



Hope is...*ALIVE!*

Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024

10:15 am

Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

10:15 am—April 7, 2024—Second Sunday of Easter

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

PRELUDE: Meditation on “Lord of All Hopefulness”.....David Lasky

Today's prelude, offertory music, and postlude are variations by David Lasky on the hymn Lord of All Hopefulness.

You are invited to reflect on the below hymn stanza as each variation is played:

“Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy.

Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray, your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.”

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen indeed!

By the power of his resurrection, we have been born anew into a living hope.

We have been given a brand-new life, and a glorious future!

Christ is alive and through him, we are alive!

Hope is alive! Come let us worship!

*OPENING HYMN: The Day of Resurrection.....245

Stanza 2 may be sung in harmony.

*CONFESSION

God, we have walked with you through the events of Holy Week leading up to Christ's crucifixion, we have looked into the empty tomb, and we have celebrated Christ's triumph over death. It has only been a week, but standing on this side of the resurrection, we can already feel our renewed sense of life fading, our joy and excitement getting pushed aside, and our hopeful spirit being packed away with our Easter decorations. Forgive us, God, when we forget that Easter is not just one special day, and not even just one season of the church year, but a way of living and being in the world. Remind us of the hope that Christ's resurrection brings~ hope that is alive and among us and here to stay! Amen.

*ASSURANCE

Friends, the God whom we love and who loves us is one of grace, compassion, and hope—hope that transcends our mistakes and missteps, hope that forgives and sets free, hope that is alive and brings us to life, too. **May we accept these gifts with great thankfulness and share them with one another. Amen.**

*SUNG RESPONSE: Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!

Walk-ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
break-ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry: Je - sus our bless-ing, our con-stant sur - prise.
Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise. Give God the glo - ry! Al-le - lu - ia!

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:3-9

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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: In Christ Alone, My Hope Is Found.....Stuart Townend and Keith Getty, Arr. by Larry Shackley

SERMON: “Hope that Keeps (Us) Going”.....Rev. Addie Stong

***HYMN:** Let Us Hope when Hope Seems Hopeless.....461

JOYS & CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/SUNG RESPONSE: Now the Green Blade Rises

When our hearts are win-try, griev-ing, or in pain, Christ's warm touch can call us back to life a-gain,
 Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been: Love is come a - gain like wheat that ris-es green.

OFFERING & OFFERTORY MUSIC: Improvisation on “Lord of All Hopefulness”.....David Lasky

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:** Praise God, The Giver and The Gift

Praise God, the Gi - ver and the Gift. Hands, hearts, and voi - ces now up - lift:
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Praise, praise the Breath of glad sur - prise, free - ing our spir - its, op'n - ing eyes.
 Three in One - ness, love com - mun - ing,
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

COMMISSIONING OF THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Invitation

The Word: 1 Corinthians 12:4-12

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, ⁵ and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Response

There are different gifts.

But it is the same spirit who gives them.

Each one is given a gift by the Spirit.

To be used for the common good.

Address to the Committee Members

Sisters and Brothers, you have committed yourselves to a significant leadership task on behalf of the entire congregation. In recognition of the importance of your work, we pause to express our gratitude and to remind ourselves that you do not undertake this task alone; you will be guided by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, the prayerful support of the members of this church, and the assistance of the United Church of Christ through the Association and Conference.

Covenant by the Committee Members and Congregation

We, who are serving on the Search Committee for St. John's United Church of Christ, promise to perform faithfully the vital task of searching for a new pastor. We pledge, with God's guidance and your prayers, to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit in all we do, say, and decide. We will endeavor: to establish a harmonious working relationship within our committee; to maintain consistent attendance at our Search Committee meetings; to be open and patient listeners to each other and to the congregation; to listen carefully to your hopes and dreams; to maintain strict confidentiality in all we read, say, and hear—protecting both the privacy of each other and of potential candidates; to review all profiles with open minds and hearts, treating all candidates fairly and justly; to seek decisions not made by majority rule, but by the coming together of minds, hearts, and souls in a consensus that will build a firm foundation for the effective future mission and ministry of this church.

We pledge, as a gathered community of faith, to be patient with you and to respect your need to be confidential in your task. We recognize that the work of our search committee is a difficult assignment and will take much effort. We pray for you and offer our support and words of encouragement throughout this time. these things we promise in the hope and belief that you will be obedient to the guidance of the spirit as you seek a new pastor to minister with us.

