

# *A Star Guides You*

**Second Sunday after Epiphany**  
**January 19, 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 Assistance Devices** 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

*All texts and music are reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE A-721709 or are in the public domain.*

<i>Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness</i>	<i>O Christ the Healer we Have Come</i>	<i>As With Gladness Those of Old</i>
Text: Johann Franck	Text: Fred Pratt Green	Text: William C. Dix; alt.
© 1978, 1998 Augsburg Fortress	© 1969 Hope Publishing Company	© 1993 The Pilgrim Press

# Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

10:15 am—January 19, 2025— Second Sunday after Epiphany

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

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## PRELUDE

Meditation on “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” .....Andrew Paulson

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (INSPIRED BY PSALM 36)

Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

**For with you is the foundation of life. Fill us with life!**

Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains; your judgements are like the great deep.

**For with you is the foundation of life. Fill us with life!**

O continue your steadfast love to those who know you and your salvation to the upright of heart!

**For with you is the foundation of life. Fill us with life!**

### \*OPENING HYMN

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

*The choir sings stanza 1. All sing stanzas 2-4.*



1. Songs of thank-ful-ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise; man - i - fest-ed by the star
2. Man - i - fest at Jor-dan's stream, proph - et, priest, and king su-preme; and at Ca-na wed-ding guest
3. Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint-ing soul; man - i - fest in val - iant fight,
4. Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word; grace to im - i - tate thee now



to the sa - ges from a - far, branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:  
in thy God-head man - i - fest; man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
quell-ing all the dev-il's might; man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:  
and be pure, as pure art thou; that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,



an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.  
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.  
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.  
and may praise thee, ev - er blest, God in flesh made man - i - fest.

### \*CONFESSION

**Gracious God, we live in the tension between expectation and reality. Sometimes, we navigate that tension with hope and clarity. At other times, we fester in doubt, disappointment, and uncertainty. Help us to release our need to control and enable us to embrace the possibilities. May our trust in your goodness and the power you have poured into us embolden our faith.**

**Amen.**

### \*ASSURANCE

Beloved, know that God's grace meets us at our point of need with encouragement. Circumstances change, and that's the nature of God's creative work. Receive the gift of new life with the unexpected experiences it brings. God is with you and equips you for the journey.

**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!

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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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*Grace Burke Thorp*  
*Son of Ashley & John Thorp*

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The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the boundless grace of God, a celebration of God's unconditional, never-ending love. 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. To the name you have given your child, Grace Burke we will add the name "child of God, member of God's family." Ashley and John, do you desire Grace to be baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ? If so, say "we do"

*Parents: We do.*

Will you, in time, encourage Grace to discover the freedom of new life in Christ and to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, Friend and Companion? If so, say, "we will with the help of God."

*Parents: We will, with the help of God.*

Will you, by word and example, demonstrate your faith to Grace by doing your best to love God and to love other people, to follow in the ways of Jesus, to resist oppression and evil, to seek grace, justice, and peace in the world? If so, say, "we will with the help of God."

*Parents: We will, with the help of God.*

Will you, as best you are able, seek to grow with Grace in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating the presence of Christ and furthering the mission of Christ in the world? If so, say, “we will with the help of God.”

*Parents: We will, with the help of God.*

Will you, Godparents Patrick and Kelli, support Ashley and John in this commitment and become a special friend and faith partner to Grace? If so, say “We will.”

*Godparents: 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 and her parents our love, support, and care. Grace, 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. You have come to us through water in the stories of Jesus who was nurtured in the water of Mary’s womb, baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, and became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well. Jesus washed the feet of the disciples and sent them forth to baptize with water and spirit. And now, O God, we pray that you bless, by your Holy Spirit, this water. Bless Grace as she receives this sacrament, that she may be ever reminded of your abiding presence and claim on her precious life. Amen.

#### ACT OF BAPTISM

#### SUNG RESPONSE

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry.....Hymn 351

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet.” So they took it. When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

#### 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

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness.....Evy Lucio Cordova, arr. Bradley Ellingboe

*Soul, adorn yourself with gladness, leave the gloomy haunts of sadness, come into the daylight's splendor, there with joy your praises render.*

*Bless the one whose grace unbounded this amazing banquet founded; he, though heav'nly high, and holy, deigns to dwell with you most holy.*

*Be thankful! Soul, adorn yourself with gladness and rejoice!*

*Bless the one whose grace unbounded is our joy.*

*Hasten as a bride to meet him, eagerly and gladly greet him.*

*There he stands already knocking; quickly, now, your gate unlocking, open wide the fast-closed portal, saying to the Lord immortal:*

*"Come, and leave your loved one never; dwell within my heart forever."*

*Be thankful! Soul, adorn yourself with gladness and rejoice!*

*Bless the one whose grace unbounded is our joy. -Johann Franck*

SERMON

"The Reluctant Miracle-Worker".....Pastor Tom Adil

\*HYMN

Community of Christ.....Hymn 314

*Stanza 1: All*

*Stanza 3: Lower Voices*

*Stanza 2: Higher Voices*

*Stanza 4: 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

I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty.....Gerhard Tersteegen/Dimitri Bortniansky

*Offering plates will be passed to the congregation in the pews during I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty.*

