

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18



Abington Presbyterian Church

March 2, 2025

10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

Transfiguration of the Lord

Centering Prayer

God, you bring us together
in this place.

We come to be fed,
to be renewed,
to seek understanding.
God, you challenge us
in this place.

We embrace the challenge,
trusting that,
through challenge,
we grow in faith.

God, you are revealed
in this place—
sometimes in shining glory,
sometimes in tears
and struggle.

God, as we worship
in this place,
refresh, renew,
and challenge us,
so that we might go forth
to do your work. Amen.

The people gather in re-
sponse to God's call to wor-
ship 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

Transfiguration of the Lord

GATHERING

PRELUDE *Beautiful Savior* Setting by David Cherwien

WELCOME AND LIVING OUR FAITH

INTROIT *I Can Pray* Toni Sullivan
Cherub Choir: Ruth Sall, director

I can pray, pray, pray. I can pray when the spirit says pray.
I can talk to God anytime of the day when I pray, pray, pray.
I can pray in the morning and I can pray through the day.
And I can pray in the evening when the sun goes down, down, down.
(Refrain)

I can pray when I'm happy and I can pray when I'm sad.
And I will know God still loves me even when I'm mad, mad, mad.

I can speak a prayer: "Praise the Lord!"
Sing a prayer: "Alleluia!"
Whisper a prayer: "Thank you, God!"
Even dance a prayer! (Refrain)

CALL TO WORSHIP

The One who said, "Out of darkness, light shall shine!"
is the same God who glorified Christ,
making his face shine like the sun.
May this light shine in our hearts
as we come before the Holy One.

*HYMN NO. 192 *Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining* SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One,
we search for you amidst
the grand and glorious,
the sacred and serene.
We are eager to bask in your splendor
and dwell with you in sanctuaries
that shelter us from the sorrow of this world.

**We forget you are also present
in the ordinary and profane,
the desperate and despised.
You send us back down the mountain
to proclaim your law of grace
and live your command of love—
to tread the path that Jesus tread.
Transform us,
embolden us,
and free us from fear,
that we might be beacons of your light.**

*SILENT PRAYER

*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE NO. 582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

Lift Your Light

Mary McDonald

Chapel Choir: Ruth Sall & John Sall, co-directors

Lift your light, let it shine high in the darkness;
let it shine all over the world, Jesus loves you!
Lift your light, lift it high in the darkness;
Jesus is the light of the world. Lift it higher. Lift your light!

Jesus is the light, light of all the world;
Lift the light within you, shine it all around the world.
Let the glory rise; raise it to the sky;
Let your light for Jesus shine!

This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine!

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 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.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Ruth Sall

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Tia McCoun

SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 34:29-35 Old Testament, p. 81

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 9:28-43 New Testament, p. 69

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON "The Stewardship of the Next Day" The Rev. John Wilkinson

*HYMN NO. 190 *Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory* GENEVA

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The 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 AND SENDING

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Jesus, Take Us To the Mountain* Carl Schalk
Chancel Choir text at hymn #193.

**We who have beheld your glory,
risen and ascended Lord,
cannot help but tell the story,
all that we have seen and heard;
say with Peter, James, and John:
"You are God's beloved Son!"**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson

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.

God of Moses and Elijah, ...

... who cover their faces as they sing:

*Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.



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.

We give you thanks for Jesus Christ ...

... great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

(The prayer continues.)

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**We give you thanks, Lord Jesus Christ,
for the gifts of grace we have received from your hand.
Now send us forth to reflect your light,
proclaiming your saving death and resurrection
until you come again in glory. Amen.**

*HYMN NO. 853 *We Are Marching in the Light of God*

SIYAHAMBA

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Siyahamba

Setting by Robert Buckley Farlee

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 at the station in the center of the sanctuary (the intersection of the aisles).

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Today's Centering Prayer is adapted from a prayer by Gord Waldie.
(worshipofferings.blogspot.com)

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WORSHIP NOTES

Toady we welcome **The Rev. John Wilkinson** to our pulpit. John serves as Vice President and Director of Ministry Engagement and Support for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), focusing on stewardship, funds development and mission interpretation. Members of the MES team are preaching and teaching in congregations throughout Philadelphia Presbytery this morning. John has been in this work since 2023; prior to that he served Presbyterian congregations in Chicago, Rochester, and Philadelphia. He has been active in all levels of denominational life. He holds degrees from the College of Wooster, McCormick Theological Seminary and Northwestern University.

TODAY AT ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

- 8:00 a.m.** **Simple Gifts Worship Service** in the Sanctuary
- 8:45 a.m.** **Education Opportunities for Youth and Adults**
- **Adult Forum: Christian Century Article** in the Parlor
 - **Confirmation Class** in Malachi Jones Room
 - **Middle School Sunday School** in M-M Harris Room
- 9:00 a.m.** **Membership Exploration Class** in Richard Treat Room
- 9:50 a.m.** **Nursery Care** for infants and toddlers in Rooms 110 & 112
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 M-M Harris Room
- 11:00 a.m.** **Home Communion Visits** - Offsite
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
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PRAYER LIST

In need of special prayers this week: Suzy Paravla (daughter of Susan Davis), Will Pompilli (son of Teresa Pompilli), Wayne Gibbons, Jr., John and Phyllis Frazier, Rob-in Cupo, Laura Lafferty, Emil Kupper, Sally Hardy, Ted Hyczko, Valerie Steigerwalt (niece of Marlyn Whyte), John Connelly (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), Mary Ann Wherry, Victor V. Johnson, Jr, Richard Decembrino family, Olive Biggs, Stephen Krewson, Carmina Gagliardi (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), David Cardwell (brother of Bob Cardwell), Barbara Burke (friend of Jeff Bates), Donald Wolf, Linda Doyle, Amy Gould, Marlyn Whyte, Sharon Robson (friend of Kimberly Browna), Ernie Arnold, Carol Boles (mother of Christine Sacco), Marilyn Ming (sister of Carolyn Ming), Eugenia Velazquez (Iris Long’s mother), The Weir Family, Amanda Hebert (friend of Amanda Pompilli), Katie Link (APNS parent), Holland Lutzow (APNS student), Clinton Mench (APNS parent), Tracy & her son Gabriel Edwards (family members of Craig & Carole Jean Nicholson), Jackie Thurlow, Fred Cipriano (father of Fred Cipriano), Caroline LaRose (nee Seeholzer), Gary Sowers (Jennie Colt’s father), Stephen Benson, Barbara Krempasky, Sara Wasson (friend of Irene Rosenberg), Shirley Waters.

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.

ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

PASTORAL STAFF

The Rev. Sudie E. Niesen Thompson, M.Div., Th.M.
Chaplain Tia McCoun, M.Div.

Pastor/Head of Staff
Congregational Care Associate

MUSIC STAFF

John Sall, M.M.
Ruth Sall, B.M.
Shirley Keiter, M.A.R.

Director of Music Ministries
Children & Youth Choir Director
Interim Organist, Interim Director of Handbells

EDUCATION STAFF

Ruth Sall, B.M.
Justin Feil
The Rev. Ashley Rossi, M.Div.

Director of Christian Education
Youth Fellowship Coordinator
Youth Fellowship Coordinator

SUPPORT STAFF

Fred Cipriano
Susan Schied
Jackie Thurlow

Facilities Manager
Secretary
Bookkeeper



Abington Presbyterian Church | Founded 1714

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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.