



***St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
February 2, 2025***

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

*Please stand in body or in spirit

GATHERING SONG

"This is the Day"

UNISON WELCOME

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION MOMENT

PASSING OF THE PEACE

"The peace of Christ be with you"

"And also with you"

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

adapted from Gathered by Love

Come, people of God, to the one in whom we trust.

God is our rock and refuge, our strong fortress.

Hope in God, who created you. Open yourself to the one who knows you well.

God accepts us, even when people do not.

God affirms us, even when we fail.

Our God gives us tasks to do and strength to do them.

God's Word of love is ours to proclaim.

We have come to embrace the mysteries of our faith.

We are here to worship the God who empowers us.

***HYMN #490**

"Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated"

CALL TO CONFESSION

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

God calls us to speak the truth, even when it is difficult, to others but also to ourselves.

Confessing our sin in prayer, we dare to speak the truth about ourselves to God, who desires to deliver us and cast out fear.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

God, our Deliverer, we confess that we are too reluctant to speak and to live according to your truth. We grow comfortable with the way things are, passively condoning injustice. We see ourselves as "insiders," excluding those we consider "outsiders." We find it easier to pluck up and pull down, to destroy and overthrow, than to build and to plant. Forgive us, O God, for being timid disciples. Empty us of fear and shame, and fill us with love that is humble and patient and kind. We pray this in the name of the One who humbled himself, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

KYRIE

Hymnal Companion C-4

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

God has loved us since the beginning, and God's love for us will never end. Do not fear, therefore, but have faith in God's steadfast love, God's healing power, and God's ability to make all things new.

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 1:4-10

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 71:1-6 (The Inclusive Bible)

In you, YHWH, I take shelter—let me never be disappointed.

In your justice, rescue me, deliver me, turn your ear to me and save me!

Be mine, O mountain of strength! Send your decree – deliver me, for you are my rock, my fortress!

O God, rescue me from the hands of the violent, from the clutches of the thief and outlaw!

For you alone are my hope, YHWH my sovereign – I have trusted you since my youth.

I have relied on you from the womb; you sustained me from my mother's breast; to you I give constant praise.

ANTHEM

"Lord of the Dance"

choral setting by Don Hart

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Roxanne Davenport

Children's Corner will be offered following the Children's Message

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:21-30

SERMON

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

INVITATION TO GIVING

OFFERTORY

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE #706**

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

O God, bless these gifts that we have given as expression of our love for you and our neighbors, that they may bring closer to fulfillment your reign of peace and love; through Jesus Christ, Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

Hymnal Companion C-72

We celebrate communion this day by intinction, coming forward to the altar to receive the bread and cup. Pre-packaged elements are also available.

***HYMN #503**

"Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak"

***COMMISSION & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (seated)

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.

All are welcome at Christ's table. To let the church office know that you communed today, please sign the black attendance pad found in each row. If you are communing from home, please contact the church office to let us know.

Birthdays this week: 2/2 Tom Harrison (Mt. Union Road); 2/3 Gary Crum, Dr. Donald Hendrickson; 2/4 Michael Bitner, Jolene McGinley, Kurt Widmann; 2/5 Helen Douglas; 2/6 Alma Dietrich, Maelynn Dietrich, Gary Patterson; 2/7 Julie Dereef; 2/8 Ernie Welch

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Deacon in Charge	Peg Bryner
Lector	Judy Hodges
Children's Corner	Chani Wolfe
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz and Ginny Cairns
Bulletin cover	Edd Scheer

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.

St. John's Mission

To grow in love of God and neighbor

Worship Resources:

Gathered by Love: Worship Resources for Year C by Lavon Baylor

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1, edited by Kimberly Bracken Long

The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation

490 Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated

1. Take my life, and let it be con - se - crat - ed,
 2. Take my feet, and let them be swift and beau - ti -
 3. Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would
 4. Take my will and make it Thine; it shall be no
 5. Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its

Lord, to Thee; take my hands, and let them move
 ful for Thee; take my voice, and let me sing
 I with - hold; take my mo - ments and my days,
 long - er mine; take my heart, it is Thine own,
 trea - sure store. Take my - self and I will be

at the im - pulse of Thy love, at the im - pulse of Thy love.
 al - ways, on - ly, for my King, al - ways, on - ly, for my King.
 let them flow in cease - less praise, let them flow in cease - less praise.
 it shall be Thy roy - al throne, it shall be Thy roy - al throne.
 ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee, ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee.

