

²² The stone that the builders
rejected
has become the chief
cornerstone
²³ This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

Psalm 118:22-23



Abington Presbyterian Church

April 5, 2026

10:00 a.m. Resurrection Celebration

Easter Sunday

Centering Prayer

Christ Jesus is here—
here,
as on the first day;
here among us eternally,
as on Easter morning;
here with us for ever
as fully as on the first day;
here in our midst
through all the days
of his eternity:
for he is risen!
Alleluia!

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!

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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Easter Sunday

GATHERING

PRELUDE	<i>Fanfare for a Resurrection Day</i>	Steven Scott
INTROIT NO. 241	<i>Woman, Weeping in the Garden</i> John Dean, soloist	KINGDOM

Woman, weeping in the garden,
who has pushed the stone aside?
Who has taken Jesus' body,
Jesus Christ the crucified?

Woman, waiting in the garden,
after men have come and gone,
after angels give their witness,
silently you watch the dawn.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Beloved, why are you weeping?
The tomb is empty;
the grave clothes are cast aside.

**Now is the time for tambourines and dancing,
for victory songs and shouts of joy!**

See and believe: Our redeemer lives!

**O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever!**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*HYMN NO. 232	<i>Jesus Christ is Risen Today</i>	EASTER HYMN
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WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

**Praise be to you, O God of Resurrection,
for you have defeated the powers of sin and death!
In raising Jesus from the grave,
you displayed your holy power
and transformed all of creation.
In your steadfast love,
you have redeemed us once and for all.**

**Where we once saw pain, scarcity, and despair,
we now see wholeness, abundance, and hope.
Holy Spirit, inspire us to live as your new creation,
working to make things on earth
as they are in heaven. Amen.**

*RESPONSE HYMN NO. 246 (v.1) *Christ is Alive!* TRURO

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

WORD

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE Ruth Sall

ANTHEM *Crown Him with Many Crowns* arr. David N. Johnson
Chapel Choir: Ruth Sall & John Sall, co-directors
The anthem is a setting of the text of Hymn No. 268.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Anna Colt

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Old Testament, p. 565
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING John 20:1-18 New Testament, p. 114
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE NO. 241 (v. 5) Woman, Weeping in the Garden KINGDOM
**Woman, dancing from the garden,
find the others and proclaim
Christ is risen as he promised;
tell the world he knew your name!**

SERMON The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson

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

Following the Children’s Message, all children 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 one of our oldest and most familiar affirmations of faith. Roman Christians developed an early form of the Apostles' Creed around 180 C.E. and used it to teach church doctrine to candidates for baptism. The present form of the Apostles' Creed dates to the eighth century.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

ANTHEM & DOXOLOGY *When Morning Gilds the Skies* Robert Hobby
Chancel Choir: John Sall, director

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

When evening shadows fall, this rings my curfew call:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

When mirth for music longs, this is my song of songs:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

God's holy house of prayer has none that can compare
with "Jesus Christ be praised!"

To him, my highest and best, I sing, when love-possessed:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Whate'er my hands begin, this blessing shall break in:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

No lovelier antiphon in all high heaven is known
than "Jesus Christ be praised! Jesus Christ be praised!"
There to the eternal Word the eternal psalm is heard:
Oh, Jesus Christ be praised! Oh, Jesus Christ be praised!

(The organ "sings" a solo stanza:

Let all of humankind in this their concord find:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let all the earth around ring joyous with the sound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!)

All are invited to rise and join our closing stanza in doxology:

**Sing, sun and stars of space,
sing, all who see his face,
sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!"
God's whole creation o'er,
today and evermore
shall Jesus Christ be praised!**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR EASTER The Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O God, Creator of all things,
ruler of the world and all that is to come ...

... Therefore with all Creation we sing as one voice:

SANCTUS

LLANFAIR

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, Al- - - leluia
God of power and of might, Al- - - leluia!
Heav'n and earth your glory show, Al- - - leluia!
Shout hosanna in the heights, Al- - - leluia!**

**Bless-ed is the one who comes, Al- - - leluia!
In the Lord's name, and as Son, Al- - - leluia!
Sing we now with all our might, Al- - - leluia!
Our hosannas to the heights. Al- - - leluia!**

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.



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.



This is not a Presbyterian table; it is the table of our Lord. All who trust in Christ, regardless of age, are invited to partake of this sacrament.

Blessed are all who come in your name ...

... We have died with Christ; we shall also live with him.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts ...

