



First Sunday After Christmas

December 29, 2024

10:15 am

Welcome to St. John's UCC Lansdale!

Visitors, please complete the ivory visitor's card found in the pew pocket so we can thank you for joining us this Sunday!



Completed cards go in the basket by the narthex.

The **Book of Joys & Concerns** is a green binder on the podium at the front of the chancel. If you have an Announcement, Joy or Concern you'd like stated, celebrated or prayed about during the service, feel free to write inside before service begins!

Hymnals are on the back of the pew in front of you.

Bibles are on a shelf beneath the pew in front of you.



For **The Children's Message**, youth are invited to sit up front on the chancel steps for a direct and intentional age-appropriate message.



After the Children's Message, children will be dismissed and escorted downstairs for our youth programming; **Connect 3**. Connect 3 is aimed at ages 3 through 12, but all youth are welcome!

Hearing Aids are available if you are having trouble hearing the service.

Please ask a Hospitality Team Member.



Wheelchairs & First Aid Kit are stored in the labeled "First Aid Closet" in the narthex.



AED (Defibrillator) is in the church library on the wall closest to the Sanctuary by the window. When entering from the Sanctuary, turn left.

Audio Recordings of service can be found online on St. John's Facebook Page, Website, or YouTube. Sermons are available on Spotify; "St John's UCC Lansdale Sermons".

If you would like a physical copy, contact the church office.

The Nursery will be open for you to use mindfully. No volunteers will be on duty.

A parent, grandparent, or responsible adult **must** stay with their child.



Worship Leaders

Pastor Tom Adil, Acting Lead Bridge Pastor

Rev Dr Hilary Barrett, Bridge Support Pastor

Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music

Copyright Acknowledgments

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Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

10:15 am—December 29, 2024—First Sunday After Christmas

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

PRELUDE

Pifa "Pastoral Symphony" from Messiah.....G.F. Handel

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Glory to God in the highest!

And hope to every discouraged heart.

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to every conflicted soul.

Glory to God in the highest!

And joy to every downcast spirit.

Glory to God in the highest!

And love to everyone.

Let us sing praises to our God.

Let us offer this light against the darkness.

*OPENING HYMN

Angels, from the Realms of Glory.....Hymn 126

Stanza 1: All

Stanza 3: Lower Voices

Stanza 2: Higher Voices

Stanza 4: All

*CALL TO CONFESSION

It is in our confession that we realize our desire for God and our hope for God's mercy.

It is in admitting the truth of our lives that we take the first step toward wholeness and healing.

Let us go to God in prayer:

*CONFESSION

Merciful God, we would like to be among those who dropped everything to welcome the coming of God's love into this world.

But sometimes we are more like Herod.

Whenever we find our own need for control more compelling.

than the needs of others for health and safety.

Forgive us, Lord.

Whenever we cling to the security of our privilege, rather than standing up for the rights of the oppressed.

Have mercy on us.

Whenever we are complicit in the harming of innocents for the sake of profit, or power.

Change us, O God.

*ASSURANCE

God's light is present in this world.

Present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness.

Present in the star, in all that guides us to love.

