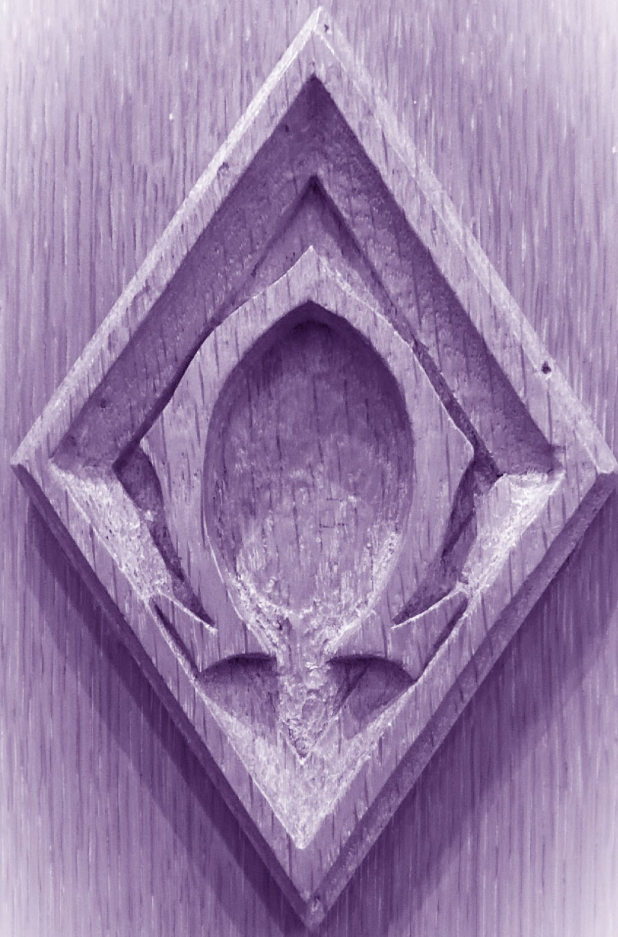


¹⁹ Open to me the gates of
righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter
through it.

Psalms 118:19–20



Abington Presbyterian Church

March 29, 2025

10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

Palm Sunday

Centering Prayer

What if you arrived
inviting us to lay down
something important to us
to acknowledge your arrival?

What if we knew
the imminence of the danger
that accompanies you,
or sensed that
the authorities were
watching us as we worship?

How then, Jesus,
would we meet you today.
and what would we spread
before you?
And how would we
regard humility
from the One we hope will
save the world?

Palm Sunday Jesus,
help us to see
how and where
you enter our world today,
and what you ask us to lay
at your feet,
and how we may
welcome you in. Amen.

All Children are invited to
join the **Palm Procession**
after the Introit.

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

Palm Sunday

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

John Carter

WELCOME AND LIVING OUR FAITH

CALL TO WORSHIP

Look! Your king is coming—humble and riding on a donkey.

Hosanna to the Son of David!

Lay your cloaks before him; spread palms to honor him.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Raise your voices. Lift your hearts. Rejoice—our Savior comes!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!

INTROIT

Hosanna! Blessed is He

Michael Bedford

Cherub & Carol Choirs: Ruth Sall, director
with Joyful Ringers: Lois Leong, director

Hosanna! Blessed is he, hosanna! Blessed is he who comes,
who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord!

Carry him now, little donkey, through the crowded street;
carry him as the people lay palm branches at his feet.

Hosanna! Blessed is he, hosanna! Blessed is he who comes,
who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord!

*HYMN NO. 196

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Today Jesus enters Jerusalem as a king.

But soon shouts of “Hosanna!”

will turn to cries of “Crucify!”

Like the crowds of long ago, we are fickle followers.

But God is faithful.

Trusting in God’s mercy,

let us confess our sins before God and one another.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Suffering God,
the way of the cross is a hard road.

It is draining.

It is demanding.

It is fraught with danger.

You ask us to stay by your side
as you walk toward Calvary.
But weariness and fear overtake us.
Like the first disciples, we are quick

to betray you,

to deny you,

to abandon you.

Forgive us, God, and strengthen us for the journey ahead.
Give us courage to face the pain and suffering
of this world and to respond with compassion.

As the darkness gathers,

renew our faith,

fill us with hope,

and startle us with your grace.

*SILENT PRAYER

*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The One we greet with shouts of "Hosanna,"
does, indeed, come to save us from sin and death—
not with military might,
but with the power of love.

O give thanks to the Lord, who is good!

God's steadfast love endures forever!

