



A Star Guides You

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
February 23, 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

Rev. Dr. Hilary Barrett, Bridge Support Pastor
Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music
Chancel Choir

Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music
for Children & Youth

Copyright Acknowledgments

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

<i>Will You Come and Follow Me</i>	<i>I Come With Joy</i>	<i>O Christ the Healer we Have Come</i>	<i>As With Gladness Those of Old</i>
Text and Music: John Bell	Text: Brian Wren	Text: Fred Pratt Green	Text: William C. Dix; alt.
© 1982, Iona Community	© 1971, 1995 Hope Publishing Co.	© 1969 Hope Publishing Co.	© 1993 The Pilgrim Press

Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

10:15 am—February 23, 2025— Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

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

PRELUDE

I Want to Be Ready.....African-American Spiritual
The prelude time is used to teach today's hymn after the sermon, I Want to Be Ready.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come and learn the ways of life.

We have come to follow Jesus.

Love your enemies and do good to those who hate you.

We have come to follow Jesus.

Bless those who curse you and pray for those who persecute you.

We have come to follow Jesus.

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

We have come to follow Jesus.

Come and learn the ways of life. Come and follow Jesus.

*OPENING HYMN

Will You Come and Follow Me

Stanza 1: All

Stanza 3: Higher Voices

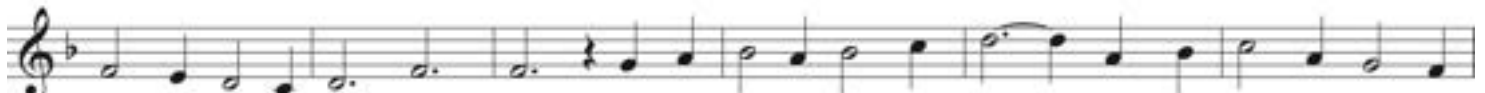
Stanza 5: All

Stanza 2: All

Stanza 4: Lower Voices



1. Will you come and fol - low Me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and
3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name? Will you quell the fear in -
5. Lord, Your sum - mons ech - oes true when You but call my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same? Will you let My love be shown, will you let My name be
kind and nev - er be the same? Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or
free and nev - er be the same? Will you kiss the lep - er clean and do such as this un -
side and nev - er be the same? Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a -
You and nev - er be the same. In Your com - pa - ny I'll go where Your love and foot - steps



known, Will you let My life be grown in you and you in Me?
scare? Will you let Me an - swer pray'r in you and you in Me?
seen, And ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in Me?
round, Through My sight and touch and sound in you and you in Me?
show. Thus I'll move and live and grow in You and You in me.

***CONFESSIO**

Lord Jesus, you call us to turn our lives around,
to risk repentance and learn forgiveness,
to work with patience and diligence
to prepare the way for your Reign,
but we get discouraged and give up too soon.

Lord, Have mercy.

You call us to be full of joyful confidence
to create community where all
have enough for abundant life,
but we burden ourselves with anxiety and fear.

Christ, have mercy.

You call us to speak out in the presence of injustice,
but too often we do not challenge words
and actions rooted in hate:

Lord, have mercy.

***ASSURANCE**

The good news in Christ is that, when we face ourselves and God with the awareness of our need,
we are given grace to grow, and courage to continue the journey.
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40.....Pew Bible Page 493

Luke 6:27-38

“But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGEAbbie Lampe

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

I Come With Joy.....John Helgen

*I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall in love laid down for me.*

*I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love in Christ’s communion bread.*

*As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends,
the love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends.*

*The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known, alive among us here.*

*Together met, together bound by all that God has done,
we’ll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one.*

*I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven.
-Brian Wren*

SERMON

“What Difference Does It Make?”Rev. Dr. Hilary Barrett

*HYMN

I Want to Be Ready.....Hymn 616

*The congregation sings where marked Refrain and All.
The congregation may sing in harmony.
The soloist sings where marked Leader.*

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

Spirit of Jesus, If I Love My Neighbor.....Jonathan McNair/Brian Wren
Offering plates will be passed to the congregation in the pews during Spirit of Jesus, If I Love My Neighbor.
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

Your Ways Are Not Our Own.....Hymn 170
Stanzas 2 and 4 may be sung in harmony.

