



*St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
March 19, 2023*

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

*Please stand in body or in spirit

GATHERING SONG

"The Sanctuary at St. John's"

UNISON WELCOME

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

"The peace of Christ be with you"

"And also with you"

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY AND OPENING SONG

"Here I Am to Worship"

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

adapted from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

God does not see as mortals see.

We look on the outward appearance. God looks on the heart.

Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!

Once we lived in darkness, but now--

as children of light, we are called to what is good and right and true.

Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!

Together, let us see and sing and worship God!

***PRAISE SONG**

"Come, Now is the Time to Worship"

CALL TO CONFESSION

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

As children of God's light, we are called to do what is pleasing to the Lord: to participate in what is good and right and true, and expose what is unfruitful and evil. Knowing that we turn from the light, we bring our confession to God, so what is hidden in us becomes visible, and the shadows of our hearts may be illumined by grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness rather than light. We keep shameful deeds secret, but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue. We see ourselves as blameless, but pass judgment on others. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly. Bring us into your light that we may know ourselves loved. Bring us into your light that we may live more fruitful lives. Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin, and shine upon us with your grace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

KYRIE

Hymnal Companion C-4

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS *adapt. from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*

As God's forgiven people, receive this goodness and mercy, and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ. **We will live as children of light for Christ shines on us.**

***GLORY BE TO THE FATHER #704**

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14

RESPONSIVE READING

"The Revival" by Henry Vaughn

Unfold! Unfold! Take in His light,
Who makes thy cares more short than night.

**The joys which with His day-star rise
He deals to all but drowsy eyes;**

And, what the men of this world miss
Some drops and dews of future bliss.

**Hark! How His winds have chang'd their note!
And with warm whispers call thee out;**

The frosts are past, the storms are gone,
And backward life at last comes on.

**The lofty groves in express joys
Reply unto the turtle's voice;**

And here in dust and dirt, O here

The lilies of His love appear!

SPECIAL MUSIC

"How Great Thou Art"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Roxanne Davenport

SCRIPTURE READING

John 9:1-12

SERMON

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)

INVITATION TO GIVING

OFFERING SONG

"Offering"

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

Isaac Watts

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine
demands my soul, my life, my all.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

In gratitude, O God, we come to your table, into your presence, into your house. For all that you have done for us, most especially, for bringing us into the light of Jesus Christ, we offer our thanks and praise. We long to live as children of light, doing what is pleasing to you and bearing the fruit of the light through Jesus Christ, who

awakens those who are asleep, and raises those who are dead to new life. In his name we pray. Amen.

***UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH**

Hymnal Companion C-12

***CLOSING SONG**

"Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone"

***COMMISSION & BENEDICTION**

SENDING SONG

"Glory to God"

The "Nursery Nook in the Narthex" quiet area and infant/toddler space in the Parlor are available for children and families to use during worship. Age-appropriate activity bags are also available. See the deacon for assistance.

Join us following the service for coffee hour!

Birthdays this week: 3/19 Belinda Johnson; 3/21 John Bryner; 3/23 Donna Harrison; 3/24 Nina Widmann & Lavonna Wadel

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Amistad Praise Band	Guz Mora, Roxanne Davenport, Diana Kongkeattikul, Kathleen Mooshian, McKenna Mooshian
Pianist	Barbara Motichka
Deacon in Charge	Allen Frantz
Lector	Diana Macfarlane
Media Coordinators	Chris Willman-Bunge and Ginny Cairns
Bulletin cover	"Jesus Heals a Blind Man" by John (traqair57) on Flickr

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given to the Glory of God.

St. John's Vision

We are called to love, to learn, to worship and to witness in Christ
as a congregation that welcomes everyone,
and seeks service that will advance God's realm on earth.

