



Nicodemus Visiting Jesus, by Henry Ossawa Tanner

Mysterious Encounter

Trinity Sunday

May 26, 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 26, 2024—Trinity Sunday

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

PRELUDE

Trio.....Johann Ludwig Krebs

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We stand in awe of the mystery of the triune God.

Three in oneness, love communing.

Let us praise God the Creator,

who is filled with glory and power—with holiness and splendor;

Let us follow God the Savior,

who is filled with love and compassion—with justice and peace;

Let us experience God the Spirit,

who fills us with faith and joy—with love and eternal life.

Come, let us wonder and worship!

*OPENING HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy.....277

Stanzas 2 and 3 may be sung in harmony.

*CONFESSION

Merciful and mighty God, in our most honest moments, we come, just as Nicodemus did, with questions on our hearts. We come hoping for answers, for healing, for forgiveness, for assurance. We come longing for transformation. And yet, we confess that in the busyness of our day to day lives, we don't actually want to change or be healed. We are hardened with doubts about self, others, and even you. We prioritize comfort over curiosity. Forgive us, God, and grant us openness of ear, heart, mind, and spirit, that our whole selves might receive your love and be changed by it. In Christ's Name, we pray. AMEN.

*ASSURANCE

When we dare to come before God, we are met with grace, compassion, and mercy. You are forgiven, loved, and set free from all that holds you back from abundant life in the light of Christ. **Thanks be to God! Amen!**

*SUNG RESPONSE

I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and free,
The life of Je - sus to re-call, in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.

Scripture:
Psalm 29

¹ Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
² **Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;
worship the LORD in holy splendor.**

³ The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over mighty waters.
⁴ **The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
⁶ **He makes Lebanon skip like a calf
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

⁷ The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.
⁸ **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹ The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl
and strips the forest bare,
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"
¹⁰ **The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.**

¹¹ May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Focus Scripture
John 3:1-17

³ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹ "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

Holy, Holy, Holy.....Arranged by Lloyd Larson

SERMON

“True Transformation”Rev. Addie Stong

*HYMN

Bring Many Names.....II

Stanzas 1-3: All; Stanzas 4-5: Organ; Stanza 6: All

JOYS & CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SUNG RESPONSE

Grant us wis - dom to per - ceive you, hearts a - wak - ened to re - ceive you,
minds a - lert to thoughts that grieve you, God of mer - cy, hear us.

OFFERING & OFFERTORY MUSIC

O Trinity, O Blessed Light.....Setting by Robert Buckley Farlee
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 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

Creator God, Creating Still.....278
Stanza 2 may be sung in harmony.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata Brevis.....Daniel E. Gawthrop

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

Worship Leaders

Rev. Addie Stong, Acting Lead Pastor
Rev. Tom Adil, Bridge Support Pastor
Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music

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I Come with Joy
Text: Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1982, 1994, © 1971, Hope Publishing Company
Music: DOVE OF PEACE, Southern Harmony, 1835, arr. Austin Lovelace, 1977, © 1977 Hope Publishing Company
Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You
Text: Rae Whitney, 1991; rev. 1994, © 1994, Selah Publishing Co., Inc.
Praise God, the Giver and the Gift
Text: Brian Wren, 1989, © 1989, Hope Publishing Company

May 26, 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 & Mark Bruen, Mary Billy, Anne Haines,
Gerry Linderman, Rickie Lee Sands, Ginny Wilkinson

Elder of the Morning:

Bill Cagney

CD Technician:

David Douglass

Chancel Flower Ministry:

Peter Conver

Driver:

Gale Lindenman

Greeters:

N/A

Chancel Flowers

🌻 In memory of Michelle Lee Snyder on her 36th birthday, May 29. Love, Mom, Dad, Jim, Jackie, James and the boys

🌻 In memory of June Hendricks' June 1st birthday from her nephew, John, and Susan Hendricks

🌻 In memory of Scott Harmon from dear friend Barbara Kirk (date of death May 29)

Weekly amount needed for Current Income 2024	\$7,884.62
Weekly amount needed for OCWM 2024	\$798.00
A Look at the Week of May 12, 2024	
Attendance: 10:15 am, May 12, Seventh Sunday of Easter	142
Attendance: 5:30 pm, May 15, Wednesday Night Live	16
Offering For Current Income	\$4,594.00
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$855.00
A Look at the Week of May 19, 2024	
Attendance: 10:15 am, May 19, Pentecost	171
Offering For Current Income	\$9,910.50
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$717.50

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 contact the office.