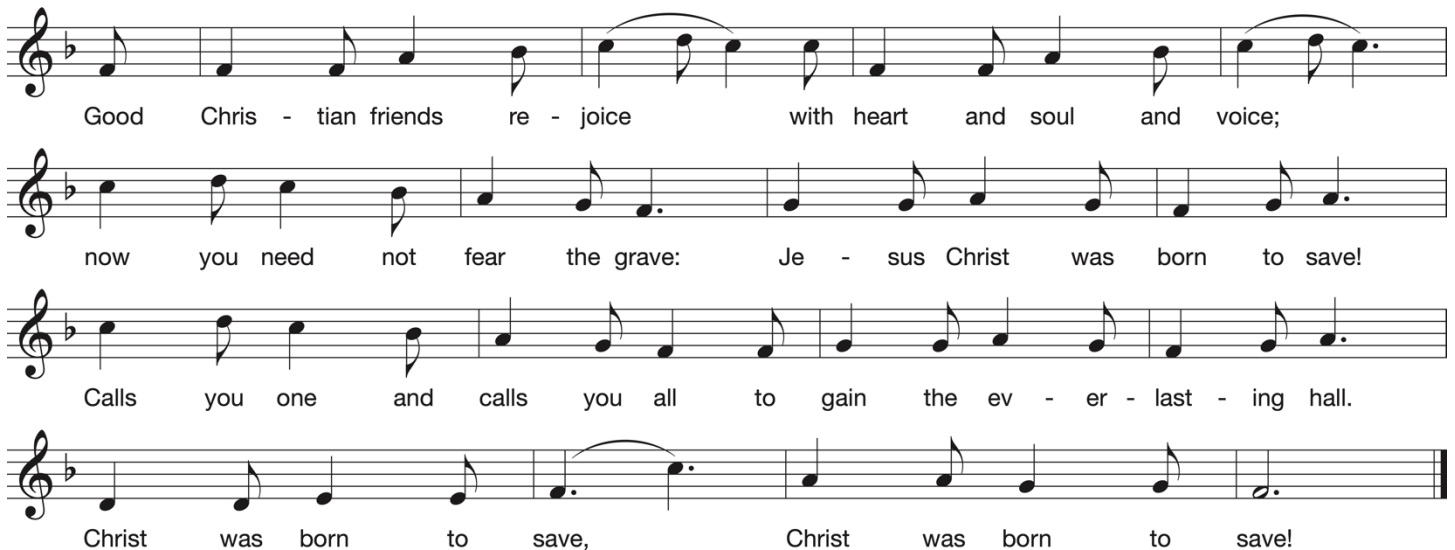
God's light is in the world, and the darkness did not overcome it.

God's grace is in the world, and our missteps will not overcome it.

We are loved. We are forgiven.

Alleluia! Amen.

*SUNG RESPONSE



Good Chris - tian friends re - jice with heart and soul and voice;
now you need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.
Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:13-23

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

“A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

THE 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

Personent Hodie (On This Day Earth Shall Ring) with *Deck the Halls* and *Coventry Carol*
Setting by Hiram Titus

SERMON

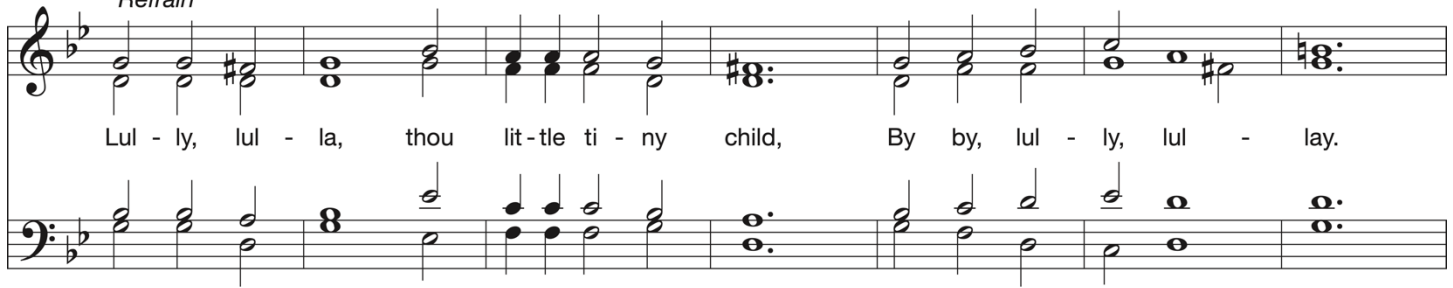
“A Voice is Heard in Ramah”Rev. Dr. Hilary Barrett

