



From Ashes to Resurrection

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 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. Linda Noonan, Senior Pastor
Pastor Tom Adil, Bridge Support Pastor
Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music

Chancel Choir
**Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music
for Children & Youth**

Copyright Acknowledgments

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Return of the Prodigal Son
Rembrandt
1669

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus
Text: Sigismund von Birken;
tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, alt.©
1978, Lutheran Book of Worship,
admin. Augsburg Fortress

O Lord, Hear My Prayer
Text and Music: Taizé
© 1982, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA
Publications, Inc.

Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

10:15 am—March 30, 2025— Fourth Sunday in Lent

*You are invited to rise in body or spirit when indicated by an *asterisk and **speak the words in bold.***

PRELUDE

Herzlich tut mich verlangen, BWV 727J.S. Bach

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Have you come far to be here today?

You enlarge our gathering: welcome!

Have you come from around the corner?

You anchor our gathering: welcome!

Do you seek sanctuary? Do you seek inspiration?

May this worship meet you.

Do you come with purpose? Do you come with questions?

We welcome you as you are!

Let us worship God together!

We worship the Maker of a new heaven and new earth,

our help and hope for what is to come today and tomorrow.

*OPENING HYMN

Come, O Fount of Every BlessingHymn 459

Stanza 2 may be sung in harmony.

*CONFESSION

Dear God, your gifts are generous and yet we often fail to appreciate what we have been given. We demand more, but squander what we have received. Forgive us for taking for granted what we receive from you. When we fail to accept what you offer, or fail to steward those gifts, bring us back to awareness of you. Amen.

*ASSURANCE

*SUNG RESPONSE

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Let us ev-er walk with Je-sus, fol-low his ex-am-ple pure, through a world that would de-ceive us and to sin our

spir-its lure. On-ward in his foot-steps tread-ing, trav-'lers here, our home a-bove, full of faith and hope and love,

let us do our Sav-ior's bid-ding. Faith-ful Lord, with me a-bide; I shall fol-low where you guide.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalms 32Pew Bible Page 490

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

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

Set Me As a Seal.....René Clausen

*Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm,
for love is strong as death.*

*Many waters cannot quench love;
neither can the floods drown it.*

*Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm,
for love is strong as death.*

-from Song of Songs 8:6-7

SERMON

“The Wayward Way”Pastor Tom Adil

***HYMN**

O God, How We Have Wandered.....Hymn 202

Stanza 2 may be sung in harmony.

JOYS & CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/SUNG RESPONSE

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Two systems of musical notation for a hymn. Each system consists of a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: 'O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call an - swer me.' and 'O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me.'

OFFERING & OFFERTORY MUSIC

Softly and Tenderly, Jesus Is Calling.....Will Thompson

Offering plates will be passed to the congregation in the pews during

Softly and Tenderly, Jesus Is Calling.

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

***SUNG RESPONSE**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Two systems of musical notation for a hymn. Each system consists of a single treble staff. The key signature has two flats (Bb, Eb). The lyrics are: 'Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a pres - ent far too small;' and 'Love so a - maz - ing, so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.'

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)**

As we give you our offerings, O Heavenly God of Peace, may we receive courage and strength to make a sacrifice for those in need. May these offerings help create pathways that address the evils of war, greed, poverty, and violence. And in our giving, may You help us to say yes to the reign of Jesus, filled with nonviolence, love, and justice for all humankind. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

This Is a Day of New Beginning.....Hymn 417

Stanza 1: All

Stanza 3: Lower Voices

Stanza 2: Higher Voices

Stanza 4: All

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Fanfare for a New Day.....J. Wayne Kerr

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:

Sue Clemens

Deacon of the Morning:

Judy Leslie

Audio Technician:

Robin MacMullen

Chancel Flowers:

Gale Linderman

Driver:

Kay Peebles

Social Host:

Sally & Steve Jarinko

Weekly amount needed for Current Income 2025	\$7,884.62
Weekly amount needed for OCWM 2025	\$826.92
A Look at the Week of March 16, 2025	
Attendance: March 12, Holden Evening Prayer	26
Attendance: March 16, Second Sunday in Lent	153
Offering For Current Income	\$6,606.00
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$879.00
A Look at the Week of March 23, 2025	
Attendance: March 19, Holden Prayer	23
Attendance: March 23, Third Sunday in Lent	148
Offering For Current Income	\$4,624.00
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$1,685.00