RESPONSE NO. 197 (v. 3) *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

ELLACOMBE

**"Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer; the Lord of heaven, our King.
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

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.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Ruth Sall

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Bill Gustafson

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

Old Testament, p. 565

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Awake the Harp (from *The Creation*)

F.J. Haydn

Chancel Choir: John Sall

Awake the harp, the lyre awake, and let your joyful song resound.

Rejoice in the Lord, the mighty God.

For He both heaven and earth has clothed in stately dress.

Awake the harp, the lyre awake, and let your joyful song resound.

Rejoice in the Lord, the mighty God.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 21:1-11

New Testament, p. 23

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson

*HYMN NO. 274 *You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd*

PICARDY

*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

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 *Ride On!* Taylor Davis
Chapel Choir: Ruth Sall & John Sall, co-directors

The anthem is a setting of the text found at Hymn No. 198

*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. 209 *My Song is Love Unknown* LOVE UNKNOWN

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE *Rhosymedre* Ralph Vaughan Williams

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've not already done so, please sign the red Friendship Pad, located at the end of the pew on the center aisle, then pass it along the row. If you prefer an electronic form or are worshipping with us via livestream, you may follow the link to the online Friendship Pad using the QR Code below.

Abington Presbyterian Church
Online Friendship Pad



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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The Centering Prayer is taken from a longer prayer by Ann Suddall, originally published on the Stillpoint Spirituality Centre website and accessed via Re: Worship (re-worship.blogspot.com).

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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: Who was Pontius Pilate** 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.** **Church Potluck** in Parish Hall
- 3:00 p.m.** **Festive Youth Ringers** in the Bell Room
- 4:00 p.m.** **Youth Fellowship** in the Youth Lounge
- 5:30 p.m.** **Youth Dinner** in the Parlor
- 6:00 p.m.** **Chapel Choir** in the Choir Room
-

PRAYER LIST

We share prayers of joy and thanksgiving with **Leah Ellert and Bobby Micikas** on the birth of their son, **Calvin Ellert Micikas**.

We share prayers of joy and thanksgiving with **Sarah Wingert Ogden and Joe Ogden** on the birth of their son, **Theodore Joseph Ogden**.

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, Rick Bruce, 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), Hirst Family (APNS family), Ted Hyczko, Diane Johnson, Stephen Krewson, Emil Kupper, Laura Lafferty, Family of Katie Link (APNS parent), Holland Lutzow (APNS student), 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).

Holy Week at Abington Presbyterian Church

Worshippers of all ages are welcome at all Holy Week services. Childcare is also available on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday and at the 10:00 service on Easter Sunday. Services that take place entirely in the Sanctuary will be livestreamed.

Maundy Thursday | April 2 at 7:30 p.m. | Beginning in Parish Hall

Join us as we remember Jesus' final meal with the disciples and his betrayal and arrest in the garden. The Maundy Thursday service will begin in Parish Hall, where worshippers are invited to gather beginning at 7:15 p.m. to partake of light fare and fellowship before worship. Following the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, the congregation will travel to the Sanctuary to conclude the service. We need your help "setting the stage" for the story of Jesus' arrest in the garden. **If you have a potted plant (small enough for one person to carry) that you'd like to lend for use in worship, please bring it to the Sanctuary no later than 7:15 p.m.** You will be invited to retrieve your plant during the Stripping of the Church at the conclusion of the service. You may take your plant home following the service, or leave it in our care for use in worship on Good Friday.

Good Friday | April 3 at 1:00 p.m. | Sanctuary + Livestream

This service, featuring the Chancel Choir, will remember the story of Jesus' final hours through the reading of Scripture and musical responses. The Good Friday service also includes an opportunity to reflect upon this sacred story through interactive prayer stations.

Easter Sunday | April 5

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Join us as we celebrate Christ's resurrection.

Easter Worship Service | 8:00 a.m. | Cemetery and Sanctuary

This Service begins in the Abington Presbyterian Church Cemetery, then moves to the Sanctuary for the proclamation of the word and celebration of the Lord's Supper. The Chapel Youth Choir will help lead the Service.

Celebration Worship Service | 10:00 a.m. | Sanctuary + Livestream

Our Easter Celebration Service includes the proclamation of the Easter story, a sermon by the Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson, a Children's Message, and festive music led by the Chancel and Chapel choirs, brass, and organ (including the *Hallelujah Chorus!*).

Easter Egg Hunt and Fellowship | 11:00 a.m. | Parish Hall and Front Lawn

Easter Egg Hunt: All children are invited to meet in the Parish Hall after the 10:00 a.m. service to gather and decorate Easter Egg Hunt bags. We will head out to the Old York Road lawn for the Easter Egg Hunt around 11:15 a.m.

Easter Fellowship: There is a fancy fellowship and coffee in the Parish Hall as well. Come and fellowship together as we celebrate our risen Lord!

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.