



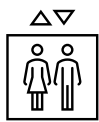
From Generation to Generation

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

10:15 am

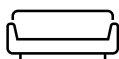
WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S UCC LANSDALE



The Elevator can be found at the end of the hall, through the door on the right front side of the sanctuary. **Accessible Bathrooms** are on the basement level. Once within the elevator, press "B". Exit and go left down the ramp. Once in the hallway, turn left, go the length, and turn right. The bathrooms are to the left at the top of a small ramp.



Wheelchairs & First Aid Kit are stored in the labeled "First Aid Closet" near the Main Street entrance to the sanctuary. **AED (Defibrillator)** is in the church library on the wall closest to the Sanctuary by the window. When entering from the Sanctuary, turn left.



Our **Soft Worship Space**, the front right of the Sanctuary, is available for all ages to engage their bodies in a way that allows them to be more present in worship. The **Nursery** is open for you to use mindfully, and the service is audible from there. The Nursery is past the elevator, through the double doors, on the right.



Hearing Assistance Devices are available in a basket at the back of the sanctuary if you are having trouble hearing the service. If the service is too loud, you may spend worship in the **Library**, which is to the right of the front of the Sanctuary, through the wall door.



Prayer Request and Information Cards are in pews for visitors, or anyone who would like to share information or a prayer request. Prayer requests will go to our prayer chain and pastors. These will not be read during service. **Visitors**, we are so glad you are here! Completed cards can be placed in the offering plates.



The **Book of Joys & Concerns** is a green binder on the podium at the front of the sanctuary on the right. If you have an Announcement, Joy or Concern you'd like stated, celebrated or prayed about during **Prayers of the People**, 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. **Large Print Hymns** are available for those who need them.



For **Our Time with Children**, children and youth are invited to sit up front on the chancel steps for conversation and an age-appropriate message. They will then 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!



Audio Recordings of services can be found online on St. John's Website, Facebook Page, or YouTube. Sermons are available on Spotify at "St John's UCC Lansdale Sermons."

St. John's United Church of Christ

500 West Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446 Office: 215.855.5489 email: office@st-johns-ucc.org

Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan (she/her), M.Div., PhD., Senior Pastor

Pastor Tom Adil (he/him), M. Div., LPC, Support Pastor

Andrew Paulson (he/him), M.M., M.A., Minister of Music

Abbie Lampe (she/her), Connect3 Director

Kay Peebles (she/her), Church Office Manager

Grace Marchione (she/her), Communications Coordinator

Anthony Ottaviano III (he/him), Facilities Manager

Bill Bergey (he/him), Custodian ~ Deborah Dayton (she/her), Council President

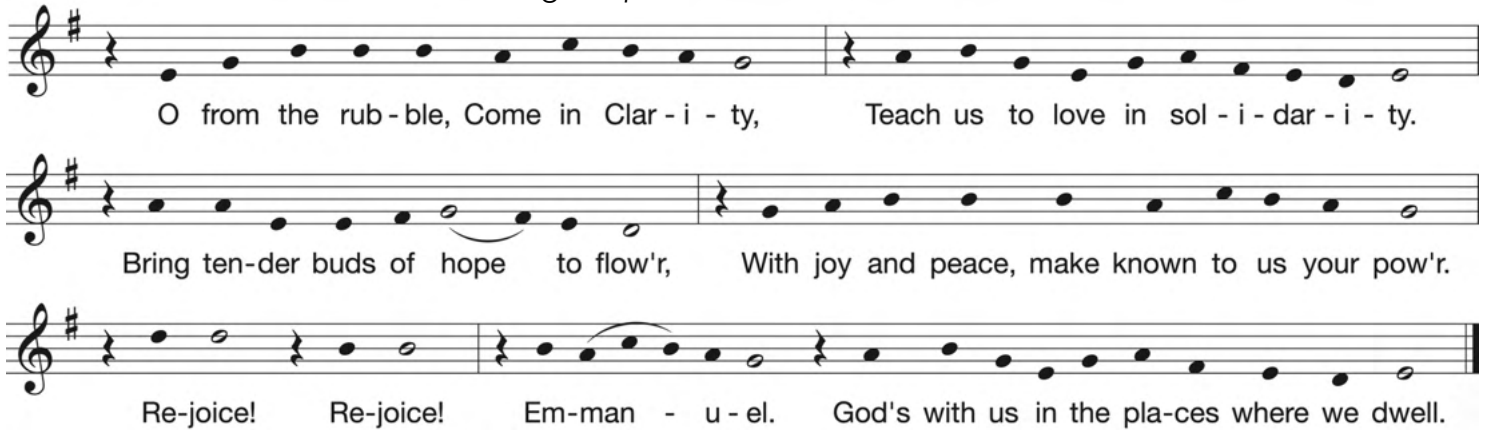
Order of Worship
St. John's United Church of Christ
500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446
10:15 am — December 21, 2025 — Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

PRELUDE Lo, How a Rose Is Growing.....Setting by Michael Burkhardt

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PROCESSION OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND HYMN* O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Please face the wreath during the procession.



O from the rub-ble, Come in Clar-i-ty, Teach us to love in sol-i-dar-i-ty.
Bring ten-der buds of hope to flow'r, With joy and peace, make known to us your pow'r.
Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el. God's with us in the pla-ces where we dwell.

**CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF HOPE, LOVE, JOY, AND PEACE*
Creating God, who beckons us to the dance of waiting and birthing,
and sustains us in our laboring, hear this prayer:

From the fear of the unknown, deliver us.

From doubts about ability and worth, deliver us.

From the pressures of the world around us, deliver us.

With your promise of companionship, comfort us.

With your creative spirit, bless us.

With your pledge of sustenance, strengthen us.

**With your embrace of all of who we are,
heal us and help us in this time of waiting and new life.**

Yesterday, in our part of the world, the earth tilted away from the darkness
and toward the light. As we light these candles of hope, love, joy, and peace,
tilt us toward your light.

FOUR CANDLES ON THE ADVENT WREATH ARE LIT.

When we are unable to find our way,

Tilt us toward you.

When anxiety about the pains of labor
prevents us from bringing something new to birth,

Tilt us toward openness.

In a world dominated by violence and greed,

Tilt us toward your peace, rooted in hope, enfleshed in love, and filled with joy.

Amen.

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**

CHILDREN'S SONG He Came Down (*music on page 4*)

SERMON "God Is in the Rubble"..... Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan

*HYMN #106 My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise
The hymn may be sung in harmony.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SUNG RESPONSE #119 My Soul Gives Glory to My God; Stanza 5

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

*Offering plates will be passed to the congregation in the pews.
For online giving, use the QR code.*



Offertory From Generation to Generation.....Tom Trenney
incorporating ST. ANNE by William Croft

*From out of darkness you have shown us light;
your Word has been a lamp unto our way.
O God, from the beginning, you have been our life;
you've led us to this day.
O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
your love is faithful and steadfast from generation to generation.
We strive to love our neighbors as ourselves,
becoming one beloved community.
We long to bring your justice, freedom, peace.
You lead us on this day!
O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
your love is faithful and steadfast from generation to generation.
We pray that all who seek God's grace may find Christ's welcome here.
Lord, be our children's children's strength as year succeeds to year,
from generation to generation!
Lord, lead us from this day!
O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
your love is faithful and steadfast from generation to generation.
Amen.*

-Isaac Watts and Tom Trenney

*Offertory Response #104 We Hail You God's Anointed; Stanza 3

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of justice and joy, receive and multiply these gifts that we may boldly and tenderly
build your Beloved Community here in this place. Amen.**

*HYMN Wait for the Lord

The hymn is repeated and may be sung in harmony.

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Toccata on “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”Austin Lovelace

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

The **Assembly Hall** is located downstairs. From the Narthex – the room at the back of the Sanctuary – go down the steps on the left as you exit the Sanctuary and straight down the hallway. From the **Elevator**, go to the “B” level, go down the ramp and turn right

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan, Senior Pastor	Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music
Rev. Tom Adil, Bridge Support Pastor	Chancel Choir

Worship Assistants

Hospitality:	Team 2: Leslie	Chancel Flowers:	Tracey & Mark O'Neill
Elder:	Bill Cagney	Driver:	Gale Linderman
Deacon:	Judy Johnston	Social Host:	Armin & Luchi
Audio Technician:	Matt Rivett	Umbrella Ministry:	

