



Prepare the Way

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 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
Chancel Choir

Copyright Information

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Luke 1:78-79 (Cover Image)

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My Soul Gives Glory to My God

Text: Miriam Therese Winter © 1978, 1987 Medical Mission Sisters

Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

10:15 am—December 8, 2024—Second Sunday of Advent

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

PRELUDE

Comfort, Comfort O My People.....Setting by Egil Hovland

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come from a world of darkness

Into Christ's world of light.

We come from a world of weariness

Into God's strength and hope.

We come from a world asleep

Into the Spirit's enlivening power.

Strengthened by the Spirit

We come to awaken our souls

and watch for the coming of Christ.

*OPENING HYMN

Comfort, Comfort O My People.....Hymn 101

*CONFESSION

When we allow darkness to overcome the light,

forgive us, Lord.

When we look upon your creation and fail to be amazed,

have mercy on us, Lord.

When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing and hearing and touching,

Let your grace consume us, O God.

When the wars around us are of no concern,

forgive us, Lord, and soften our hearts with compassion.

When our caring is not extended to action,

move us to seek justice for our brothers and sisters.

We are but dust without your love.

Remove all barriers that divide us,

and let there be no obstacle to our love

for you and for one another.

*ASSURANCE

Hear the good news! Christ is our peace. Through him we have forgiveness and new hope.

He comes to break the power of sin and set us free again. Alleluia! Amen.

WE LIGHT THE CANDLE OF PEACE: FOR THOSE WHO ARE WEARY

The Light shines in the darkness,

but the darkness has not overcome it.

During Advent, our weary souls seek God's daily strength.

The Lord gives strength to the weary

and increases the power of the weak.

We grow weary when fear overshadows faith.

The Lord gives strength to the weary

and increases the power of the weak.

We grow weary when destructive actions erupt in the world around us.

**The Lord gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.**

For all of us feeling weary this Advent season:

**Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait,
the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.**

(We light the second Advent candle.)

Today we light the second Advent candle. The **first** candle illuminates patience in the areas of our lives where God has called us to wait. The **second** candle extends the promise of strength to all who feel weary and weak in the shadows of this world. As we continue our Advent journey, may our hope be kindled as the light grows brighter.

SUNG RESPONSE

For Christ is born of Mar - y, And gath - ered all a - bove,
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
O morn - ing stars to - geth - er, Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
And prais - es sing to God the King, And peace to all on earth!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Luke 1:5-25; 68-79.....Page 51

And his father Zechari'ah was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying,
"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people,
and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
that we should be saved from our enemies,
and from the hand of all who hate us;
to perform the mercy promised to our fathers,
and to remember his holy covenant,
the oath which he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
in holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life.
And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
to give knowledge of salvation to his people
in the forgiveness of their sins,
through the tender mercy of our God,
when the day shall dawn upon us from on high
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

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

Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates.....William Mathias
Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, even lift them up ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory. (Psalm 24, vv. 7-10)

SERMON

“The Tender Mercies of Our God”Rev. Dr. Hilary Barrett

*HYMN

Now Bless the God of Israel.....Hymn 110
Stanza 2 may be sung in harmony.

JOYS & CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/SUNG RESPONSE

Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup - ports those in dis - tress,
re - mem - ber - ing past prom - is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

OFFERING & OFFERTORY MUSIC

Now Bless the God of Israel.....Setting by Lloyd Larson
Offering plates will be passed to the congregation in the pews during the Offertory music. The plates will then be dedicated during the Offertory Sung Response. You may also donate by scanning the QR code found in the bulletin and on laminated cards in the pews.

*SUNG RESPONSE

The wise shall bow be - fore you and gold and in - cense bring;
all na - tions shall a - dore you, and praise all peo - ples sing;
To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows be said,
your realm is still in - creas - ing, with you, O Christ, as head.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN

All Earth Is Waiting.....Hymn 121

Stanza 1: All

Stanza 3: Lower Voices

Stanza 2: Higher Voices

Stanza 4: All

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Comfort, Comfort O My People.....Setting by Gerald Near

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

Worship Assistants

Hospitality:

Grace & Mark Bruen, Mary Billy,
Anne Haines, Gerry Linderman,
Rickie Lee Sands, Ginny Wilkinson

Elder of the Morning:

Emilie Truscott

Deacon of the Morning:

Rickie Lee Sands

Audio Technician:

Griff Francis

Chancel Flower Ministry:

Robin & Barb MacMullen

Driver:

Scott Vanderburg

Greeters:

Joyce Huisenga


Social Host:

OPEN

Weekly amount needed for Current Income 2024	\$7,884.62
Weekly amount needed for OCWM 2024	\$798.00
A Look at the Week of November 24, 2024	
Attendance: November 24, Reign of Christ Sunday	108
<i>No Wednesday Night Live</i>	
Offering For Current Income	\$6,669.00
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$362.00
A Look at the Week of November 24, 2024	
Attendance: November 24, Love Gift Sunday	154
Attendance: December 4, Holden Evening Prayer	20
Offering For Current Income	\$10,945.00
Offering For Our Church's Wider Mission	\$1,098.00

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

Scan here for online giving



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 would like more information about St. John's please speak with one of the staff or contact the office.

