

February 5, 2023
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Communion

+ WE GATHER TO WORSHIP +

WELCOME and GREETING

PRELUDE Trumpet Voluntary - Gordon Young

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are called to bring a new understanding of God:
that God so loves the world.

We are the salt of the earth.

We are called to bring a new hope in God:
that God gives us new life.

We are the light of the world.

We are called to follow
the commandments and the law.

**The Law of God is to love God
and to love one another.**

Come, let us be the salt of the earth,
the light of the world.

**Come, let us love one another
with the love of God.**

**Let us join together in our love of God
to worship and follow Jesus.**

HYMN ELW 556 Morning Has Broken

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE



All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be
giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -
will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,
heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we
praise you for your glo - ry. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of mystery and of judgment, who has made us to be salt and light in a tasteless, shadowed world, guide us in this time of worship. Grant us understanding and spiritual discernment so that others may see your good works through us, give you the glory, and be moved to serve you. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

+ WE HEAR GOD'S WORD +

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-12

At the conclusion of the reading:

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5:13-20

At the beginning of the reading:

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion of the reading:

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 712 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Share a sign of peace with those around you, if you are comfortable doing so. Please recognize some folks might prefer to not shake hands as we continue to live with COVID-19.

WE SHARE THE MEAL CHRIST GAVE US

Communion will be shared continuously. Please come forward down the center aisle and return to your seat by the side aisle. You will receive the bread from the pastor and then be invited to take a pre-filled cup from the tray held by the communion assistant. Wine is in the clear cups and grape juice is in the purple cups. Empty cups can be placed in the bowls at the end of the first pew as you return to your seat. All are welcome!

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION ELW 471 Let Us Break Bread Together

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in God's grace. Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you.

Amen.

+ WE ARE SENT TO SERVE +

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORDS TO GUIDE US AS WORSHIP ENDS – *Live Your Creed* by Langston Hughes

I'd rather see a sermon than to hear one any day.
I'd rather one walk with me than just to show the way.
The eye is a better pupil and more willing than the ear.
Advice may be misleading but examples are always clear.
And the very best teachers are the one who live their Creed,
for to see good put into action is what everybody needs.
I can soon learn to do it if you let me see it done.
I can watch your hand in motion but your tongue too fast may run
And the lectures you deliver may be fine very and true
But I'd rather get my lesson by observing what you do.
For I may misunderstand you and fine advice you give
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.

May God guide you this week in living your creed.

Amen

SENDING HYMN ELW 705 God of Grace and God of Glory

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Jerusalem, (O day of peace...) - setting by James Welch

Black History Month – Poet of the Week

James Mercer Langston Hughes (*February 1, 1901 – May 22, 1967*) was an American poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, and columnist from Joplin, Missouri. One of the earliest innovators of the literary art form called jazz poetry, Hughes is best known as a leader of the Harlem Renaissance.



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PRAYER LIST

Please continue to keep the following people connected to our congregation in your prayers: Bob Moran, Brian Allebach, Charles Krupp, David Mounts, Leah Crater, Steve Keyser, Sydney Crossin, Andrew Robison, Silas Reed, Ruth Jadick, Pat Ernst, Joan Miller, Pastor Jennifer Phelps, Paige & Peyton Seasock, Kathleen Casey, Tal Umstead, Sandra Umstead, Donald and Donna Moyer, Gladys Burke, Ann Marie Romano, Linda Hart, Gladys Ditzler and Judy Ockenlaender.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, Feb 6	7pm Book Club 7pm Great Songs of Faith rehearsal
Tuesday, Feb 7	7:30pm Leadership Conversation Zoom 7pm Member Engagement meeting
Wednesday, Feb 8	7pm Confirmation Learning
Sunday, Feb 12	9am Faith Formation (age 3-Adult) 10:15 Worship

Join us for Adult Sunday School, 9am in the Fellowship Hall. NOOMA is a series of short films that explore our world from a perspective of Jesus. NOOMA is an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion. Join us for fellowship and conversation! All welcome!