... that we may be the Body of Christ, crucified and risen:

one in your love, one in your Spirit,

and one in ministry, for the redemption of the world.

Amen.

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Let us keep the feast!

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

VOLUNTARY

Fanfare Jeremiah Clarke, arr. S.D. Wolff
Organ and Brass

HYMN NO. 513

This is the Feast of Victory

FESTIVAL CANTICLE

Verses: Choir; Refrain: All

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

During Communion of the People, please come forward to one of the communion stations, take a piece of bread, and dip it into the cup of grape juice. The bread at the station nearest the lectern (front of the sanctuary, "house left") is **gluten-free**. Individually **packaged elements** are available on each plate of bread.

SENDING

*HYMN NO. 233	<i>The Day of Resurrection</i>	LANCASHIRE
*CHARGE AND BLESSING		
*CHORAL RESPONSE	<i>Hallelujah! (from Messiah)</i>	G. F. Handel
POSTLUDE	<i>Festive Toccata</i>	Denis Bédard

Copies of the *Hallelujah Chorus* are in the hymnal racks and all are invited to join in singing. Please return the music to the racks for future use.

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The Centering Prayer was written by Pierre Talec and published in *Prayers Encircling the World: An International Anthology* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998).

The Opening Prayer is adapted from a prayer published in *Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching, and the Arts* (Volume 58:1).

“When Morning Gilds the Skies” text: German hymn, 19th cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt., in the Public Domain.

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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: slschied@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: slschied@apcusa.org.

WORSHIP NOTES

Easter Brass: Kokayi Idris Jones and Andrew Smallberger—Trumpet; Tadashi Matsuura and Denise Fuji McCleary—Trombones.

TODAY AT ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

- 8:00 a.m.** **Easter Service** in the Cemetery & Sanctuary
- 9:50 a.m.** **Nursery Care** for infants and toddlers in Rooms 110 & 112
- 8:50 a.m.** **Preschool Sunday School** in Room 112
- 10:00 a.m.** **Celebration Worship Service** in the Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m.** **Easter Egg Hunt and Fellowship** in Parish Hall
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PRAYER LIST

We offer special prayers of comfort and sympathy for the Stevens family on the death of **John P. Stevens, III** (September 14, 1942—March 30, 2026).

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, Lisa Seufert, 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).

**Easter Gifts presented to Abington Presbyterian Church in 2026
to enable Special Decorations and Musicians “In Memory and In Honor of loved ones”:**

Marie Barnhurst ~ In Memory of William J. Barnhurst, Evelyn C. Robinson &
Hugh J. Robinson.

Mary DeVan ~ In Memory of Michael V. DeVan.

John & Judy Dwyer ~ In Memory of our parents & in Honor of our children and grandchildren.

William Gustafson ~ In Memory of Linda McCray Gustafson.

Marilyn Hagy ~ In Memory of Ingrid Wagner Reed.

M-M Harris & Family ~ In Memory of Herbert L. Harris.

Ben & Karen Hoyle ~ In Memory of David Hoyle.

Edie Miller ~ In Memory of Elizabeth L. Sautter.

Bonnie H. Zetick ~ In Memory of my parents Mildred & T. Jackson Harper.

Donations received by 03/31/2026 by Noon

The Abington Presbyterian Church Session
The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson, Moderator
Sandy Hostetter, Clerk of Session

Class of 2027

Marie Barnhurst
Zene Colt II
Sandy Hostetter
Karen Hoyle
Blythe Palumbo
William Stock

Class of 2028

Michelle Feil
Aized Gill
Bill Gustafson
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Lillian Sall
Chuck Twining

Class of 2029

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Judy Cornman
Kathy Messina
John Miller
Alice Price

Youth Elders (September 2025 - June 2026): Lukas Meyer & Auggie Sall

The Abington Presbyterian Church Board of Deacons

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Russ Cornman, Vice Moderator
Rev. Judith A. Dwyer, Staff Liaison

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Glenn Hostetter
Kevin Kelly
Ted Lutkus
Joanne Maransky
Chris Sacco
Julia Waite

Youth Deacons (September 2025 - June 2026): Lily Orlevitch



Music
at Abington presents

DALÍ QUARTET

7:30 p.m. Friday, May 1, 2026



Photo Credit: Ryan Brandenburg



Abington Presbyterian Church, 1082 Old York Road, Abington PA
livestream option available at www.apcusa.org/MusicAtAbington
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.