



A Star Guides You

Baptism of the Lord

January 12, 2025

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
Chancel Choir

Copyright Acknowledgments

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O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright
Text: xxxx

© 1993 The Pilgrim Press

O Christ the Healer we Have Come
Text: xxx

© 1969 Hope Publishing Company

As With Gladness Those of Old
Text: xxx

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Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

10:15 am—January 12, 2025— Baptism of the Lord

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

PRELUDE

O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright.....Setting by Josef Friedrich Doppelbauer

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sisters and brothers, in the gift of baptism we are born into Christ's Church.

We are born anew in the waters of Creation.

We are born anew in rock hewn springs.

We are born anew with Jesus in the Jordan.

We are born anew in the gift of the Spirit.

We remember our baptisms and give God praise.

*OPENING HYMN

Crashing Waters at Creation.....Hymn 326

*CONFESSION

God of all glory, you look from heaven and see us as we are – not worthy to kneel at your feet, not ready to welcome your way. Forgive us, gracious God. In Christ, stoop down to save us; loosen the ties that bind us to sin and set us free to love and serve you, in Jesus's name. Amen.

*ASSURANCE

People of God, the One who created you, redeems you.

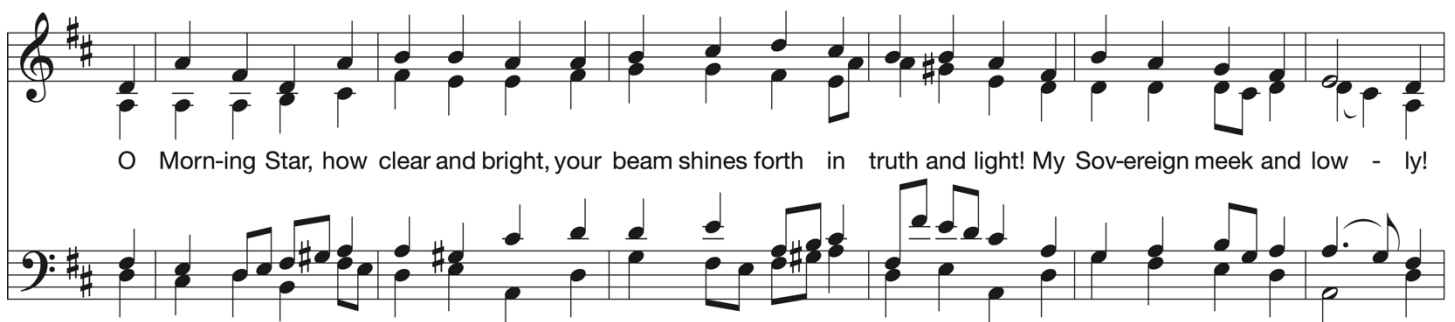
The One who redeems you, loves you.

You are marked as God's chosen ones to bring hope and peace to others.

Be at peace and live in hope.

Amen.

*SUNG RESPONSE



O Morn-ing Star, how clear and bright, your beam shines forth in truth and light! My Sov-ereign meek and low - ly!



O Root of Jes - se, Prom-ised One, my God and Rul - er, you have won my heart to serve you sole - ly!

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

You are ho - ly, great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, Rich in bless - ing, rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 43:1-7 Pew Bible Page 635

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

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

Down in the River to Pray.....Traditional Southern Gospel, arr. David L. Mennicke

*As I went down in the river to pray, Studyin’ about that good ol’ way
And who shall wear the robe and crown; Good Lord, show me the way!
Oh, sisters, let’s go down, Let’s go down, come on down.
Oh, sisters, let’s go down, Down in the river to pray.*

*As I went down in the river to pray, Studyin’ about that good ol’ way
And who shall wear the starry crown; Good Lord, show me the way!
Oh, brothers...*