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

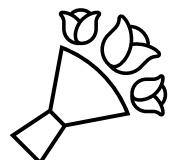


In Memory of Robert Linderman

To the Memorial Fund from:

Jo-Ann Sine

Fishers True Value Hardware Inc

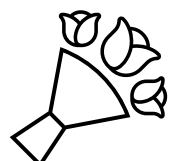
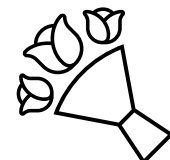


In Loving Memory of Louise (Grammie) Snyders's

March 30th birthday

To the Chancel Flowers Fund from:

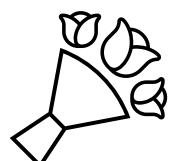
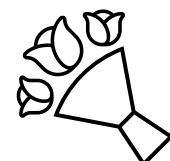
Her family



In Memory of Lester Long

To the Chancel Flowers Fund from:

His wife, Rachel, and family

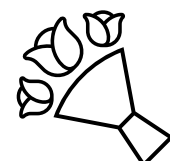


In Memory of Lesley Brown's

March 31st birthday

To the Chancel Flowers Fund from:

Her mother, Vivienne Brown



These donations will also be found in the next eHerald.

Wednesday Night Live! Lenten Study

During this season of Lent, the Adult Education Class will be following the curriculum of **The Hardest Part**, a podcast series by Kate Bowler. From her website:

Lent is here—the season we stop pretending we're fine and admit that life is...a lot. It's forty days of naming what's fragile, walking toward the hard truths, and resisting the urge to skip straight to the happy ending.

The Hardest Part explores the complexities of life, faith, and the challenges we face. In this series, she addresses difficult questions about how to remain compassionate in a harsh world and how to navigate faith during tough times. The series includes reflections, response prompts, and blessings to help listeners process life's fragilities and uncertainties.

While we talk about the lessons and listen to snippets, we will continue drawing our mandalas. Handouts for further home study will be provided.

Join us every Wednesday at 6:15 pm in the library after our 5:45 pm community meal.

No Sign-Up Needed!

Women's Retreat

Saturday, April 12

9:00 am Assembly Hall

Celebrate yourself ❤️ and spring 🌸
with a self-care session from the

Art of Living Foundation

feel-good yoga stretches for all levels,
the power of the breath, and a relaxing
guided meditation.

Light refreshments will be served.

All women are welcome!

Family Game Night At St. John's UCC!

Thursday, April 10, 2025

6:30 – 8:30 pm

Assembly Hall

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.

Wanted: Colors of Ukraine!

1/4" bright yellow and/or
1/4" royal blue ribbon

Please check your craft closet to see if you have any leftover ribbon! Wanted for an upcoming fundraiser to help rebuild Ukraine. Email Amy at amy.faga@gmail.com

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

30-Mar	Sun	10:15 AM 10:45 AM 11:30 AM 1:00 PM	Fourth Sunday in Lent Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Fellowship, Assembly Hall Stewardship, Library Artist Series Chorus, Sanctuary
1-Apr	Tues	7:00 PM	AA, Assembly Hall
2-Apr	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	<u>Wednesday Night Live!</u> 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
4-Apr	Fri	6:00 PM	North Penn Chess Club, Assembly Hall
5-Apr	Sat	11:00 AM	Linda Seigel Memorial Service, Sanctuary Memorial Luncheon, Assembly Hall
6-Apr	Sun	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 10:45 AM 11:30 AM 11:45 AM 6:00 PM	<u>Fifth Sunday in Lent</u> Stitchers, Library Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Fellowship, Assembly Hall Confirmation Class, Associate Pastor's Office Artist Series Chorus, Sanctuary

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 have any questions about St. John's please speak to a staff member or use a contact method above.

Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan, M.Div., PhD., Senior Pastor

Pastor 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 Office Manager Grace Marchione, Communications Coordinator

Andy Jay, Facilities Manager Bill Bergey, Custodian Deborah Dayton, Council President

Psalm 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silent, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah

Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, [b] the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.

You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.

Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.
Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable:

Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all

these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "