



**Hope is...*ALIVE!***

**Fourth Sunday of Easter/Good Shepherd Sunday**

**April 21, 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 21, 2024—Fourth Sunday of Easter/Good Shepherd Sunday

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

PRELUDE: Sheep May Safely Graze (from Cantata 208).....J.S. Bach

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

God is the one who can bring rest and renewal to our souls!

**If we would but trust in God's care instead of fearing and fretting.**

The one who created the earth, stars, and the entire universe knows us and wants good for us.

**God has an eye on us, not to control us, but to lead us in things like justice and right relationships.**

Even when we experience dark passages in life, God is there, holding onto us, never letting go in both life and in death.

**And so we gather in the house of the Lord, to celebrate life, to know goodness and mercy; and to know we are loved and cherished beyond compare.**

\*OPENING HYMN: Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day.....241  
*Stanza 2 may be sung in harmony.*

### \*CONFESSION

Ever-present, ever-persistent God, you are always with us. And yet, we assume we are on our own, determined to make our way. We too easily forget that you lead and guide us. When we face hardship or distress, we assume you've left us, forgotten us, maybe even forsaken us. Maybe it is because trusting your presence is hard to do. We prefer hard evidence that you are near as opposed to living with child-like trust. Patient God, we ask that you not only restore our souls, but that you restore our trust in you. We ask that the table of goodness and mercy that you've set before us feed our faith. We pray that on life's journey, joy and peace may flow freely through our lives. God hear our prayer, Amen.

### \*ASSURANCE

Surely God's goodness and mercy follows us. It allows us to confess those times we've missed the mark and lost sight of what is good, true, and beautiful. The good news is that God restores our souls, our hearts, our very being. That is Good News! **Thanks be to God!**

### \*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: Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;

<sup>3</sup> he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.

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: A Celtic Prayer.....Barry Peters

*May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with you on the road.*

*May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out your hands to serve.*

*May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart open up your hearts to Love.*

*May you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet, and may everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you.*

*Amen*

*-Traditional Celtic Prayer*

SERMON: "Soul Restoration".....Rev. Dale Davis

Stanza 1: All

Stanza 2: All; May be sung in harmony.

Stanza 3: Higher Voices

Stanza 4: Lower Voices

Stanza 5: All

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

Two Hymns for Good Shephard Sunday: *Have No Fear Little Flock* with *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*  
 Setting by Mark Sedio

*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

*The hymn may be sung in harmony beginning at the text, "Blessed Jesus..."*

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Trumpet Voluntary.....William Rowan

**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, Liturgist

Chancel Choir  
Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music

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<p><i>Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!</i> Text: Herbert F. Brokering, © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, © 1969 Contemporary Worship I, admin. Augsburg Fortress.</p> <p><i>Now the Green Blade Rises</i> Text: John W. Crum, © 1928 Oxford University Press.</p> <p><i>Praise God, The Giver and The Gift</i> Text: Brian Wren, © 1989 Hope Publishing Company.</p>
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**April 21, 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 sermon can be found on Spotify under "St. John's UCC Lansdale Sermons".
- Today's worship audio available later online on St. John's Facebook Page, Website or YouTube:  
[youtube.com/stjohnsucclansdalepa](https://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:**

Mark Methlie, Jen Gilbert, Sarah Hogan, Bonnie & Walt Weber

**Elder of the Morning:**

Chriss Bodde

**CD Technician:**

David Douglass

**Chancel Flower Ministry:**

Karen & Mark Methlie

**Driver:**

Jo-Anne Sine

**Greeters:**

Lyn & Don Huntsinger, Joyce Huisenga

## Chancel Flowers

In memory of Betty Focht's April 24th birthday, from her family, Sally, Steve and Eric Jarinko



**May 19** will be Dale Davis' last Sunday at St. Johns as he is retiring. A retirement celebration is being planned during our normal Social and we are looking for volunteers to help make this a festive occasion. Dale has been with us for over a year and a half as our Interim Pastor and has led us with wonderful messages and inspirations.

Please contact Debby Hendricks (267) 664-5490 or email  
[dchendricks111@gmail.com](mailto:dchendricks111@gmail.com).