*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

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

I Love to Tell the Story.....Hymn 522

Stanza 1/Refrain: All

Stanza 3/Refrain: All in Harmony

Stanza 2/Refrain: All in Harmony

Stanza 4/Refrain: All

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

March on "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise".....Michael Burkhardt

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

**Hospitality:**

Robin MacMullen, Peter Conver,  
Griff Francis, Stephanie Giampa,  
Carol Luehrs, Jenn Moyer, Matt Rivett

**Elder of the Morning:**

Susan Fitzpatrick

**Deacon of the Morning:**

Judy Johnston

**Audio Technician:**

Robin MacMullen

**Chancel Flowers:**

Toni & Steve Butz

**Driver:**

Jo-Ann Sine

**Greeters:**

OPEN

**Social Host:**

Debby & Steve Hendricks

Weekly amount needed for Current Income 2024	\$7,884.62
Weekly amount needed for OCWM 2024	\$798.00
<b>A Look at the Week of January 5, 2024</b>	
Attendance: January 5, Epiphany Sunday	110
Attendance: January 8, Holden Evening Prayer	15
Offering For Current Income	\$8,357.00
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$467.00
<b>A Look at the Week of January 12, 2024</b>	
Attendance: January 12, Baptism of the Lord	123
Attendance: January 15, Holden Evening Prayer	19
Offering For Current Income	\$7,696.00
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$902.00

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

Scan here for online giving:



## California Wildfires 2025

On January 7, 2025, wildfire activity began in Los Angeles County, California. Immediate reports indicate that this fire has caused substantial damage throughout LA County, making this event the largest fire disaster in the county's history. At the time of this writing, nearly 30,000 acres have been consumed by the blazes. One hundred eighty thousand people are currently displaced from their homes due to devastation or evacuation orders, and these fires continue to spread, causing additional destruction.

The Disaster Ministries Team and other staff at the National Setting of the United Church of Christ continue to be in communication with the Southern California and Nevada Conference to monitor the situation and determine how best to support communities at this time. The devastation caused by the California wildfires has left countless families without homes, communities in mourning, and landscapes forever changed. As the smoke clears, the work of recovery begins—and it's a long road ahead.

To support the long-term recovery of those affected by the California Wildfires, use our online giving QR code above and give to "OCWM", designating that your donation is for "California Wildfire Relief."

## 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](mailto:office@st-johns-ucc.org)

Jan	19	Sun	10:15 am 10:45 am 11:30 am	<b>Second Sunday after the Epiphany</b> <b>Thorp Baptism</b> Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Seeker's Class, Pastor's Study Fellowship, Assembly Hall
Jan	21	Tues	7:00 pm	AA, Assembly Hall
Jan	22	Wed	5:45-6:45 pm 6:15-6:45 pm  7:00-7:20 pm 7:30-8:30 pm 8:30-9:30 pm	<b>Wednesday Night Live!</b> Community Meal, Assembly Hall Adult Education, Library United Ringers, Sanctuary Children's Choir, Music Room <b>Holden Evening Prayer, Sanctuary</b> Artist Series Chorus, Sanctuary Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
Jan	23	Thurs	9:30 am	Enlightener Folding, Library
Jan	24	Fri	6:00 pm 6:30 pm	North Penn Chess Club, Assembly Hall Girl Scouts, Library
Jan	26	Sun	10:15 am 10:45 am 11:30 am 11:45 am	<b>Third Sunday after the Epiphany</b> Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Fellowship, Assembly Hall Confirmation Class, Associate Pastor's Office

## Chancel Flowers

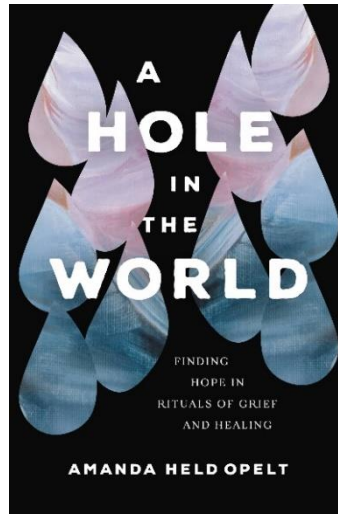
In memory of my son Shane R. Morcom from Merle Anne Schultz Morcom & Walter Hawkins. May he rest in peace.  
In memory of Michelle Leigh's January 23rd birthday from her Mum (Anne Haines)  
In memory of Lorraine Badger's January 24th birthday from her daughter Susan, and John Hendricks  
In memory of Ethel Shellenberger's January 25th birthday from Lorene Ahrens





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



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

## St. John's Seeker's Class with Pastor Tom Adil This Sunday, after Worship 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!

Adult Education Class will discuss "A Hole in the World" by Amanda Held Opelt.

When Amanda Held Opelt suffered a season of loss – including three miscarriages and the unexpected death of her sister, *New York Times* bestselling writer Rachel Held Evans – she was confronted with sorrow she didn't know how to face.

Her search for answers led her to discover that generations past embraced a robust array of rituals that served as vessels for pain and aided in the process of grieving and healing. Today, many of these traditions have been lost as religious practice declines, cultures amalgamate, death is sanitized, and pain is averted.

*During discussion we work on drawing mandalas! If you have missed the reading, you can listen along to the discussion and share your own stories while we draw.*

See You There!

## 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/Dell 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.

## John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet." So they took it. When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.