*BENEDICTION

May you be blessed with the courage to interrupt revenge with love.
May you be strengthened with a gratitude that freely shares with others.
May you discover again and again the merciful embrace of the Holy One.
And may the love of God empower you to help change the world with forgiveness.
Blessings on you all! Amen and Amen!

POSTLUDE

Grand Chœur in F Major.....Alexandre Guilmant

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

Hospitality:

Mark Methlie, Jen Gilbert,
Sarah Hogan, Bonnie & Walt Weber

Elder of the Morning:

Charles Sisian

Deacon of the Morning:

Paula White

Audio Technician:

Matt Rivett

Chancel Flowers:

Barbara & Robin MacMullen

Driver:

Kay Peebles

Social Host:

Abbie Lampe

Weekly amount needed for Current Income 2025	\$7,884.62
Weekly amount needed for OCWM 2025	\$826.92
A Look at the Week of February 9, 2025	
Attendance: February 9, 5th Sunday after Epiphany	80
Attendance: February 12, Holden Evening Prayer	17
Offering For Current Income	\$18,852.00
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$1,752.00
A Look at the Week of February 16, 2025	
Attendance: February 16, 6th Sunday after Epiphany	104
Attendance: February 19, Holden Evening Prayer	17
Offering For Current Income	\$5,317.00
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$285.00

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

Scan here for online giving:



Joan Hadley Graveside Service
February 28 at 11:00 AM
Riverside Cemetery, Norristown

**Information needed for Spring
Goodie Boxes for college
students!!**

Requesting to have name and complete address of student(s) sent to Bonnie Weber at bonweber@gmail.com or church office at office@st-johns-ucc.org by February 23, 2025. Collection of items for goodie boxes will be due by March 2, 2025. See posting on Educators bulletin board for requested items.

THE
Artist Series
AT ST. JOHN'S

March Events

Riverview
Early Music

St. John's UCC Sanctuary
Sunday, March 9, 4 PM

Free Entry / No Ticket Required

The Artist Series Gala

PineCrest Country Club
Friday, March 14, 7 PM

Registration Required

Final Day to Register In Person:

Friday, March 7

Final Day to Register Online:

Sunday, March 9

Scan the QR code to visit our website
for additional information and to
register for The Artist Series Gala:



Ash Wednesday Service

March 5, 2025

6:00 pm
DINNER



7:00 pm
SERVICE

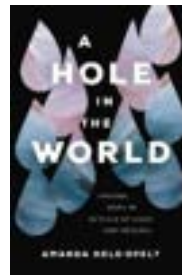
Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season and the journey to the cross.

At **6 PM** a dinner hosted by the Elders and featuring pizza, salad, and potluck desserts, will take place.

**Contribute your favorite dessert dish.*

At **7 PM**, join us in the sanctuary for a special worship service, featuring music, communion, and imposition of ashes.

If you cannot attend the dinner, please come to the worship service.



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

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!

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

23-Feb	Sun	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 10:45 AM 11:30 AM	Seventh Sunday after Epiphany Confirmation Class, Associate Pastor's Office Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Fellowship, Assembly Hall
25-Feb	Tues	7:00 PM	AA, Assembly Hall
26-Feb	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	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, Sanctuary
27-Feb	Thurs	6:30 PM	Girl Scouts, Activity Room
28-Feb	Fri	6:00 PM	North Penn Chess Club, Assembly Hall
1-Mar	Sat	9:30 - 11:30 AM	Art of Living Foundation, Assembly Hall
2-Mar	Sun	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 10:45 AM 11:30 AM 11:45 AM	Transfiguration Sunday Stitchers, Library Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Fellowship, Assembly Hall Confirmation Class, Associate Pastor's Office



Chancel Flowers

In memory of James "David" Krail's February 26th birthday from
Debbie Krail and family

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

Do not fret because of the wicked;
do not be envious of wrongdoers,
for they will soon fade like the grass
and wither like the green herb.

Trust in the Lord and do good;
live in the land and enjoy security.

Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him, and he will act.

He will make your vindication shine like the light
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.

Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him;
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
over those who carry out evil devices.

Refrain from anger and forsake wrath.

Do not fret—it leads only to evil.

For the wicked shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.

Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more;
though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.

But the meek shall inherit the land
and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.

The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord;
he is their refuge in the time of trouble.

The Lord helps them and rescues them;
he rescues them from the wicked and saves them
because they take refuge in him.

Luke 6:27-38

“But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”