

# **Follow Me** Fifth Sunday in Lent

As Jesus moved closer to Jerusalem, he experienced two encounters that were telling. The first came when two of his disciples, James and John, wanted a commitment from Jesus that he would do whatever they asked of him. In response, Jesus asked them, "What do you want me to do for you?" James and John wanted to make sure they were in prominent positions of power when Jesus came into his glory. In the second instance, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus kept yelling from the side of the road for Jesus to have mercy on him. When Jesus "called" him, he sprang to his feet. And Jesus asked the same question of Bartimaeus, "What do you want me to do for you?" Instead of holding a position of prestige and power, Bartimaeus simply wanted his sight. I think you know whose vision was clearest!

> March 17, 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 17, 2024—Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

PRELUDE: If You But Trust in God to Guide You.....Setting by Paul Manz

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO LENT

"What do you want Jesus to do for you?"

# \*CALL TO WORSHIP

In a world filled with spiritual blindness, we come looking for Your wisdom and guidance.

We come seeking vision, seeking truth, seeking healing.

We enter this time of worship recalling the words of the blind Bartimaeus: "Lord, have mercy on us." Stop and turn to us as Jesus did on that Jericho road.

Receive our worship. Receive our praise. Receive our thanks. Restore our sight. Heal our blindness and make us so bold that our way becomes the way of Jesus, that we see with the eyes of Christ. Come let us worship, with bodies, minds, and spirits open to your healing.

\*OPENING HYMN: If You But Trust in God to Guide You......410 Stanza 2 may be sung in harmony.

# \*CONFESSION

Gracious Lord, even amidst a large, noisy crowd, you helped Bartimaeus move from blindness to sight by focusing your power on his cries for mercy and healing. The crowd and the attempt by some to silence Bartimaeus did not distract you from responding to the needs of this blind beggar. We confess that we may very well have been among those who called out for Bartimaeus to be quiet. When we find interruptions to our plans a source of irritation rather than an opportunity for serving others in your name, **forgive us, Lord.** 

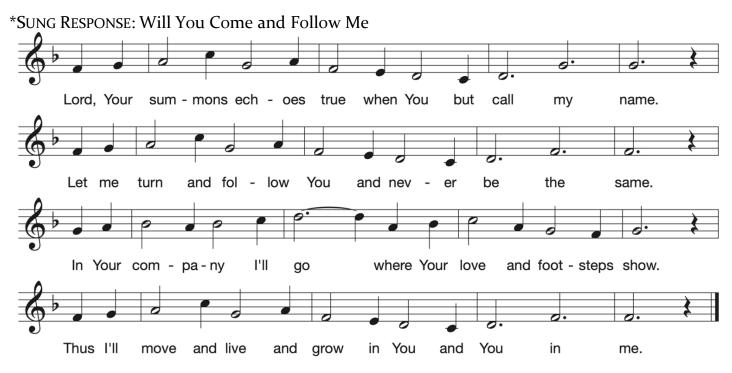
Bartimaeus' desperation and cry for mercy is echoed in the lives of many people in our own communities and throughout the world. When we close our ears and our hearts to these cries and forget that following you means responding to those who plead for mercy, **forgive us, Lord.** 

As soon as Bartimaeus regained his sight, he immediately followed Jesus. The way to discipleship is entered when our eyes are graciously opened to see and to follow Christ in faith. When we find excuses to delay responding to your call to discipleship, **forgive us, Lord.** 

Jesus, our savior and healer, enlighten our minds with your wisdom, and imprint the image of your love on our hearts, so we can focus on your presence and your power whenever and wherever you call us to serve in your name. Amen

## \*Assurance

Friends, hear and believe the good news--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 mercy. In and through Jesus, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God! Amen!** 



#### SCRIPTURE: Mark 10:46-52

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

#### 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: O Love	Elaine Hagenberg
O Love that will not let me go,	O Joy that seeks me through the pain,
I rest my weary soul in thee;	I cannot close my heart to thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,	I trace the rainbow through the rain,
That in thy ocean depths its flow	And feel the promise is not vain,
May richer, fuller be.	That morn shall tearless be.
	-George Matheson
SERMON: "Throw Off Your Cloak"	
*Нүмм: I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me	
Stanza 1: Choir	
Stanza 1 (repeated), 2, and 3: All, may be	sung in harmony.

