



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!**

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

Lord, Your sum - mons ech - oes true when You but call my name.

Let me turn and fol - low You and nev - er be the same.

In Your com - pa - ny I'll go where Your love and foot - steps show.

Thus I'll move and live and grow in You and You in me.

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,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thy ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.*

*O Joy that seeks me through the pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.
-George Matheson*

SERMON: "Throw Off Your Cloak".....Rev. Dale Davis

***HYMN: I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me.....474**

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

Two systems of musical notation for piano accompaniment. Each system consists of a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first system has lyrics: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call an - swer me." The second system has lyrics: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me."

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

Two systems of musical notation for a vocal soloist. The key signature is one flat (Bb). The first system has lyrics: "Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a pres - ent far too small;" The second system has lyrics: "Love so a - maz - ing, so di - vine, de-mands my soul, my life, my all."

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*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 Pastor
Rev. Addie Stong, Associate Pastor

Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music
Chancel 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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O Lord, Hear My Prayer
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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: 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: Bill Leslie, Team leader; Bob Bertollette, 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

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



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.



Help provide treats for our Easter Service in the park!

We are requesting donations of breakfast-type baked goods to share after our 7am service in White's Road Park.

****Please bring your treats to the park on Easter morning, ready to serve!**

Thank You!

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**



2024 Lily Donation Form

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

From _____

Amount _____ Envelope # _____



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.



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!



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-job-openings>, 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 office@st-johns-ucc.org

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
Mar	26	Tue	6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Girl Scouts AA
Mar	27	Wed	5:00-6:45 pm 6:00 pm 6:45 pm 7:30 pm	Wednesday Night Live Community Meal, Assembly Hall NO Evening Worship NO Lenten Book Study Children's Music, Music Room United Ringers Handbell Ensemble, Sanctuary Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
Mar	28	Thu	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship, Assembly Hall An intimate, interactive worship experience around tables with Holy Communion & Handwashing
Mar	29	Fri	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Chess Good Friday Worship, Sanctuary A moving Tenebrae worship including a dramatic reading of the passion story
Mar	31	Sun	7:00 am 10:15 am 11:30 am	Easter Sunday Sunrise Worship, Holy Communion @ White's Road Park bandshell Egg hunt for children following worship NO Connect 3 Morning Worship, Holy Communion in St. John's Sanctuary Chancel choir, United Ringers & Festive Brass 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](https://www.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!

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.

4:00pm – *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