Winter Book Club will be reading Kelly Corrigan's book, *Tell Me More: Stories about the 12 Hardest Things I'm Learning to Say*. We will meet on Monday, February 6th at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall to discuss this, "deeply personal, unfailingly honest, and often hilarious examination of the essential phrases that turn the wheel of life." -Goodreads.com.

A New Member Small Group will be starting this winter! If you– or someone you know– is interested in becoming part of the St. John's community, contact Pastor Becky at pastorbecky74@gmail.com

It's Care Package Time! Our college students love receiving a box filled with goodies each winter/spring. Help us share the love with them! Goto <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b084fa8ad2caafd0-care2#/> to access the list of items we are collecting for the packages. All donations must be dropped off at St. John's by Sunday, February 19th. Thank you!!

Add Your Voice to the Choir Choir rehearsals are held Wednesday evenings at 7pm. All are welcome to join—even if you can't be there every week— simply add your voice when you can!!

St. John's is once again hosting a Super Bowl Grid Fundraiser!

Grid 1 - is a Fundraiser for our Heavenly Helper's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation Sleeping Bag Fundraiser. Each block is \$10.00 donation.

Goto Superbowlsquares.org/ergodo

Grid 2 - this is our Fun Grid This is a Free Game to play. Open to everyone-young and old! Go to [Goto Superbowlsquares.org/lniumq](http://Superbowlsquares.org/lniumq)

See the weekly email for more information.

Lenten Worship Experiment During the season of Lent, St. John's will be adding an early morning worship experience to our Sunday mornings. This service will take place at 8 AM, starting February 26 thru Easter Sunday, April 9. It will be a more quiet, reflective style of worship with minimal music - and will be 35-45 minutes in length to allow participation in 9 AM Sunday school.

At the conclusion of the Lenten season, the Worship & Music Team will evaluate participation in this early service during Lent to help determine our fall 2023 worship schedule. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with Pastor Becky or Erika Haldeman, chair of Worship & Music.

Save the Date! Sunday, March 19th for a **St. Patrick's Day Roller Skating Party** at Ringing Rocks Roller Rink in Pottstown.

RISE Against Hunger event coming March 25th. Save the date.

Pub Theology is BACK! Tuesday, February 21st at 7pm at the newly re-opened Sumneytown Hotel. Join us for a drink and some good conversation and grow your connections and faith at the same time. We will meet in the church parking lot at 6:50 to carpool over. Due to the busyness of the pub, please sign up by Thursday, Feb. 16th, so we can let them know how many seats to have on hand for us. Sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b084fa8ad2caafd0-febpub#/>

Friedens Union Cemetery Assoc. would just like to remind anyone who has graves in the cemetery that around March 1, weather permitting there will be some volunteers cleaning off the cemetery. If you have Christmas things in the grave yard please remove prior to this. If you wish to volunteer to help with this please call Evey 215-264-6099. If we have enough help it only takes a few hours.

Blessed to be a Blessing

For the month of February, we will be supporting The Open Link with donations of canned soup and stew. As the soup and stew congregation in the Upper Perkiomen Valley, we made a commitment years ago to make sure that the food pantry never runs out of soup and stew. As we prepare to celebrate the Super Bowl in the month of February, join us in creating our own Souper Bowl of donations to support Open Link!

Lenten Prayer Partners

During the season of Lent, we will be offering the opportunity to receive a prayer partner.

A few changes this season include:

-Prayer partners will be randomly selected— sign up online or on the paper outside Pastor Becky's office **by Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22nd**. (Your prayer partner's name will be emailed to you by the First Sunday in Lent, Feb. 26th.

-Prayer partners will not be secret—this will allow you, if you choose, to contact your prayer partner and receive specific prayer partner requests to offer up. Your prayers can then be more intentional around the needs and concerns of the person for whom you are praying. Contact is not required, but simply optional.