Rev. Adelaide L. Stong, M. Div., Acting Lead Pastor	Rev. Tom Adil, M.Div, LPC, Bridge Support Pastor
Andrew Paulson, M.M., M.A., Minister of Music	Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children & Youth
Kay Peebles, Church Administrator	Grace Marchione, Communications Coordinator
Leroy Horst, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor	Bill Bergey, Custodian Mark Bruen, Council President.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Volunteers Needed!

There is a stained glass window tour scheduled for June 8 from 10-4 as part of a Norristown Garden Club garden tour. We need volunteer tour guides. All information is written out for the guides. Come help and learn about our beautiful windows.

An interest meeting will be held at 11:45 am after this morning's service.

Contact **Margie Jewell** (215-272-1599)



VFW Post 32 in Lansdale will be retiring American Flags that are done their useful life. There is a kitchen size trash can in the church library. Please put yours there. Rickie Sands will be taking them to the Post for proper disposal with ceremony and burning to be done on June 14, Flag Day.



Come my children and hear my stories about faith as you become a "Sea Explorer" during our Carry-Out Connections VBS Program. Hear my stories about The Creation, Noah and the Flood, Jonah and the Whale, Fishers of Men, Peter Walks on Water and Jesus Calms the Storms.

Please stop by our table in the Narthex on **Sunday June 2nd, 2024** to pick up your bag to start on your journey.

Bags will be available during the week in the church office for pick up. Hope to see you and your family on **June 26, 2024 at 7:00pm** for our in-person gathering outside next to the labyrinth.



The **Praying Hands Stitchers** will meet at a new time on June 2! Join us from 8:30 am to 9:15am!



Buy your Tickets now!!

The Basket Raffle is on! Baskets are displayed in the Fireside room on Sundays from May 12 through June 2, and will be at Lansdale Day on June 1 and at the Church Picnic on June 9.

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

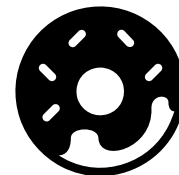
Women's Retreat

When: 10 am to Noon on June 15, 2024

Where: St. John's Church Library

There is no presenter this month as the focus will be discussing programs for the coming year, which begins on September 14. Anyone who would like to contribute a goodie, and has not already signed up, please call or text Sally Jarinko by June 12.

All women are welcome!



Cliff Kneipp is planning his annual YumYum Donut treat for Sunday, **June 2nd**, following worship!!

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	26	Sun	10:15 am 11:45 am	Trinity Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary Stained Glass Tour Interest Meeting, Library
May	28	Tue	6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Girl Scouts, Activity Room AA, Assembly Hall
May	31	Fri	7:00 pm 6:00 pm	Girl Scouts Moving Up Ceremony Chess, Assembly Hall
June	2	Sun	8:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 am	Second Sunday after Pentecost Praying Hands Stitchers, Library Sunday Morning Worship YumYum Donuts from Cliff, Fellowship



Welcome Pastor Tom Adil!

To introduce myself I'll share that probably the most important thing about me is that I am married (38 years this month) to a Spiritual Director/Minister of Christian Spirituality in the UCC! I am also the proud father of a grown daughter who resides near Pittsburgh. In December, I recently ended an almost 30-year career at Reading Hospital where I held various jobs, including the Director of Adolescent Services in the Department of Psychiatry and the Director of the Department of Spiritual Care. All the while I have served part time as an Interim Pastor in around 20 UCC churches in the area. As a Christian and as a Pastor, I have learned how increasingly important it has become to be more comfortable with managing the demands of change. Seeing how Jesus favored the under-privileged, for us in the UCC this often means (as a predominantly white denomination) being more comfortable with being uncomfortable. It also means being more in tune with and dependent on the Spirit, which is alternately (as Pastor Dale said this week in his sermon) amazing, exciting, and terrifying! I look forward to meeting and interacting more with you all -- the wonderful people of St. John's in Lansdale as we work together to serve others in the community in the name of our Lord!

Warm Regards, *Pastor Tom*