Copyright Acknowledgments

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"Christ in the Rubble" Christmas Lutheran Church, Bethlehem, December 2023	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Stanza Text: Linda Noonan	He Came Down Text and Music: Trad. Cameroon, arr. John Bell © 1986 Iona Community, GIA GIA	From Generation to Generation © 2022 Augsburg Fortress	Wait for the Lord Text: Taizé Community Music: Jacques Berthier © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé,
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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 21	Sun	Fourth Sunday of Advent	
		8:00 AM	Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary
		9:00 AM	LOFT: Re:Membering Christmas
		10:15 AM	Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary
		10:45 AM	Connect3, Activity Room
		11:30 AM	Fellowship, Assembly Hall
Dec 22	Mon	7:00 PM	Fireside CA 12 Step, Fireside Room
Dec 23	Tues	7:00 PM	AA, Assembly Hall
Dec 24	Wed	Christmas Eve	
		5:00 PM	Family Service
		9:00 PM	Candlelight Service
Dec 25	Thurs	Christmas Day – Office Closed	
Dec 26	Fri	Day after Christmas – Office Closed	
Dec 28	Sun	First Sunday After Christmas	
		8:00 AM	Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary
		10:15 AM	Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary
		11:30 AM	Fellowship, Assembly Hall

Acknowledgements:

 In memory of Robert & Cora Ellen Furniss from their son, David

 In memory of Earl Bruce Kirk's December 28th birthday,
from his daughter, Barbara Kirk

A note on "Israel" language in worship: In our music and scriptures, "Israel" and "Israelites" refer to ancient Israel and its people, not the modern political state. At various times in history, it meant the collective name of the twelve tribes descended from Jacob, the Hebrew people, "the people of Israel," the nation of Israel as a whole, or the Northern Kingdom. We want to be faithful hearers and interpreters of scripture, and pray fervently for the day when Palestinians and Israelis may live in mutual peace, security, and dignity.

St. John's UCC invites you to

Christmas Eve Worship

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 PM

Early Service with carols, children's music and message, and candle lighting.

9:00 PM

Late Service with carols, string quartet, choir, handbells, candle lighting, and communion.

Prelude begins at 8:30 pm.



Come to the LOFT and Explore
St. John's Roots & Branches!

EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:00 AM

In January and February, the LOFT (Living Our Faith Together - which is our adult faith formation space - our Adult "Sunday School") will focus on some of the history of St. John's UCC (roots) and the ways in which the vision of our forebears is being lived out in our time (branches). Come and share your own stories, learn about those who have gone before us, and imagine together how God might still be speaking at St. John's.

- JANUARY 4** What Is the United Church of Christ: Why Does It Matter to Us?
- JANUARY 11** Celebrating Pastor Tom: His Ministry, His Gifts, and His Service (Ask Pastor Tom Anything!)
- JANUARY 18** How the Light Gets In: Exploring Our 100 Year Old Sunday School Windows
- JANUARY 25** **NO LOFT**
150th Anniversary Sunday
- FEBRUARY 1** This Great Cloud of Witnesses: St. John's Founders
- FEBRUARY 8** Generations at St. John's: The Ahrens Family



Christmas Offering



The St. John's Christmas Offering supports four causes. **The UCC Christmas Fund (Veterans of the Cross)** supports retired and under-resourced clergy. **Manna on Main Street** gives food support to Lansdale and North Penn neighbors. **GEM Fund (Going the Extra Mile)** gives grants to partners and community projects. **HIRN (Hebron International Resource Network)** for those in urgent need in West Bank, Palestine. You may designate your gift to any of the above. Otherwise, it will be evenly split.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

All donations designated for 2025 must be received by the church office **BEFORE Monday, December 29th**. Donations after that date will be credited to your 2026 account.

New Member Sunday **January 18**

If you are interested in becoming a member at St. John's, please contact Rev. Linda.

Psalm 146:5-10

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,
who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.
The Lord watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord!

Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Announcements:

This Sunday (December 14):

- Advent Devotionals are available in the library
 - o Pocket Sized & Large Print available
- LOFT: Intergenerational Advent
- Poinsettia Donation Form in your bulletins.
 - o **Donations must be made by This Wednesday**
 - o **Donations listed in Christmas Eve Bulletin**

This Week:

- Wednesday Night Advent Worship
 - o Community Meal at 6:00 PM
 - o Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 PM
- Thursday
 - o Game Night = Bingo Night **6:30 PM**
 - o Blue Christmas (Zoom) **7:30 PM**
 - (Zoom link will be emailed out)
- Saturday
 - o Carols & Cocoa w/ Andrew! **1 PM**
 - o Blue Christmas (Trinity Lutheran) **5:30 PM**
 - Rev. Linda Preaching

Next Sunday (December 21):

- LOFT: Re:Membering Christmas

Coming Up:

- Christmas Eve
 - o 5PM Family Service & 9 PM Candlelight Service