

9 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth.
² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him.”

John 9:1–3



Abington Presbyterian Church

March 15, 2026

10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Centering Prayer

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
He makes me lie down
in green pastures;
he leads me beside
still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
You prepare a table
before me
in the presence of
my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell
in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.
(Psalm 23)

The people **gather** in response to God's call to worship our Creator with thanksgiving and praise.

The whole congregation joins together in speaking (or singing) the text in **bold** print. At the asterisk (*) please stand in body or rise in spirit. Purple *Glory to God* hymnals are located in the pew racks. Please join in singing!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

4th Sunday in Lent

GATHERING

PRELUDE *Open My Eyes, That I May See* Emma Lou Diemer

WELCOME AND LIVING OUR FAITH

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lord Christ, open our eyes
to see clearly the light of the world.
Holy Spirit, illumine our minds
to perceive God's glory shining among us.
Almighty God, prepare our hearts
to see, to trust, to worship the Messiah.

*HYMN NO. 182 *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* KINGSFOLD

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

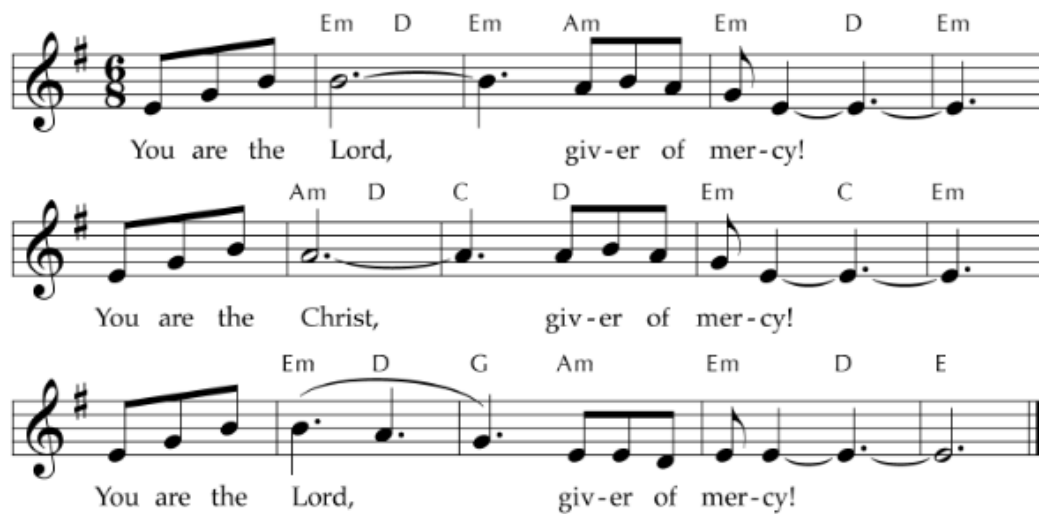
**Wonder-working God,
forgive us when preconceived notions
cloud our vision and blind us
to your activity in our lives.
We watch for signs of your glory
in the successful and strong,
in pious acts and answered prayers,
in favorable outcomes and dreams fulfilled.
But you make yourself known in unexpected ways:
in shepherd boys lifted to the throne
and outcasts returned to community;
in death-haunted valleys transformed by your presence,
and ordinary pools made extraordinary by your grace,
through water and mud,
and a table prepared with sacrificial love.
We long for a salve that relieves our stubborn focus
on inconsequential questions,
and for water that heals our blindness
to revelations of your love.**

**Open our eyes,
illumine our minds,
and prepare our hearts,
to receive your amazing grace.**

*SILENT PRAYER

*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE NO. 437 *You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!* WAYFARING STRANGER



*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Ruth Sall

SUNG PRAYER (HYMN NO. 451, v. 1) *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

OPEN MY EYES

SCRIPTURE READING

John 9:1-41

New Testament, p. 102

The word of the Lord.

Ray Rife, Zene Colt, and Ian Waite

Thanks be to God.

HYMN NO. 451 (v. 2) *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

OPEN MY EYES

SERMON

"A Witness to the Word: The Man Born Blind "

The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson

*HYMN NO. 451 (v. 3) *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

OPEN MY EYES

Hearing Assistance Devices are available in the Narthex (at the back of the Sanctuary). Please see an Usher for Assistance.

Children's Worship Bags are available at each entrance to the Sanctuary.

The congregation is invited to share signs of Christ's peace, such as a handshake, with one another.

Following the Children's Message, children (through Grade 5) may follow their teachers to Sunday School or remain in worship.

Where the **word** is read and proclaimed, we believe Jesus Christ the living Word is present by the power of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the proclamation of the word through the reading and interpretation of Scripture is central to our worship.

