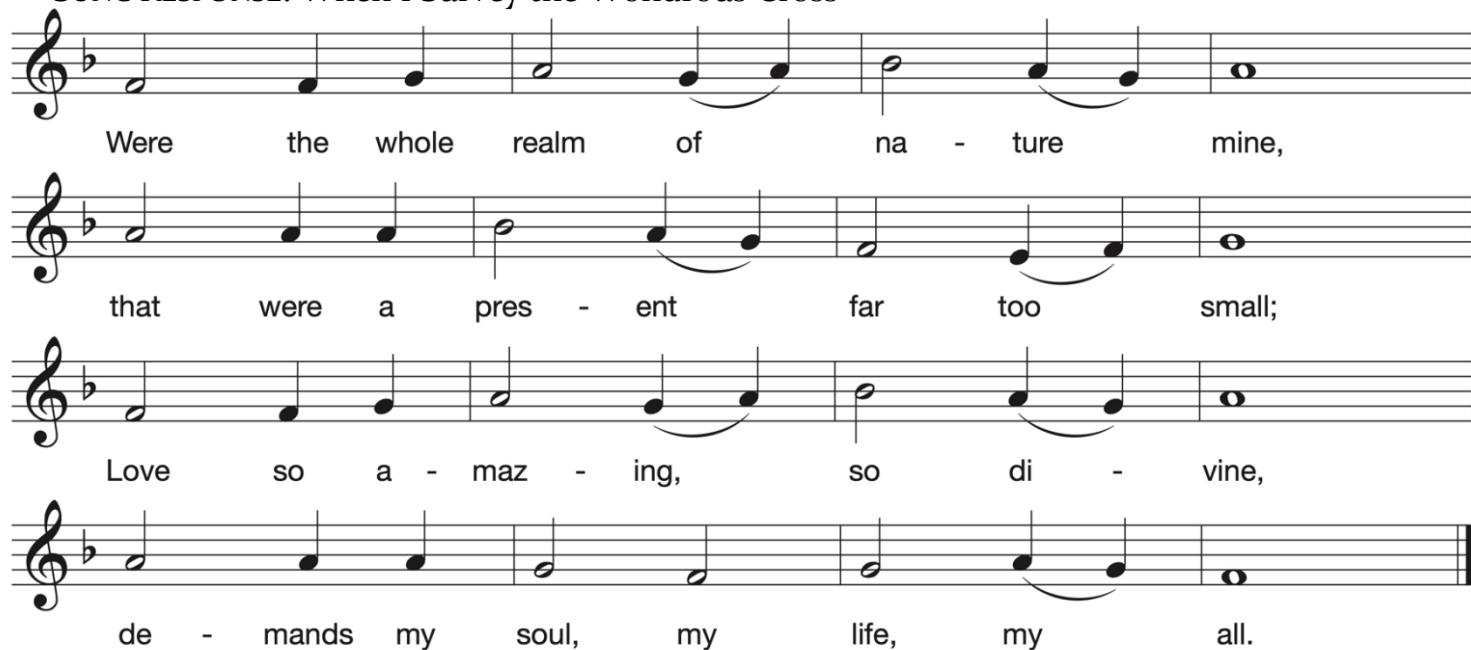


(continued on page 4)



OFFERING & OFFERTORY MUSIC: My Faith Looks Up to Thee.....Setting by Karl Osterland
Offering plates will be passed to the congregation in the pews during the Offertory music. The plates will then be dedicated during the Offertory Sung Response. You may also donate by scanning the QR code found in the bulletin and on laminated cards in the pews.

***SUNG RESPONSE: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**



***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***CLOSING HYMN: You Servants of God, Your Sovereign Proclaim.....**305

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

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: You Servants of God, Your Sovereign Proclaim.....Setting by Charles Callahan

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

Worship Leaders

Rev. Addie Stong, Associate Pastor
 Susan Fitzpatrick, Liturgist
 Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music

Chancel Choir
 United Ringers

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O Lord, Hear My Prayer
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March 10, 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: Bill Cagney

CD Technician: Matt Rivett

Chancel Flower Ministry: Kelly Bresadola

Driver: Jo-Ann Sine

Greeters: Lyn & Don Huntsinger, Marcia Stacy

Chancel Flowers

In memory of Christian E. Wurster's March 15th birthday from Christine Wiley

Remembering with love, Wallace & Kier MacKinstry and Granny's March 16th birthday, from the MacKinstry Rogers 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 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
A Look at the Week of March 3, 2024	
Attendance: 10:15 am, March 3	98
Attendance: 5:30 pm, March 6	17
Offering For Current Income	\$6,015.50
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$1,007.50

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



**OFFERING DATE:
TODAY**

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.



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.



Illuminare

**The Music of Elaine Hagenberg
4pm, Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024**

Let the St. John’s Chancel Choir and Friends accompany you on your Holy Week journey!

This year’s Palm Sunday concert will feature Hagenberg’s music exclusively – from her well-known compositions *All Things New* and *The Music of Stillness* to her newest piece, *Illuminare*. Choir, piano, and orchestra will make for an inspirational afternoon.



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	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 7:00 pm	Stampers, Activity Room Personnel, Library
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)
Mar	18	Mon	6:30 pm	Personnel, Library
Mar	19	Tue	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	AA Chancel Choir and Friends
Mar	20	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	21	Thu	9:30 am	Enlightener Folding, Library
Mar	22	Fri	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Chess Personnel, Library
Mar	23	Sat	10:00 am 10:30am	Palm Party, Library Chancel Choir and Friends
Mar	24	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am 11:30 am 4:00 pm	Palm Sunday Connect 3, Activity Room Morning Worship, Sanctuary Fellowship, Assembly Hall Artist Series Concert: Illuminare



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 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 as we usher in Holy Week
with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

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 service
that concludes with the famous
Widor Toccata organ postlude.

Music Ensembles at Special Services

Palm Sunday: Chancel Choir

Good Friday: Chancel Choir

Easter Sunrise: Children's Choir, United Ringers

Easter Sanctuary: Chancel Choir, United Ringers, Brass