Closing Prayer

***CLOSING HYMN:** Blessed Assurance.....473
The refrain may be sung in harmony.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: Paeon on “Lord Is All Hopefulness”.....David Lasky

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

Worship Leaders

Rev. Addie Stong, Associate Pastor
Liz Rivett, Liturgist
Abbie Lampe, Children’s Message
Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music

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April 7, 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, Peter Conver, Griff Francis, Stefanie Giampa, Carol Luehrs, Jenn Moyer, Matt Rivett

Elder of the Morning: Susan Fitzpatrick

CD Technician: Scott Cunningham

Chancel Flower Ministry:

Driver: Scott Vandenburg

Greeters: Mark & Grace Bruen, Judy Johnston

Chancel Flowers

In memory of Charles A. Pool, Jr.'s April 4th birthday from his family
 In memory of Martine Boorse's April 7th birthday from her husband, Richard
 In memory of Robert & Madge Chandler; Marvin, James, & Maryetta Moyer; and Benjamin, Betty, & Helen A. Hammel from the LaVerne Moyer family and the Carol & Ben Hammel family
 In memory of the Rev. Hugo C. Kellermeyer & Mrs. Josephine Kellermeyer from Lorene Ahrens and family



Effective May 1st, the cost to sponsor a chancel flower bouquet is \$40. Our florist has been able to provide lovely chancel flowers at the low price of \$35. However, due to steadily rising prices, they have found it necessary to increase prices across the board on everything. They will continue providing St. John's with the flower designs and dependable delivery we've come to expect.

If you have any questions, call the church office.

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 24, 2024	
Attendance: 10:15 am, March 24	149
Attendance: 4:00 pm, March 24, Artist Series Concert	207
Attendance: 7:00 pm, March 28, Maundy Thursday	31
Attendance: 7:00 pm, March 29, Good Friday	72
Offering For Current Income	\$24,738.50
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$821.50
A Look at the Week of March 31, 2024	
Attendance: 7:00 am, March 31, Sunrise Service	200
Attendance: 10:15 am, March 31, Easter Sunday	210
Attendance: 5:30 pm, April 3, Wednesday Night Live	21
Offering For Current Income	\$11,193.50
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$990.50

To give online through our secure platform, visit <https://app.easytith.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
Kay Peebles, Church Admin.	Leroy Horst, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor
	Bill Bergey, Custodian
	Mark Bruen, Council President.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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!



Soup Sale, Sunday April 14

Order ahead. Forms in the Narthex and Elevator Lobby

Choices are:

Chicken noodle with corn

Chicken noodle without corn

Ham and bean

Potato (by order only)



The Final Concert of the 2023-2024 Season

Latitude 39: East Meets West

Sunday, April 28, 2024. 4pm

Latitude 39 is a dynamic and innovative collaborative trio comprising world-class musicians: Diana Seitz - violin, Nick May - saxophone, and Maya Tuylieva - piano. Drawing inspiration from both Eastern and Western musical traditions, Latitude 39 transcends boundaries, fusing diverse musical influences into a harmonious tapestry of sound.



The April Women's Retreat will meet on **Saturday, April 13, at 9:30 am** in the church library. This month's program will feature Mary Burnell, a staff member of the Lansdale Montessori School. For thirty years the Lansdale Montessori School has shared St. John's classrooms and hallways. Have you ever wondered what makes a "Montessori" school? How can a community of 3-to-6-year-old children engage in independent learning and discovery, caring for their environment, themselves, and each other? Learn what makes Montessori special! Light refreshments will be served. All women are welcome!

Welcome New Office Manager!

Kay Peebles is the newest addition to the St. John's staff, now running the church office. She is an avid reader, loves science fiction, fantasy, and horror, and aspires to be an author in her own right. Her favorite things to do are watch action and horror movies, play Dead by Daylight, and be a Dungeon Master for her thrice weekly Dungeons & Dragons games! Kay has been a loyal member of the Light Brigade Color Guard from 2016-2023, competing internationally for 8 consecutive years.



On Sunday morning, Easter Sunrise Service, we came together with members from Trinity Lutheran Church and community friends to celebrate Christ's Resurrection. St. John's could not have done this without 'YOU'! No matter how small or large your part was in assisting to orchestrate this beautiful service, we Thank You! Grateful for your love and support.

-The Board of Educators

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

April	7	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am 11:30 am	Second Sunday of Easter Connect ³ , Activity Room Praying Hands Stitchers, Library Morning Worship, Sanctuary Fellowship, Assembly Hall Basket Raffle Team, Activity Room Elders, Library Stewardship, Assembly Hall
Apr	9	Tue	6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Girl Scouts, Activity Room AA, Assembly Hall
Apr	10	Wed	5:00-6:45 pm 6:00 pm 6:45 pm 7:30 pm	Wednesday Night Live Community Meal, Assembly Hall Evening Worship, Fireside Room Adult Education, Library Children's Music, Music Room NO United Ringers Handbell Ensemble, Sanctuary Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
Apr	12	Fri	6:00 pm	Chess, Assembly Hall
Apr	13	Sat	9:30am-11:30	Women's Retreat, Library
Apr	14	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am 11:30 am	Third Sunday of Easter Connect ³ , Activity Room Morning Worship, Sanctuary Lukens Baptism Fellowship, Assembly Hall New Member Interest Meeting, Library Soup Sale, Assembly Hall