WORDS: Frances R. Havergal, 1874

MUSIC: Henri A. C. Malan, 1827; harm. Lowell Mason, 1841

HENDON

7.7.7.7

Higher key, No. 443

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak 503

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are arranged in four numbered lines, with the first line being a refrain and the subsequent three lines being the main body of the text. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

1. Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in
2. O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the
3. O fill me with Your full - ness, Lord, un -
4. O use me, Lord, use e - ven me, just

liv - ing ech - oes of Your tone; as You have sought, so
pre - cious things that You im - part; and wing my words, that
til my ver - y heart o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and
as You will, and when, and where, un - til Your bless - ed

let me seek Your err - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y a heart.
glow - ing word, Your love to tell, Your praise to show.
face I see, Your rest, Your joy, Your glo - ry share.

WORDS: Frances R. Havergal, 1872 (Rom. 14:7)

MUSIC: Robert Schumann, 1839

CANONBURY

LM

Higher key, No. 24

NEWS IN THE PEWS February 2, 2025

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
The Rev. Stephen W. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Monday, February 3

10:00 am Meditation Class – Parlor Room 104

1:30 pm "Jesus is the Question" Book Study – Conference Room 111

Tuesday, February 4

5:30 pm Yoga – Room 202

6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study – Zoom

6:00 pm Blue and Gold Banquet – Fellowship Hall

6:45 pm Amistad Praise Band Rehearsal – Sanctuary

Thursday, February 6

6:00 pm Bell Choir – Choir Room 103

7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room 103

Saturday, February 8

5:00 pm Saturday Night Worship – Fellowship Hall – Room 120

Sunday, February 9

8:45 am Godly Play Class – Room 119

8:45 am Spark! Elementary Church School Class – Room 115

8:45 am Teen Discussion Class – Youth Room 206

8:45 am Wired Word Church School Class – Room 116

10:00 am Sunday Service – Sanctuary

Jesus is the Question Book Study continues on Mondays at 1:30 pm in the Conference Room 111. Our next session on 2/3 will focus on chapter 3. All are welcome. Bring your questions!

Office Support Many thanks to our terrific office volunteers! We are working hard to fill the office administrator position and give thanks for those who have been helping out.

2024 Year End Giving Statements are now available by request. Please call the church office if you would like to receive yours and indicate if you would prefer this to be mailed or emailed.

Our Spring Congregational Meeting will be held following worship on Sunday, February 9. We will gather in Room 116 for lunch and a hybrid meeting (Zoom and in person).

February First Fruits will be for "Sponsor a Camper." Every child should have an opportunity to enjoy a fun time at summer camp. St. John's offers financial aid to youth and their families who need assistance with the cost to attend St. John's Camp. Your donation helps to provide a camp experience for a child from our community who is financially unable to attend camp.

Join us for Life Talk What's on your mind? Something that concerns or worries you? Do you need to vent? Just want to talk with other adults for a bit? Don't want to share in front of the entire congregation? Or you don't think it really needs to be a prayer request? Grab your snack and coffee, and meet in the parlor after services on Sunday mornings for about 15 to 20 minutes. Anyone and everyone is welcome.

California Wildfire Relief Contributions can be made to the UCC's California Wildfires 2025 Appeal via <https://support.ucc.org/california-wildfires-2025> or to World Central Kitchen, via wck.org/relief/california-fires-jan25

Susquehanna University Choir will be giving a concert at St. John's on Sunday, March 2, 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Mark your calendar now! They will also sing at the 10 am worship service that morning. We give thanks for these wonderful musical opportunities!

Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner Join us on Tuesday, March 4 at 5:30 pm for our annual Lenten tradition: the Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner! We will have dine-in and take-out options. \$15 for adults, \$5 for kids (6-12), free for kids under 6. Contact Harold or Susan Collier if willing to help.

Ash Wednesday Worship will be held at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, March 5, in the Sanctuary.

Winter Warmth Drive We are now in Phase 2: Healthy Food (January 15 to February 15) of this program with United Way. A full list of desired food items to donate can be found in the February Spirit. Donation boxes are in both lobbies.

Accessibility Update Many thanks to our team who put together 40 new chairs with arms. These chairs are in the choir room, Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, and Room 116. We are thankful for these investments that foster our connections for worship, fellowship, and fun.

Bible and a Beer is an opportunity to talk about our faith in public. Join us on the 3rd Monday of the month at the Trojan Diner at 6:30 pm. Our next gathering will be Monday, February 17.

Winter Weather As we have already experienced, it's a good bet that some winter weather is in our future. In the event of snow and you're not sure if Sunday Worship is cancelled please check your email for a special e-blast or call the church office and select option 1 to hear a message. As for Monday-Friday activities, if CASD classes are cancelled all day, all church activities are also cancelled. If school is delayed morning activities will be cancelled and if there is an early dismissal evening activities will be canceled. Safety first!