Pastor Tom Adil, M.Div., LPC, Acting Lead Bridge Pastor

Rev Dr. Hilary Barrett, D.Min, M.Div, BA, 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

Bill Bergey, Custodian Mark Bruen, Council President

ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. John's Soup Sale!

Sunday, December 8th

Today During Fellowship

Vegetable with Beef Vegetarian Vegetable

Chicken Noodle
with Corn

Chicken Noodle
without Corn

\$9 per Quart

All proceeds go to the Exterior Restoration
Fund

Christmas Cookie & Bake Sale!

BAKERS NEEDED!!

Contact Barb Fretz by Dec 12

(215) 855 - 1461

All proceeds go to the Exterior Restoration
Fund

Sunday, December 15th

After service

THE *Artist Series* AT ST. JOHN'S

Presents

Comfort & Joy The 2024 Christmas Festival **TODAY!**

4:00 pm

Featuring performances by:
The Artist Series Chorus
North Penn Chamber Singers
North Penn Brass Ensemble

*A freewill donation will be taken to support the Artist
Series at St. John's.*

Important Notice!

**All donations designated for 2024 must be received
by the church office
BEFORE 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.

Do you know someone who might be interested in working part time for St. John's?
We are looking for someone with light maintenance skills and cleaning experience for our church.
The job description is posted on our website and FB page.

You can apply on our website, Indeed, or by emailing personnel@st-johns-ucc.org



Any questions contact
Margie Jewell
personnel@st-johns-ucc.org



This Week at St. John's

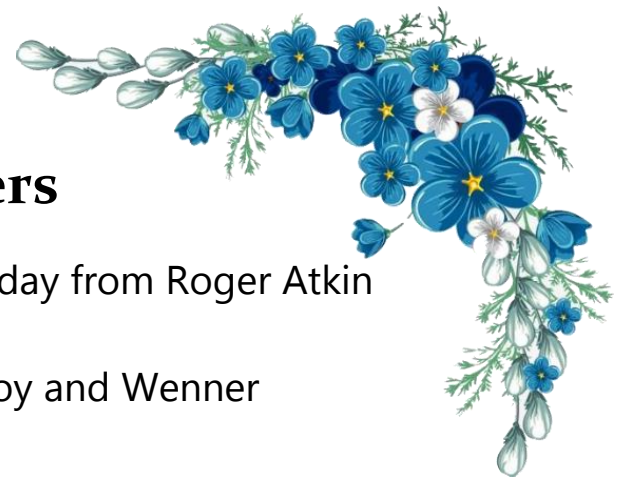
If you would like more information about St. John's, please speak with one of the staff or contact the church office at 215.855.5489 or office@st-johns-ucc.org

Dec	8	Sun	<p>10:15 am 10:45 am 11:30 am</p> <p>11:45 am 4:00 pm</p>	<p>Second Sunday of Advent Enlightener Due Date Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Soup Sale, Assembly Hall Fellowship, Assembly Hall Confirmation Class, Associate Pastor's Office Artist Series at St. John's: Christmas Festival</p>
Dec	9	Mon	7:00 pm	Council Meeting, Zoom
Dec	10	Tues	7:00 pm	AA, Assembly Hall
Dec	11	Wed	<p>5:45-6:45 pm 6:15-6:45 pm</p> <p>7:00-7:20 pm 7:30-9:00 pm</p>	<p>Wednesday Night Live! Community Meal, Assembly Hall Adult Education, Library United Ringers, Sanctuary Children's Choir, Music Room Holden Evening Prayer, Sanctuary Chancel Choir, Music Room</p>
Dec	13	Fri	<p>6:00 pm 6:30 pm</p>	<p>North Penn Chess Club, Assembly Hall Girl Scouts, Library</p>
Dec	15	Sun	<p>9:00 am 10:15 am 10:45 am 11:30 am</p>	<p>Third Sunday of Advent Confirmation Class, Associate Pastor's Office Morning Worship, Sanctuary Connect3, Activity Room Christmas Cookie, & Bake Sale, Assembly Hall Fellowship, Assembly Hall</p>

Chancel Flowers

In memory of Eloise Atkin's Dec. 8th birthday from Roger Atkin and family

In memory of loved ones from the Longcoy and Wenner families



Luke 1:5-25

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹ Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know that this will happen? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he returned to his home.

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, "This is what the Lord has done for me in this time, when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

Luke 1:68-79

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.
He has raised up a mighty savior for us
in the house of his child David,
as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all
who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors
and has remembered his holy covenant,
the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us
that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness
in his presence all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
to give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

Because of the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”