*Fathers...
Mothers...
Sinners...
Children...*

SERMON

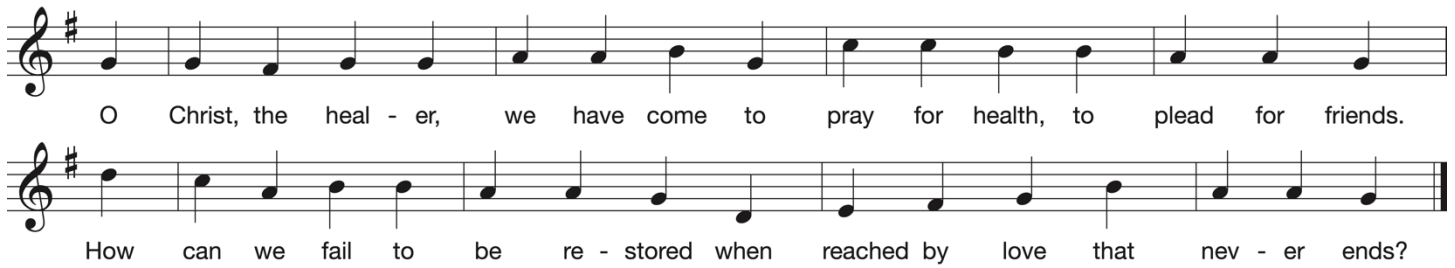
“Beloved”Rev Hilary Barrett

***HYMN**

How Firm a Foundation.....Hymn 407

*Stanza 1: All
Stanza 2: Higher Voices
Stanza 3: All in Harmony
Stanza 4: Lower Voices
Stanza 5: All*

JOYS & CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/SUNG RESPONSE



O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.
How can we fail to be re - stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?

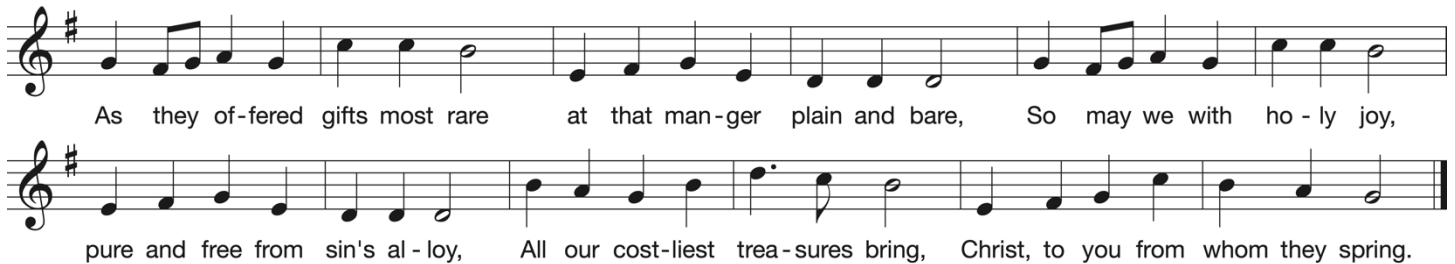
OFFERING & OFFERTORY MUSIC

We Three Kings.....John Henry Hopkins Jr.

Offering plates will be passed to the congregation in the pews during We Three Kings

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

*SUNG RESPONSE



As they of-fered gifts most rare at that man-ger plain and bare, So may we with ho - ly joy,
pure and free from sin's al - loy, All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Brothers and sisters in Christ: through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are initiated into Christ's Holy Church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price. Through the reaffirmation of our faith, we renew the covenant declared at our Baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's Church.

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of a new life in Christ?

I do.

Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

I do.

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciples, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

I promise, with the help of God.

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

I promise, with the help of God.

Let us unite with the church in all times and all places in confessing our faith in the triune God: Do you believe in God?

I believe in God.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Then, the Lord be with you

And also with you.

BLESSING OF THE WATER

Let us pray:

We thank you Eternal God, that when nothing existed,
you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light.

In the days of Noah, you saved those on the ark from the flood.

You set a rainbow in the clouds.

When your people were enslaved in Egypt,
you led them to freedom by parting the sea.

You brought their children safely to the Promised Land.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus
nurtured in the water of Mary’s womb.

He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit.

He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all
nations.

Pour out your Holy Spirit and by this gift of water
call to our remembrance the grace declared to us in baptism.

For you have washed away our sins,
and you clothe us with righteousness throughout our lives,
that dying and rising with Christ we may share in his final victory.

Thanks be to God who gives us these many blessings. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Go, My Children, with My Blessing.....Hymn 82

The hymn may be sung in harmony.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright.....Setting by Mark Sedio

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



<u>Hospitality:</u>
<u>Elder of the Morning:</u>
<u>Deacon of the Morning:</u>
<u>Audio Technician:</u>
<u>Chancel Flowers:</u>
<u>Greeters:</u>
<u>Social Host:</u>


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 29, 2024	
Attendance: December 29, First Sunday after Christmas	79
Offering For Current Income	\$10,927.71
Offering For Our Church’s Wider Mission	\$657.50
A Look at the Week of January 5, 2024	
Attendance: January 5, Epiphany Sunday	110
Offering For Current Income	\$8,357.00
Offering For Our Church’s Wider Mission	\$467.00

To give online through our secure platform, visit
<https://app.easyithe.com/app/giving/stjohnsucc>
 Scan here for online giving:




ANNOUNCEMENTS

 **2025 Offering Envelopes & 2024 Contribution Statements** 
are available in the Narthex

 Join us for our NEW
Monthly Community Event

Family Game Night At St. John's UCC!

Thursday, January 16, 2025
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Assembly Hall 

Join the Board of Educators for Family Game night!

All are welcome.

There will be a selection of games available. Feel free to bring some of your favorites to share. Meet some new friends and enjoy a fun night of gaming!

Beverages will be provided.
Bring a snack to share.

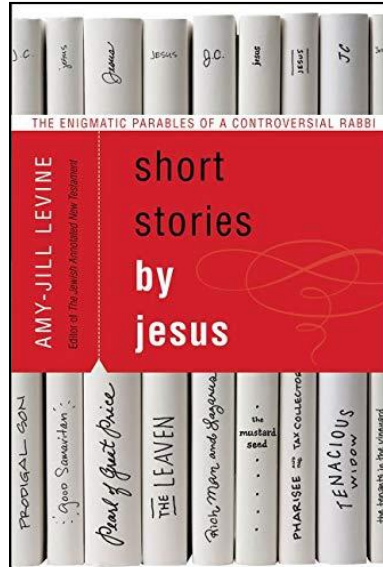
Please RSVP via our Facebook Event Page, the sign-up sheets in the elevator lobby or Narthex OR by contacting the church office so we have enough tables available.

St. John's Seeker's Class with Pastor Tom Adil Next Sunday, January 19th Pastor's Study

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!



Wednesday Night Live! Adult Education Class With Pastor Tom Adil 6:15 pm

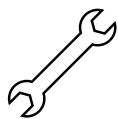
Adult Education Class will be focusing on "Short Stories by Jesus: the Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi" by Amy-Jill Levine.

See You There!

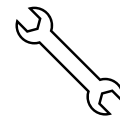
This Week at St. John's

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

Jan	12	Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am 10:45 am 11:30 am	Baptism of the Lord Enlightener Due Date Confirmation Class, Associate Pastor's Office Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Fellowship, Assembly Hall
Jan	13	Mon	10:00 am 7:00 pm	Book Club, Library Council Meeting, Assembly Hall
Jan	14	Tues	7:00 pm	AA, Assembly Hall
Jan	15	Wed	5:45-6:45 pm 6:15-6:45 pm 7:00-7:20 pm 7:30-8:30 pm 8:30-9:00 pm	Wednesday Night Live! Community Meal, Assembly Hall Adult Education, Library United Ringers, Sanctuary Children's Choir, Music Room Holden Evening Prayer, Sanctuary Artist Series Chorus, Sanctuary Chancel Choir, Music Room
Jan	16	Thurs	6:30-8:30 pm	Family Game Night, Assembly Hall
Jan	17	Fri	6:00 pm	North Penn Chess Club, Assembly Hall
Jan	18	Sat	8:30-10:30 am 9:30-2:00 pm	Art of Living Foundation, Library Girl Scout Cookie Drive Thu, Parking Lot
Jan	19	Sun	10:15 am 10:45 am 11:30 am	Second Sunday after the Epiphany McClay Baptism Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Fellowship, Assembly Hall



Introducing our New Facilities Manager...



Andy Jay!

Andrew Jay, or "Andy", joined St. John's as the Facility Manager at the beginning of January 2025. He attended Lincoln Tech for IT, and gained the CompTIA A+ Certification and Lenovo/Del Certifications. Before serving our congregation, he served in the United States Army for six years as a Support System Specialist and Infantry. For a decade, he was a Corrections Maintenance and Security Officer in the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. He moved down south, serving the Texas Department of Criminal Justice while living in Texas for a year and a half. Andy has been doing private contracting and freelance maintenance work for over a decade. In his spare time he loves spending time with family and friends, watching horror and sci-fi movies, and loves RPG style video games.

Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the Lord,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name; you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,

Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

Because you are precious in my sight

and honored and I love you,

I give people in return for you,

nations in exchange for your life.

Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east,

and from the west I will gather you;

I will say to the north, "Give them up,"

and to the south, "Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away

and my daughters from the end of the earth—

everyone who is called by my name,

whom I created for my glory,

whom I formed and made."

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”