

4 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished.

*Luke 4:1-2*



## Abington Presbyterian Church

March 9, 2025  
10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

First Sunday in Lent

### Centering Prayer

We have gathered here,  
loving God,  
to mark the season of Lent,  
to begin that journey  
to the cross.  
Guide us throughout  
these forty days  
as we journey deeper  
into your embrace,  
And, as we journey  
to the cross,  
let us put to death  
those things  
that separate us  
from each other  
and from you.  
In the name of Jesus,  
our companion  
on this journey of faith,  
we pray. Amen.

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.

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

## First Sunday in Lent

### GATHERING

PRELUDE

*Walk With Me* Setting by Lynn L. Peterson

WELCOME AND LIVING OUR FAITH

CALL TO WORSHIP

We do not live by bread alone,  
**so we gather to feast on God's sustaining word.**  
We come at the Spirit's leading  
**to offer ourselves in service to Christ.**  
Come, find strength for the journey.  
**Let us worship the one, true God.**

\*HYMN NO. 436 *God of Compassion, In Mercy Befriend Us* O QUANTA QUALIA

LITANY FOR LENT

For forty days and nights the rain fell,  
and the waters covered the face of the earth.

**Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.**

For forty years the people wandered,  
seeking the land of God's promise.

**Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.**

Moses spent forty days on the mountain,  
learning the commandments of God.

**Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.**

Elijah traveled forty days in the wilderness  
to hear the voice of God in the silence.

**Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.**

Jonah cried out to the people of Nineveh:  
Repent, or in forty days you will perish.

**Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.**

Jesus fasted and prayed for forty days  
and was tested by the devil.

**Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.**

*Silence is kept.*

Eternal God ...

... Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

SUNG PRAYER

*Kyrie Eleison* W. Byrd, arr. Robert Schaefer  
Chapel Choir: Ruth Sall & John Sall

Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)  
Christe eleison (Christ, have mercy)  
Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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.**

O Lord our God ...

... through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

RESPONSE NO. 482 (v.2)

*Baptized in Water*

BUNESSAN

**Baptized in water,  
sealed by the Spirit,  
dead in the tomb with Christ our King;  
one with his rising,  
freed and forgiven,  
thankfully now God's praises we sing.**

**WORD**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Ruth Sall

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Tiffany Clark

SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Old Testament, p. 180

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:1-13

New Testament, p. 61

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson

\*HYMN NO. 775

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

WALK WITH ME

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.

## ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE (1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 27)

Tia McCoun

There are varieties of gifts,  
but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

**There are different ways of serving God,  
but it is the same Lord who is served.**

God works through each person in a unique way,  
but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

**To each is given a gift of the Spirit  
to be used for the common good.**

Together we are the body of Christ,  
and individually members of it.

STATEMENT ON ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

Georgene Pilling

### **Deacons:**

Don Brooks, Janet Easlea-Kemp, Ashley Burgos, Isaac Burgos, Linda Hurd,  
Nancy Hartzell, Lauren Keiter, Lily Orlevitch, Tim Waite, Ed Wikoff

### **Elders:**

Aizid Gill, Bill Gustafson, Michelle Feil, Lukas Meyer, Valerie Pendley, Aug-  
gie Sall, Lily Sall, Chuck Twining

\*PROFESSION OF FAITH

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God,  
do you turn from the ways of sin  
and renounce evil and its power in the world?

**I do.**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ  
and accept him as your Lord and Savior,  
trusting in his grace and love?

**I do.**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple,  
obeying his Word and showing his love?

**I will, with God's help.**

\*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;**

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.

**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.**

#### CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

#### CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE CONGREGATION

Do we, the members of the church,  
accept these siblings in Christ as Ruling Elders and Deacons,  
chosen by God through the voice of this congregation  
to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them,  
to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us,  
serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

#### PRAYER OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

#### DECLARATION OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

#### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

#### THANKSGIVING AND SENDING

#### OFFERING

OFFERING ANTHEM                      *Prayer Litany*                      H. Kemp, arr. Michael Kemp  
Chancel Choir: John Sall; oboe: Janet Easlea

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace day by day.  
Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace day by day.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love,  
And where there is despair, may I sow hope.  
Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace day by day.

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

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.



## Permissions & Copyrights

The Centering Prayer is adapted from a prayer by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell. The Litany for Lent and Thanksgiving for Baptism are from the liturgy for the season of Lent in the *Book of Common Worship* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2018).

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Where there is darkness, let me sow light,  
And where there is sadness, may I sow joy.  
Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace day by day.

And Lord of thee three things I pray, day by day,  
to see thee more clearly,  
love thee more dearly,  
and follow thee more nearly, day by day.

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace day by day.  
Let me sow love, hope, light, joy!

\*DOXOLOGY HYMN NO. 606

OLD HUNDRETH

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND 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.**

\*HYMN NO. 757      *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

KINGSFORD

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

*Kingsfold*

Setting by Robert J. Powell

## WORSHIP NOTES

“The Lenten journey to Easter is our annual opportunity to intensely renew what it means to be united with Christ, to be aligned with Christ, to live as Christ’s own—in and for the world.”  
- The Rev. Dr. Jennifer L. Lord

The season of Lent is time set apart for followers of Jesus to focus on their relationship with God. In the early church, Lent was a season of preparation. During the weeks leading up to Easter, new believers underwent a period of study as they readied themselves for the sacrament of baptism during the Easter Vigil. For this reason, the Lenten season has long had “an emphasis on reaffirming baptismal identity, of knowing and living the faith.”<sup>1</sup> In other words, Lent is a time to remember who we are in Christ and to focus our energy and attention on nurturing our relationship with the Triune God. In that spirit, our services during Lent will focus on our journey home—returning to the person God calls us to be and returning to the embrace of our loving God.

<sup>1</sup>*The Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Office of Theology and Worship, 2003), page 109.

## 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 —Jim Thornton** in the Parlor
  - **Bible Study on Hebrews** in Annex (Room 108)
  - **Confirmation Class** in Malachi Jones Room
  - **Middle School Sunday School** in M-M Harris 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 Younge Lounge
- 11:00 a.m.**     **Mission Council Personal Care Kits Assembly** in Parish Hall
- 11:15 a.m.**     **Circles of Trust—Group 3** in the Chapel  
**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, Robin 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, Sara Wasson (friend of Irene Rosenberg), Shirley Waters, Lynn Seeholzer, Sue Holden (sister of Cindy Miller).

We share prayers of joy and thanksgiving with Katelyn & Tyler Kennedy at the recent birth of their son, **Teagan Rino Kennedy**.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.