Worship Resources:

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

"The Revival" by Henry Vaughn (1621-1695)

<https://www.journeywithjesus.net/poemsandprayers/700-henry-vaughan>

NEWS IN THE PEWS March 19, 2023

The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton, pastor@sjucc1811.org (641) 260-1868 (cell)
Gary Crum, Music Director | Barbara Motichka, Organist
Roxanne Davenport, Director of Children & Youth
Stephen W. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Monday, March 20

6:00 pm Boy Scouts – Fellowship Hall
6:30 pm Bible and a Beer – Trojan Diner

Tuesday, March 21

5:30 pm Yoga – Room 116
6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study via Zoom
6:30 pm Cub Scouts – Fellowship Hall
7:15 pm Amistad Praise Band Practice- Fellowship Hall/Sanctuary

Wednesday, March 22

6:00 pm Lenten Meal – Front Lobby
6:30 pm Lenten Worship – Sanctuary

Thursday, March 23

9:45 am Mom's Group – Parlor Room 104
10:00 am Bible Study – Conference Room 111
6:00 pm Bell Practice – Bell Room 117
7:15 pm Choir Practice – Choir Room 103

Saturday, March 25

8:00 am Camp Clean Up – St. John's Camp
10:00 am Smith's Chicken BBQ Fundraiser for St. John's Nursery School – Lowe's Parking Lot

Sunday, March 26

9:00 am Adult Sunday School Room 116
9:00 am Spark Elementary School Class – Room 204
9:00 am Teen Discussion Class – Room 206
9:00 am Godly Play Room 119
10:00 am Sunday Service – Sanctuary

Wednesday Night Lenten Services continue throughout March. We will share a meal together at 6 pm (provided by a ministry team) and a brief worship service will begin at 6:30 pm. All activities will be in the front lobby and Sanctuary. Join us!

Last Chance for the Smith's Chicken BBQ fundraiser for St. John's Nursery School on March 25! Nursery School Ministry members will be selling tickets before and after worship March 19. Your support of St. John's Nursery School is greatly appreciated.

Camp Clean Up! Help get St. John's Camp ready for the summer camping season. Join us on Saturday, March 25, 8 am. We'll be focused on outdoor cleanup (raking leaves and picking up sticks/branches). Many hands make light work!

Coffee Hour Hosts are needed, especially in April. Sign up to make coffee, provide simple snacks, and enjoy fellowship with friends! The sign-up sheet is on the lobby bulletin board.

Lenten Projects this year include the Peru Adopt-a-School program, Refugee Resettlement, African Mission Healthcare, and the Women Healthcare Initiative Foundation. Speakers from each of these organizations will give Mission Moments during the month of March. The proceeds of these offerings will be evenly divided among these four programs. The collection will be throughout Lent and will end on Palm Sunday, April 2. Collection boxes are available in the Narthex and at the Welcome Center. We are very happy to offer this opportunity for global outreach in the life of St. John's UCC.

Easter Lilies The Church Office is now taking donations for lilies to decorate the Sanctuary on Easter, April 9. Forms are available in the Narthex, at the Welcome Center, and in the office.

Worship on Easter Services will be at 8 am in Fellowship Hall and 10 am in the Sanctuary.

Nursery School Registration for the 2023-2024 school year opened to the public on March 1. Forms are available on the Nursery School page of our website and in the NS hallway.

We're Hiring St. John's is seeking a part-time office assistant, 9 am to 3 pm, Monday to Friday. Our church office has a friendly environment and is the communication hub for our church and community. Please contact Loretta Zimmerman, our office manager, with any questions.

The 2023 UCC StillSpeaking Lenten Devotional "Running From Empty" is available in the Narthex or by request from the church office. Suggested donation is \$2.

The Pastoral Relations Committee meets on a regular basis to facilitate the healthy relationship between pastor and congregation. Members of the Committee are: Lisa A'Zary, Tom Harrison, Tena Keeney, and Lee Powell. Please feel free to bring any concerns, conflicts, and/or celebrations to any member of Pastoral Relations or to Pastor Caroline directly.

Bible Study "Reading Biblical Literature: Genesis to Revelation" meets Thursday mornings from 10 to 11 am in Conference Room 111. The class is a combination of a 30-minute video lecture followed by 30 minutes of discussion. All are welcome and invited to attend!