*HYMN

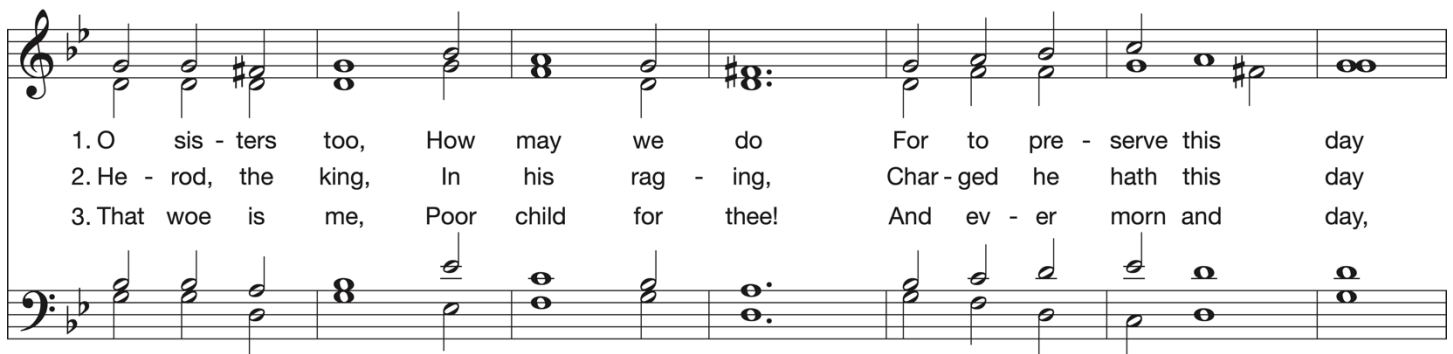
Coventry Carol

The refrain is sung first, followed by the stanzas. After the final stanza, the refrain is sung again.

Refrain



Lul - ly, lul - la, thou lit - tle ti - ny child, By by, lul - ly, lul - lay.

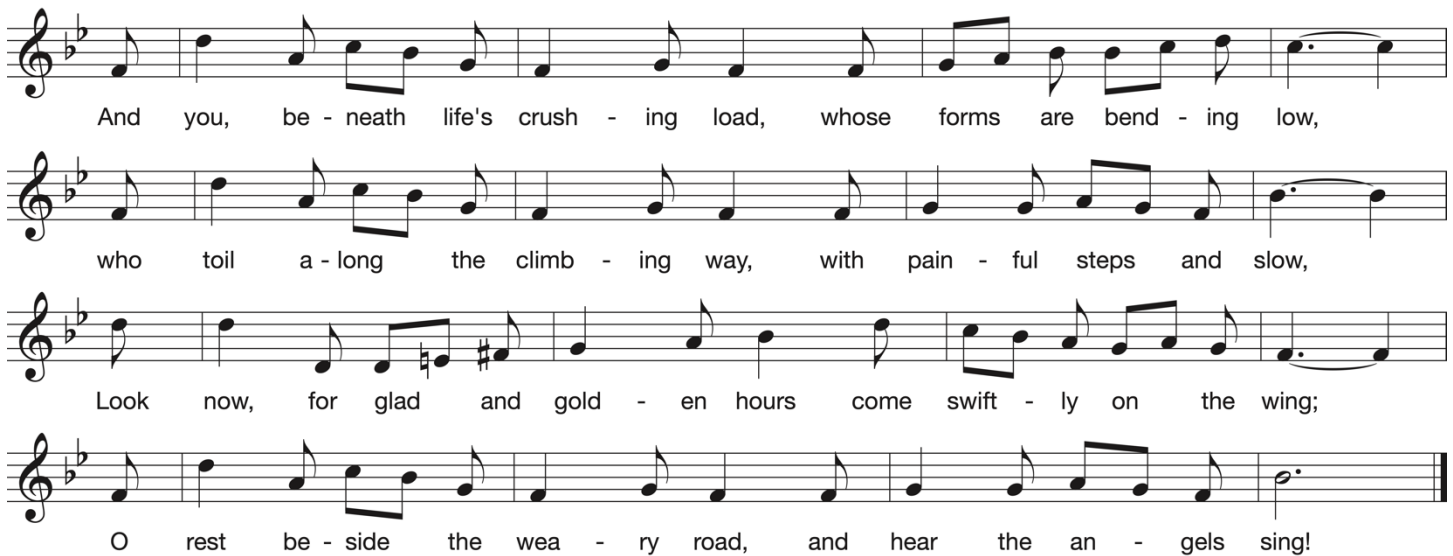


1. O sis - ters too, How may we do For to pre - serve this day
 2. He - rod, the king, In his rag - ing, Char - ged he hath this day
 3. That woe is me, Poor child for thee! And ev - er morn and day,



This poor young - ling, For whom we do sing, By by, lul - ly lul - lay?
 His men of might, In his own sight, All young child - ren to slay.
 For thy part - ing Nei - ther say nor sing By by, lul - ly lul - lay!

JOYS & CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/SUNG RESPONSE



And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way, with pain - ful steps and slow,
 Look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
 O rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing!