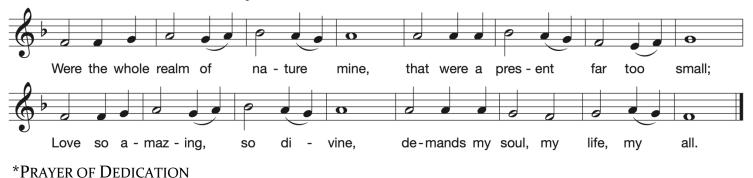
JOYS & CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/SUNG RESPONSE: O Lord, Hear My Prayer



#### **OFFERING & OFFERTORY MUSIC**

Variation on "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"......Setting by Robert Hobby 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



\*CLOSING HYMN: O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing......42 Stanza 3 may be sung in harmony.

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Prelude and Fugue in G Major, BWV 577......J.S. Bach

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

## **Worship Leaders**

Rev. Dale Davis, Interim Senior PastorAndrew Paulson, Minister of MusicRev. Addie Stong, Associate PastorChancel Choir

A special thank you to the Girl Scout Troop #7295 for their participation in today's worship service: Katherine Baker, Raelyn Donovan, Ezra Hershey, Emily Martinez, Siobhan Morris

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Will You Come and Follow Me © 1982, Iona Community GIA Publications, Inc. O Lord, Hear My Prayer © 1982, Les Presses de Taizé GIA Publications,

# March 17, 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: <u>youtube.com/stjohnsucclansdalepa</u>
- 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: Bill Leslie, Team leader; Bob Bertolette, Margie Jewell, Gale Linderman, Rick O'Connor, Scott Vanderburg

**Elder of the Morning:** Anne Kinsey **CD Technician:** David Douglass

**Chancel Flower Ministry:** Gale Linderman

Driver: Scott Vanderburg

Greeters: Girl Scout Troop #7295, Joyce Huisenga, Susan & John Hendricks

# **Chancel Flowers**

In memory of the Rev. Herman C. Ahrens, Sr., and Mrs. Ella Ahrens from Lorene Ahrens and family In memory of Jean MacKinstry Rogers on one of her favorite holidays, St. Patrick's Day, from Karen Filson

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Umstead and Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Gehman from Loretta Umstead

Weekly amount needed for Current Income 2024	\$7,884.62
Weekly amount needed for OCWM 2024	\$798.00
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
A Look at the Week of March 10, 2024	
Attendance: 10:15 am, March 10	105
Attendance: 5:30 pm, March 13	22
Offering For Current Income	\$10,219.58
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$2,189.50



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 <u>http://www.st-johns-ucc.org</u>

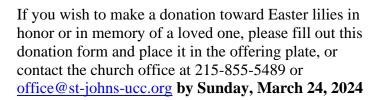
Rev. Dale Davis, M. Div., Interim Senior Pastor Andrew Paulson, M.M., M.A., Minister of Music Lisa Delp, Church Admin. Leroy Horst, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor Mark Bruen, Council President

Artisteries

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.



<b>B</b>	2024 Lily Donation Form
In honor of	
In memory of	
From	
Amount	Envelope #



A new member interest meeting will be held on Sunday, April 14, at 11:30am in the Library. If you are interested in learning more about St. John's and possibly becoming a member of this faith community, please join us!





A prayer vigil will be held starting at noontime on Maundy Thursday, March 28, and ending at noontime on Good Friday, March 29. Pray from home, work, during a walk or in the Sanctuary.The signup sheet for half-hour time slots is located in the Elevator Lobby. The Sanctuary will be open for prayer on Maundy Thursday from noon to 6pm and on Good Friday from 7:30am to noon.



