



Hope is...*ALIVE!*

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 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 28, 2024—Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

PRELUDE: Halleluja.....236

Today's prelude time is used to learn the opening hymn, Halleluja.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*GATHERING PRAYER

We gather here, O Lord, for you, the vine, to nourish us. May we, the branches, draw our strength from you, and grow in harmony, unity, and love. May we find nourishment through our rootedness in the life, teachings, and love of the risen Christ. Receive the fruits of our worship and be glorified, O God! Amen.

*OPENING HYMN: Halleluja.....236

The hymn is repeated until directed to end.

*CONFESSION

Gracious God,

we come to you aware of our failings and conscious that we have tried to live in our own strength.

Forgive us and reconnect us to your vine of love.

We have resisted the challenge of change and not trusted your truth.

Forgive us and reconnect us to your vine of compassion.

We have rooted ourselves in our own needs and desires not in your word and will.

Forgive us and reconnect us to your vine of truth.

We have looked for quick fixes and not kingdom-shaped growth.

Forgive us and reconnect us to your vine of mercy.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

*ASSURANCE

God is a gardener, growing and tending vines of love, compassion, truth, and mercy. When we remain connected to the vine through worship, prayer, and the confession of our sins, we are forgiven and pruned of all that holds us back from growing and bearing fruit! **Thanks be to God! 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: John 15:1-8

15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower.

² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.

³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be 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: Jesus Is the Answer for You.....Paul J. Rauscher, arr. Alan Malachowski
Jesus Is the Answer is an original composition written by Paul J. Rauscher in 1976 for his family gospel singing group, *The Rauscher Family*. Paul was Alan Malachowski’s uncle. Today’s anthem is dedicated to the memory of Paul and his wife, Ellen. The postlude was written for and is dedicated to Andrew Paulson.

Refrain:

*Jesus is the answer for your sin-sick soul. Jesus is the answer to heal and make you whole.
Something very good happens when you trust in him. You’ll have peace divine and joy sublime.
Jesus is the answer for you.*

*Have you a heart that’s broken? Have you a heart that’s filled with pain?
Do you fret about tomorrow and feel like everything’s in vain.*

Refrain

*Are you sad and lonely? Are you weary and blue?
Do you feel that life is empty? Then I have good news for you.*

Refrain

SERMON: “Abide or Die”Rev. Addie Stong

*HYMN: Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song.....270

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

Abide With Me.....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: 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

*CLOSING HYMN: For the Fruit of All Creation.....425

Stanza 1 may be sung in harmony.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Fantasy on “Jesus Is the Answer for You”Setting by Alan Malachowski

Following worship, you are invited to join us for fellowship in Assembly Hall. You are invited to return at 4pm for Latitude 39, the final concert of the 2023-2024 Artist Series season! You can learn more about the concert in the announcements section.

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dale Davis, Interim Senior Pastor
Rev. Addie Stong, Associate Pastor

Chancel Choir
Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music

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Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, © 1969 Contemporary Worship I, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Now the Green Blade Rises

Text: John W. Crum, © 1928 Oxford University Press.

Praise God, The Giver and The Gift

Text: Brian Wren, © 1989 Hope Publishing Company.

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** following the service, search
"St. John's UCC Lansdale Sermons"
- Today's worship audio will be available later online on St. John's Facebook Page, Website or YouTube:
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:

Grace and Mark Bruen, Mary Billy, Anne Haines,
Gerry Linderman, Rickie Lee Sands, Ginny Wilkinson

Elder of the Morning:

Sally Atkiss

CD Technician:

Robin MacMullen

Chancel Flower Ministry:

Bonnie & Ken Hales

Driver:

Scott Vandenburg

Greeters:

Betty Elliott & Judy Koenig

Chancel Flowers

In loving memory of Charles W. Lutter's April 29th birthday from his 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 April 14, 2024	
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
A Look at the Week of April 21, 2024	
Attendance: 10:15 am, April 21, Fourth Sunday of Easter	105
Attendance: 5:30 pm, April 24, Wednesday Night Live	42
Offering For Current Income	\$3,173.00
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$450.00

To give online through our secure platform, visit
<https://app.easytith.com/app/giving/stjohnsucc>
[hnsucc](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 contact the office.

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



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

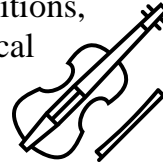


ST. JOHN'S *Artist Series*

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.



Wednesday Night Live

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!



Praying Hands STITCHERS

will be celebrating our 20th anniversary with a **Prayer Shawl Sunday** May 5th at 10:15 am Worship Service.

Please join us during worship to celebrate this meaningful outreach ministry at St. John's!

Prayer Shawls will be distributed downstairs during fellowship time.

Anyone is welcome to select a prayer shawl for themselves or to take to a friend, an acquaintance, or a family member.

Women's Retreat

When: 9:30 am on May 11, 2024
Where: St. John's Church Library
Presenter: Rev. Addie Stong

Light refreshments will be served. All women are welcome!

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

Apr	28	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am 11:30 am 4:00 pm	Fifth Sunday of Easter Connect ³ , Activity Room Morning Worship, Sanctuary Fellowship, Assembly Hall <u>Artist Series Concert</u> Latitude 39: East Meets West
Apr	30	Tue	7:00 pm	AA, Assembly Hall
May	1	Wed	5:00-6:45 pm 6:00 pm 6:45 pm 7:30 pm	Wednesday Night Live Chili Night! Community Meal, Assembly Hall Evening Worship, Fireside Room Adult Education, Library Children's Music, Music Room United Ringers Handbell Ensemble, Sanctuary Chancel Choir, Music Room
May	3	Fri	6:00 pm	Chess, Assembly Hall
May	5	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am 11:30 am	Sixth Sunday of Easter <u>Praying Hands Stitches 20th Anniversary!</u> Connect ³ , Activity Room Morning Worship, Sanctuary Prayer Shawl Display, Assembly Hall Stewardship, Library



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.

