



Today's worship service includes recognition and celebration of the 20th anniversary of the ministry and outreach of St. John's Praying Hands Stitches!

Hope is...*ALIVE!*

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

10:15 am

Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

10:15 am—May 5, 2024—Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

PRELUDE: Spirit of Love.....Setting by Emma Lou Diemer

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather today to worship the one who created us and wove us together into community...

The one who calls us to be the body of Christ,

The one who equips us to do the work of the gospel,

The one whose love for us teaches us how to love others.

With joyful, open hearts, let us worship God.

*OPENING HYMN: I Come with Joy.....349

*CONFESSION

God, you have knit us together to be the body of Christ: to be connected, to care for one another, to use our different gifts to live out the truth and call of our faith. So often, however, instead of working to weave the tapestry of community, we follow our own threads of selfishness and pride. Instead of trusting in your care, we think we can do it alone. Instead of caring for others, we think only of ourselves. Forgive us, God, and make us more prayerful and thoughtful members of the body of Christ. Remind us, especially at times and in places where relationships have frayed, that we are bound to one another and to you with love, honor, and hope. Amen.

*ASSURANCE

When we dare to confess our sins and ask for God's healing and wholeness as individuals and as a community, we are offered an abundance of mercy and grace. God mends all of the tears and frayed edges of our lives and our life together. **We are a forgiven people, the body of Christ, bound together in love. 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: Romans 12

¹² I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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: Ubi Caritas.....Maurice Duruflé
(Sung in Latin)

Where charity and love are, God is there.
Christ's love has gathered us into one.
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
And may we love each other with a sincere heart.
Amen.

SERMON: "Stitched Together".....Rev. Addie Stong

HYMN: Spirit of Love.....58

The hymn will be sung as part of the sermon. You will be instructed when to sing each stanza.

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: Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether.....Setting by Benjamin Culli

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:** Called as Partners in Christ's Service.....495

Stanzas 2 and 3 may be sung in harmony.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: Called as Partners in Christ's Service.....Setting by Charles Callahan

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

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.

May 5, 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](https://www.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, Griff Francis,
Stefanie Giampa, Carol Luehrs, Jenn Moyer, Matt Rivett

Elder of the Morning:

Anne Kinsey

CD Technician:

Scott Cunningham

Chancel Flower Ministry:

Judy & Bill Zoll

Driver:

Gale Linderman

Greeters:

Praying Hands Stitchers & Judy Johnston

Chancel Flowers

In memory of George & Dorothy Knipe, John & Diane Skibbe, and Wendy Hunt from Phil Hunt,
John Skibbe III, and Donavan Thomas
In memory of Mary Franks from Suzanne Franks



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 21, 2024	
Attendance: 10:15 am, April 21, Fourth Sunday of Easter	105
Attendance: 5:30 pm, April 24, Wednesday Night Live	21
Offering For Current Income	\$3,173.00
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$450.00
A Look at the Week of April 28, 2024	
Attendance: 10:15 am, April 28, Fifth Sunday of Easter	140
Attendance: 5:30 pm, May 1, Wednesday Night Live	20
Offering For Current Income	\$4,448.00
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$250.00

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 contact the office.

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



Shawl
Ministry

Praying Hands
STITCHERS



are celebrating our 20th anniversary
with a **Prayer Shawl Sunday TODAY!**

We are glad you are here to join us for 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.

thank you

We want to express our sincere thanks to John Hendricks for his ten years as St. John's Website & Social Media Administrator. From sharing cherished memories in our Facebook group, to making our service recordings accessible through the pandemic and beyond, to keeping us connected to Rev. Sue in her final years with us, John's contributions cannot be overstated. His work to keep us informed, connected, and delighted by memories of the past will continue in his new role maintaining our church archives. He'll also continue capturing the wonderful photos we enjoy so much. When you see John, be sure to thank him for all he's done for our church community.

Have questions or comments about the church website or social media? Please contact Grace Marchione, Communications Coordinator, at communications@st-johns-ucc.org.

**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!

Basket Raffle Is Back!

If you signed up to donate a basket for the raffle, please bring your completed basket to the church by May 10.

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

The baskets will be displayed in the Fireside room 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:

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

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 Stewardship, Library
May	6	Mon	10:00 am	Book Club, Library
May	7	Tue	7:00 pm	AA, Assembly Hall NAMI, Library
May	8	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 United Ringers Handbell Ensemble, Sanctuary Chancel Choir, Music Room
May	9	Thurs	1:00 pm	Stampers, Activity Room
May	10	Fri	6:00 pm	Chess, Assembly Hall
May	11	Sat	9:30 am	Women's Retreat, Library
May	12	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am 11:30 am	Seventh Sunday of Easter <u>New Member Sunday</u> Enlightener Due Date Connect ³ , Activity Room Morning Worship, Sanctuary Elders, Library