OFFERING & OFFERTORY MUSIC

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord.....Setting by Aaron David Miller

Offering plates will be passed to the congregation in the pews during Your Little Ones, Dear Lord.

You may also donate by scanning the QR code found in the bulletin and on laminated cards in the pews.

*SUNG RESPONSE

So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.

The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him,

Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION

**Let the love that shaped earth and heaven
dwell within us this Christmas.**

**Let the love that created humanity
dwell within us this Christmas.**

**Let the love that overcomes suffering and hatred
dwell within us this Christmas.**

**Let the love that causes us to rejoice with loved ones
dwell within us this Christmas.**

**Let the love that forgives and renews
dwell within us this Christmas.**

**Let the love that brings reconciliation after separation
dwell within us this Christmas.**

**Let the love that brings the blessing of peace
dwell within us this Christmas.**

**And may we share that peace
with all people near and far.**

Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain.....Hymn 154

The stanzas may be sung in harmony.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child.....Setting by Richard Hudson

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

Worship Assistants

Hospitality:

Robin MacMullen, Peter Conner,
Griff Francis, Stefanie Giampa, Carol Luehrs,
Jenn Moyer, Matt Rivett

Elder of the Morning:

Chriss Bodde

Deacon of the Morning:

Sumiko Booraem

Audio Technician:

Robin MacMullen

Chancel Flower Ministry:

Bill & Sue Morris

Driver:

Jo-Ann Sine

Greeters:

OPEN

Social Host:

OPEN

ANNOUNCEMENTS



2025 Offering
Envelopes
are available in the Narthex



THE NEW
ST. JOHN'S
WEBSITE
IS HERE!

We're proud to share the New Church Website!

As announced this fall, we've been working on a new online presence for St. John's and now, we're excited to finally share it with you! Ushering in a new year full of promise for the church, the new site is designed to provide easy access to the information that matters most to lifelong St. John's members and first-time visitors alike.

Scan here to visit the new site:



Important Notice!

All donations designated for 2024 must be received by the church office **BEFORE TOMORROW, Monday, December 30th**

Donations received after that date will be credited to your 2025 donation account. Your contributions may be delivered in person via offering plate, mailed to the church, or placed in the drop box located on the office door. Contributions through EasyTithe can be made through December 31st.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Praying Hands

Stitchers

9:00 am

January 5



This Week at St. John's

If you would like more information about St. John's, please speak with one of the staff or contact the church office at 215.855.5489 or office@st-johns-ucc.org

Dec	29	Sun	10:15 am 10:45 am 11:30 am	First Sunday after Christmas Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Fellowship, Assembly Hall
Jan	1	Weds		New Year's Day – Office Closed No Wednesday Night Live!
Jan	3	Fri	6:00 pm	North Penn Chess Club, Assembly Hall
Jan	4	Sat	8:30-10:30 am	Art of Living Foundation, Library Longwood Gardens Trip
Jan	5	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am 10:45 am 11:30 am 11:45 am	Epiphany Sunday Stitchers, Library Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Fellowship, Assembly Hall Confirmation Class, Associate Pastor's Office

St. John's is offering a Seeker's class by Acting Lead Senior Pastor Tom Adil for all those who are interested in either learning more about St. John's UCC or joining the church. We will meet in the Pastor's Study (adjoining the Sanctuary) **immediately after worship on January 19, 2025**. As we discuss what it means to be a part of this faith community, some of the topics we will review are:

How did the UCC originally form?
What are "UCC beliefs?"

How do we embody faithful and vital witness and ministry today at St. John's?

Feel free to bring some goodies from downstairs as you join this class on the 19th!

Weekly amount needed for Current Income 2024	\$7,884.62
Weekly amount needed for OCWM 2024	\$798.00
A Look at the Week of December 15, 2024	
Attendance: December 15, Third Sunday of Advent	127
Attendance: December 18, Holden Evening Prayer	10
Offering For Current Income	\$7,462.02
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$1,073.00
A Look at the Week of December 22, 2024	
Attendance: December 22, Fourth Sunday of Advent	153
No Wednesday Night Live! Merry Christmas!	
Offering For Current Income	\$5,967.00
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$182.00

To give online through our secure platform, visit <https://app.easytithe.com/app/giving/stjohnsucc>

Scan here for online giving



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