We respond to the proclamation of the Word by confessing the faith of the Church. Today we are using “The Christ Hymn,” found in Philippians 2:5-11.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Philippians 2:5-11

**Christ Jesus,
though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess to the glory of God:
Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Ray Rife

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.**

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Cantique de Jean Racine
Chancel Choir: John Sall, director

Gabriel Faure

O Redeemer divine, our sole hope of salvation,
Eternal Light of the earth and the sky,
We kneel in adoration,
O Savior turn on us thy loving eye.

Send down on us the fire of Thy grace all-consuming,
Whose wondrous might dispersed the powers of hell,
And rouse our slumbering souls with radiance all-illuminating
That they may waken Thy mercy to tell.

O Christ bestow Thy blessing on us we implore Thee,
Who here are gathered on penitent knee,
Accept thy hymns we chant to Thine everlasting glory
And these Thy gifts we return unto Thee.

*DOXOLOGY HYMN NO. 606

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

*HYMN NO. 773

Heaven Shall Not Wait

HEAVEN SHALL NOT WAIT

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Fugue in C Major, BWV 547 Johann Sebastian Bach

In gratitude for the grace we have received, we respond with **thanksgiving** and offer our lives to God.

Your presence and participation in worship is an expression of self-offering. If you have not already done so, please sign the red Friendship Pad, located at the end of the pew closest to the center aisle, then pass it along the row.

We are grateful for gifts of time, talent and treasure. If you prefer to give a financial gift online, you may use the QR code below.



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Stay connected with our community of faith!

You Tube:

@AbingtonPresbyterianChurch4784

Facebook:

@Abington Presbyterian Church-APC (Public Group)
@Abington Presbyterian Church Youth Fellowship (Private Group)

To read about all the exciting things happening at Abington Presbyterian Church, **please pick up a copy of “Abington Presbyterian Life” from an Usher or subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter.** To be added to the distribution list for the E-Blast, please call the church office or email Susan Schied: sschied@apcusa.org

Our community of faith strives to live by the words of the Apostle Paul: *Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep* (Romans 12:15). As you pray throughout the week, we invite you to lift up the names of those who have requested prayer. Our church family would also like to rejoice with you if you are celebrating the arrival of a child, grandchild or great-grandchild; marking an important milestone; or have another joy to share.

To add a name to the Prayer List or share a joy, please call the church office or email Susan Schied: sschied@apcusa.org

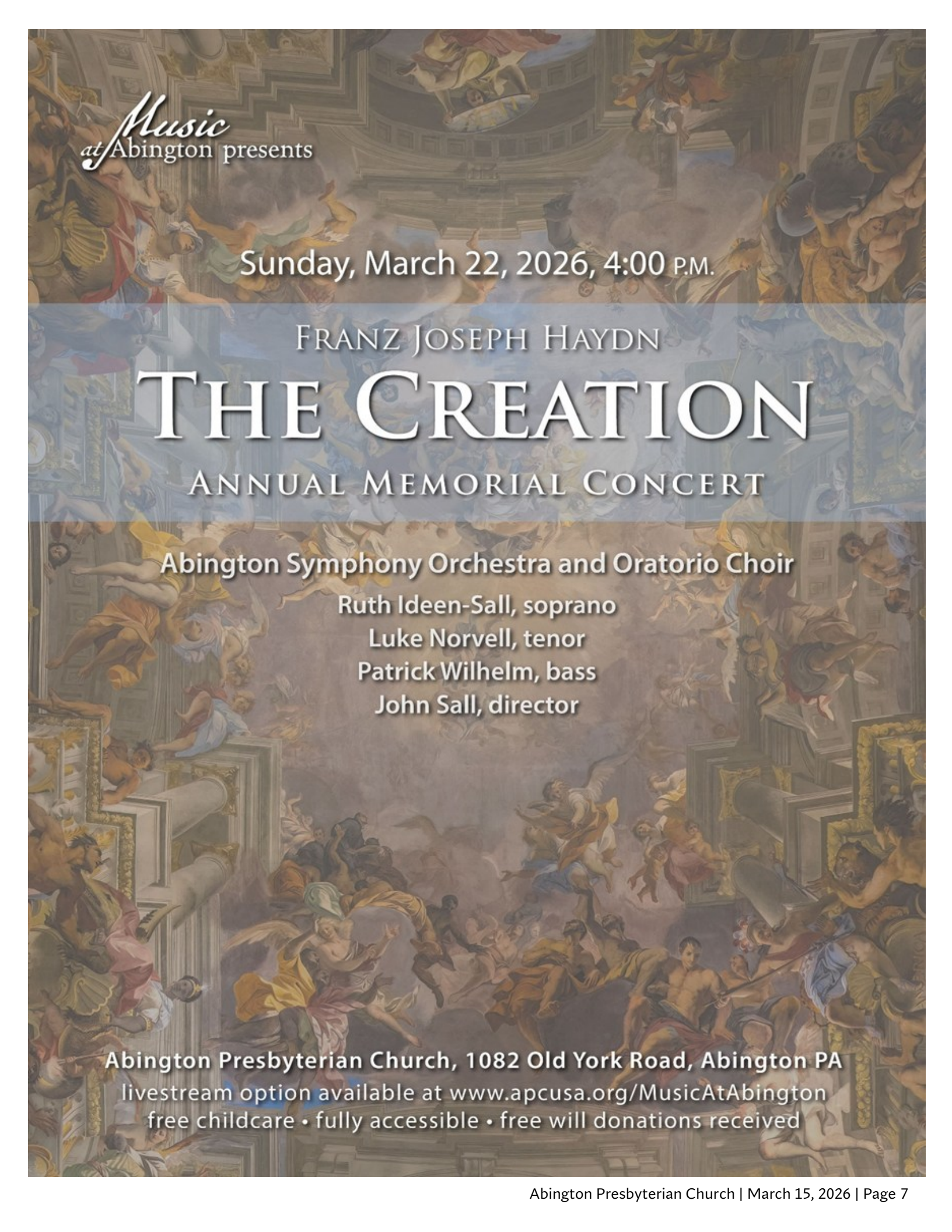
TODAY AT ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