The Personnel Committee is searching for candidates to fill the Church Office Manager position with Lisa's retirement. If you, a friend or a family member is interested in this employment opportunity, visit St. John's website:

https://st-johns-ucc.org/leaders-and-staff/staff-jobopenings, speak with a personnel committee member, or call Margie Jewell, Personnel Chair, at 215-272-1599.

This Week at St. John's If you would like more information, please contact the church office 215.855.5489 or <u>office@st-johns-ucc.org</u>

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Mar 17 Sui		Sun		Fifth Sunday in Lent – Girl Scout Sunday
			9:00 am	Connect <sup>3</sup> , Activity Room
			10:15 am	Morning Worship, Sanctuary
			11:30 am	Fellowship, Assembly Hall
			1:00 pm	Rose Pruning Workshop (Rain Date)
Mar	18	Mon	6:30 pm	Personnel, Library
Mar	19	Tue	7:00 pm	AA
			7:30 pm	Chancel Choir and Friends
Mar 2	20	Wed		Wednesday Night Live
			5:00-7:00 pm	Community Meal, Assembly Hall
			5:30 pm	Evening Worship, Fireside Room
			6:00 pm	Children's Music, Music Room
				Lenten Book Study, Library
			6:45 pm	United Ringers Handbell Ensemble, Sanctuary
			7:30 pm	Chancel Choir & Friends, Sanctuary
Mar	21	Thu	9:30 am	Enlightener Folding, Library
Mar	22	Fri	6:00 pm	Chess
			7:00 pm	Personnel, Library
Mar	23	Sat	10:00 am	Palm Party, Library
			10:30am	Chancel Choir and Friends
Mar	24	Sun		Palm Sunday
			9:00 am	Connect <sup>3</sup> , Activity Room
			10:15 am	Morning Worship, Sanctuary
			11:30 am	Fellowship, Assembly Hall
			4:00 pm	Artist Series Concert: Illuminare
Mar	26	Tue	6:30 pm	Girl Scouts
		140	7:00 pm	AA
Mar	27	Wed	7.00 pm	Wednesday Night Live
mai	-/	eu	5:00-6:45 pm	Community Meal, Assembly Hall
			J.00 0.4) pill	NO Evening Worship
				NO Lenten Book Study
			6:00 pm	Children's Music, Music Room
			6:45 pm	United Ringers Handbell Ensemble, Sanctuary
			7:30 pm	Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
Mar	28	Thu	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship, Assembly Hall
ivial	20	mu	7.00 Pm	An intimate, interactive worship experience around tables with
				Holy Communion & Handwashing
Mar	20	Fri	6:00 pm	Chess
Mar 2	29	1.11	<u>^</u>	Good Friday Worship, Sanctuary
			7:00 pm	
Mar		<b>C</b> 11		A moving Tenebrae worship including a dramatic reading of the passion story
Mar	31	Sun		Easter Sunday Summing Worshin, Holy Communication @ White's Road Park handeholl
			7:00 am	Sunrise Worship, Holy Communion @ White's Road Park bandshell
				Egg hunt for children following worship
				NO Connect <sup>3</sup>
			10:15 am	Morning Worship, Holy Communion in St. John's Sanctuary
				Chancel choir, United Ringers & Festive Brass
			11:30 am	Fellowship, Assembly Hall



# Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith!

# "The motivating force in Girl Scouting is spiritual."

-Preamble, Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA

At the heart of Girl Scouting are many of the same values most faiths hold:

- Supporting girls
- Making our world a better place
- Building compassionate leaders

**Girl Scout Sunday** celebrates the powerful ties between Girl Scouting and faith.

Girl Scouts are encouraged to connect their faith to the Girl Scout Law and earn the religious recognitions of their faith.

Let's honor the Girl Scouts and adult volunteers who give their time and talents in service of others!

Visit us at girlscouts.org/faith for more info.



Troop 7295 would like to thank the congregation of St.John's UCC for their support by allowing us space in which to meet two times a month throughout the school year. Our girls have been here at St.John's for over seven years and plan on many more. Thank you for your welcoming and generous support!

GIRL SCOUTS CELEBRATE FAITH | 4

#### 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 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.

4:00*pm* – *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