



"Road to Emmaus" by He Qi

Hope is...*ALIVE!*

Third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 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 14, 2024—Third Sunday of Easter

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

PRELUDE: When Our Song Says Peace.....Setting by Keith Kolander

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The risen Christ is here among us!

Easter is all about the renewal of hope and the renewal of community.

Christ's presence is constant; Christ's power is neither precarious nor capricious.

The power of love is the song of Easter! Christ's love is for us and for the entire world!

Let us bring all that is within us, heart, mind, soul and strength to our worship.

We bring all these things to worship along with our hope for transformed lives and for a world made whole!

*OPENING HYMN: Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain.....230

Stanza 1: All

Stanza 2: Higher Voices

Stanza 3: Lower Voices

Stanza 4: All

*CONFESSION

Great and gracious God, the risen Christ can take us by surprise. We often forget that Jesus comes along side us in the most ordinary of moments. Jesus comes as a stranger and sojourner and we are prone to simply ignore or brush aside his presence. Forgive us, God, for the times you were close by and we chose spiritual blindness when you were waiting to be invited into our lives. We pray, loving God, that you would open our eyes in such a way that we would experience the beauty, grace, and gifts of others. Slow us down, God, and allow us to savor the kindness, experience, and wisdom those around us can give. Relieve our anxious hearts and fill them with expectation and curiosity. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Christ, the one whose presence is forever. Amen.

*ASSURANCE

When we confess our selfishness and shortsightedness, God listens, understands, and offers us a path back to God and to our true selves. We begin again, with confidence, forgiveness, and grace. That is Good News! **Thanks be to God!** Amen.

*SUNG RESPONSE: Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Everest Belle Lukens
daughter of Diana and Patrick Lukens

The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. In as much as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

Diana and Patrick, do you desire to have your child baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ? If so, say: "We do."

And will you teach this child that she may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? If so, say "We will with the help of God."

Will you, Godparents Marisa and Nick, support Diana and Patrick in this commitment and become a faith partner to Evie?
If so, say "We will."

Let us join together as the people of St. John's and members of the body of Christ to make our promise as we welcome and embrace this beloved one...

As members of Christ's church, we promise this child our love, support, and care. With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into Christ's church to share with us in ministry, for we are all one in Christ.

POURING OF THE WATER

BAPTISM PRAYER

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation made known to us in water and word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life. In the time of Moses, your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land. In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus Christ, who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb. Jesus was baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well, washed the feet of the disciples, and sent them forth to baptize with water and the Holy Spirit. Bless, by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. Bless this child, and bless all witness this sacred occasion. Amen.

ACT OF BAPTISM

BAPTISMAL ANTHEM: For the Beauty of the Earth.....F.S. Pierpoint
Sung by Diana Lukens

Scripture: Luke 24:13-35

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹ He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." ²⁵ Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGEAbbie Lampe

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: You Do Not Walk Alone.....Elaine Hagenberg

*May you see God's light on the path ahead when the road you walk is dark.
May you always hear even in your hour of sorrow, the gentle singing of the lark.
When times are hard may hardness never turn your heart to stone.
May you always remember when the shadows fall-
You do not walk alone.*

-Traditional Irish Blessing

SERMON: "Eye Opener"Rev. Dale Davis

***HYMN:** Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You.....510
Stanzas 2 and 3 may be sung in harmony.

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: Canzon Quarta.....Giovanni Gabrieli
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:** This is the Day

The choir sings the text in italics. All sing the text in bold. The hymn is sung twice.

This is the day, **this is the day** that the Lord has made, **that the Lord has made;**
we will re-joyce, **we will re-joyce** and be glad in it, **and be glad in it.**
This is the day that the Lord has made; *we will re-joyce* and be glad in it.
This is the day, **this is the day** that the Lord has made.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Fugue No. 2 (from St. John's Mass).....Davis Giersch

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

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dale Davis, Interim Senior Pastor
Ken Hales, Liturgist
Abbie Lampe, Children's Message

Chancel Choir
Alan Malachowski, Guest Chancel Choir Director
David Furniss, Guest Organist

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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> <p><i>This is the Day</i> Music: Les Garrett, © 1967, 1980 Scripture in Song, a division of Integrity Music, Inc.</p>

April 14, 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 YouTube Channel:
youtube.com/stjohnsucclandsdalepa
- 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, Bob Bertolette, Margie Jewell, Gale Linderman, Rick O'Connor, Scott Vanderburg

Elder of the Morning: Emilie Truscott

CD Technician: Matt Rivett

Chancel Flower Ministry: Sally & Steve Jarinko

Driver: Gale Linderman

Greeters: Sally Atkiss, Emilie Truscott, & Marcia Stacey

Chancel Flowers

In memory of Mary C. Fritz's April 16th birthday from her family
 In honor of the April 16th Wedding Anniversary of Dr & Mrs. Willard from Dee Reedman & Family
 In memory of Marvin Roshong's April 17th birthday from his wife, Jean & 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 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
A Look at the Week of April 7, 2024	
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

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

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
 Grace Marchione, Communications Coordinator 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

Sundav. 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.



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.

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

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
Apr	15	Mon	7:00 pm	Council Meeting, Zoom
Apr	16	Tues	7:00 pm	AA, Assembly Hall
Apr	17	Wed	5:00-6:45 pm 6:00 pm 6:45 pm 7:30 pm	Wednesday Night Live Community Meal, Assembly Hall Family Worship, Fireside Room Adult Education, Library Children's Music, Music Room NO United Ringers Handbell Ensemble, Sanctuary Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
Apr	18	Thurs	1:00 pm	Stampers, Activity Room
Apr	19	Fri	6:00 pm	Chess, Assembly Hall
Apr	21	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am 11:30 am 12:00 pm	Fourth Sunday of Easter Connect ³ , Activity Room Morning Worship, Sanctuary Fellowship, Assembly Hall Council Retreat, Debra Dayton's House