- 8:00 a.m. Simple Gifts Worship Service** in the Sanctuary
- 8:45 a.m. Adult Forum: What it means to belong to a Church** in the Parlor
- 9:50 a.m. Nursery Care** for infants and toddlers in Rooms 110
Preschool Sunday School in Room 221
- 10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship Service** in the Sanctuary
- Following the Children’s Message (approx. 10:20 a.m.)**
Sunday School for Kindergarten—5th in the Youth Lounge
- 11:15 a.m. Circles of Trust—Group 3** in the Chapel

PRAYER LIST

We share prayers of joy and thanksgiving with **Ted Lutkus and Anna Passyn** on the birth of their grandson, **Joseph Alexander Passyn**.

In need of ongoing prayers: Bernadette Barnhurst (mother of Marie Barnhurst), Olive Biggs, Carol Boles (mother of Christine Sacco), Kierstin Blomquist (cousin of Chuck Twining), Walter Boutcher, John Connelly (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), Corrigan Family (APNS family), Robin Cupo, Linda Doyle, Heather Ferretti (Daughter of Trish Miller), John Frazier, Phyllis Frazier, Carmina Gagliardi (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), Wayne Gibbons, Jr., Lindsay Harbold (APNS parent), Joanne Hawkson (mother of Nick Cupo), Ted Hyczko, Diane Johnson, Stephen Krewson, Emil Kupper, Laura Lafferty, Family of Katie Link (APNS parent), Holland Lutzow (APNS student), Diane Marsh (daughter of Diane Reed), Mary Anne McMillan, Clinton Mench (APNS parent), Joan Meyers, Gail Mignogna, Suzy Paravla (daughter of Susan Davis), Will Pompilli (son of Teresa Pompilli), Joe Risi (friend of Cindy Willis), Sharon Robson (friend of Kimberly Browne), Ed Sacco, Valerie Steigerwalt (niece of Marlyn Whyte), Jackie Thurlow, Eugenia Velazquez (Iris Long’s mother), Shirley Waters, Barbara Weber, The Weir Family, Cindi Willis, Callum Wright (friend of Barbara-Ann Schwartz, APNS teacher).



Music
at Abington presents

Sunday, March 22, 2026, 4:00 P.M.

FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN

THE CREATION

ANNUAL MEMORIAL CONCERT

Abington Symphony Orchestra and Oratorio Choir

Ruth Ideen-Sall, soprano

Luke Norvell, tenor

Patrick Wilhelm, bass

John Sall, director

Abington Presbyterian Church, 1082 Old York Road, Abington PA
livestream option available at www.apcusa.org/MusicAtAbington
free childcare • fully accessible • free will donations received

ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

PASTORAL STAFF

The Rev. Sudie E. Niesen Thompson, M.Div., Th.M.	Pastor/Head of Staff
The Rev. Judith A. Dwyer, M. Div.	Parish Associate

MUSIC STAFF

John Sall, M.M.	Director of Music Ministries
Ruth Sall, B.M.	Children & Youth Choir Director
Lois Leong, M.M.	Organist & Director of Handbells

EDUCATION STAFF

Ruth Sall, B.M.	Director of Christian Education
Justin Feil	Youth Fellowship Coordinator
The Rev. Ashley Rossi, M.Div.	Youth Fellowship Coordinator

SUPPORT STAFF

Fred Cipriano	Facilities Manager
Susan Schied	Secretary
Jackie Thurlow	Bookkeeper



Abington Presbyterian Church | Founded 1714

1082 Old York Road, Abington, PA, 19001
215.887.4530 • apcusa.org

Abington Presbyterian Church celebrates God's infinite love and believes all people are equal in the eyes of God. We welcome all to worship and serve with us. We seek to work together to oppose intolerance, racism, and injustice that threaten the unity of humankind.