Weekly amount needed for Current Income 2024	\$7,884.62
Weekly amount needed for OCWM 2024	\$798.00
<b>A Look at the Week of April 7, 2024</b>	
Attendance: 10:15 am, April 7, Second Sunday of Easter	109
Attendance: 5:30 pm, April 10, Wednesday Night Live	33
Offering For Current Income	\$5,001.00
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$757.00
<b>A Look at the Week of April 14, 2024</b>	
Attendance: 10:15 am, April 14, Third Sunday of Easter	160
Attendance: 5:30 pm, April 17, Wednesday Night Live	29
Offering For Current Income	\$10,636.00
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$997.00

To give online through our secure platform, visit  
<https://app.easyithe.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](mailto:office@st-johns-ucc.org)

If you would like more information about St. John's please speak with one of the staff  
 or contact the office.

Rev. Dale Davis, M. Div., Interim Senior Pastor Andrew Paulson, M.M., M.A., Minister of Music Kay Peebles, Church Admin.	Rev. Adelaide L. Stong, M. Div., Associate Pastor Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children & Youth Leroy Horst, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor    Bill Bergey, Custodian Grace Marchione, Communications Coordinator    Mark Bruen, Council President.
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#### 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.

#### Communications Coordinator!

Grace Marchione is excited to step into the role of Communications Coordinator. Coming from a family of musicians and artists, she deeply values the role of creative expression in life and work. In her marketing and communications career, she's found particular joy and fulfillment working with local nonprofits. She looks forward to learning all there is to know about St. John's and helping to grow its presence in the community. Grace loves nature walks, cooking, yoga, knitting and crochet, and thrift and antique shopping.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



**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.



**CHILI DINNER NIGHT!**  
**May 1, 2024**

Come to Wednesday Night Live to enjoy a tasty meal in fellowship with others! You may want to try our service, adult education class and if you have children... drop in to observe and participate in our family choir time!

**Come out and enjoy a time of fellowship!**



**VOLUNTEER DAY!**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024**

Looking for volunteers to assist in preparing the garden for planting during Earth Day Week! Our work helps provide organic, gluten free produce for food banks in Bucks and Montgomery Counties!

Garden of Health  
500 Fairgrounds Ave  
Hatfield, PA 19440

Please see Don Atkiss for any questions.  
datkiss@comcast.net



## **Basket Raffle Is Back!**

We're happy to announce the Basket Raffle is on for 2024! Individuals, families, and church groups are encouraged to donate a "themed basket" to be raffled off at the Church Picnic on June 9th. Signup sheets are in the Narthex and the Elevator Lobby.

Each basket should be wrapped in clear cellophane with a sign attached identifying the theme and contents.

The baskets will be displayed at church on Sundays from May 12 through June 2, at Lansdale Day on June 1, and at the Church Picnic on June 9.

### Dates to Remember:

April 28

Commitment to a basket theme due

May 5-10

Completed Baskets due at the church

May 12

Ticket Sales begin!

June 9

Church Picnic & Basket Drawing!

If you have questions, please contact Judy Johnston at (215) 896-9381 or twostitches@comcast.net

## 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](mailto:office@st-johns-ucc.org)

April	21	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am 11:30 am 12:00 pm	<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> Connect <sup>3</sup> , Activity Room Morning Worship, Sanctuary Fellowship, Assembly Hall <b>Council Retreat</b> , Debra Dayton's House
Apr	23	Tue	12:30 pm 7:00 pm	Girl Scouts, Activity Room AA, Assembly Hall
Apr	24	Wed	5:00-6:45 pm  6:00 pm  6:45 pm 7:30 pm	<b>Wednesday Night Live</b> Community Meal, Assembly Hall Evening Worship, Fireside Room Adult Education, Library Children's Music, Music Room United Ringers Handbell Ensemble, Sanctuary Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
Apr	26	Fri	6:00 pm	Chess, Assembly Hall
Apr	28	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am 11:30 am 4:00 pm	<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b> Connect <sup>3</sup> , Activity Room Morning Worship, Sanctuary Fellowship, Assembly Hall <b>Artist Series Concert</b> Latitude 39: East Meets West




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**Reusable Grocery Bags** will be distributed by the Creation Stewards at Church on Sunday, April 28. We encourage you to use these bags, and other reusable bags instead of using plastic bags, which are terrible for our health, and the health of our environment. We will take a Free Will offering to help offset the cost of the bags.

If you can donate, just make out a check to St. John's and write "Reusable bags" in the memo line.

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