

12 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

John 12:1-3



Abington Presbyterian Church

March 30, 2025

10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Centering Prayer

When we see
the body of Christ
still broken in this world,
may we meet it
with lavish grace
and pour ourselves out
with extravagant love.
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

Fourth Sunday in Lent

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Deep River

arr. Carl Wiltse

Festive Youth Ringers: Shirley Keiter, director

WELCOME AND LIVING OUR FAITH

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in Christ's presence
to worship the Anointed One.

**Pour out your Spirit upon us
and wash us with your grace.**

We gather in Christ's presence
to offer ourselves in service.

**Pour out your Spirit upon us
and help us show your love.**

*HYMN NO. 694

Great God of Every Blessing

AURELIA

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Why are you so extravagant, O God?
We work hard,
use our intelligence,
keep our ledgers balanced,
and care for our families.**

**Is this not enough to earn our place
among the favored?**

**Yet you throw open windows and doors,
revealing a vision we do not possess
where accomplishments don't count,
where tears reap joy,
where peace is found in suffering,
where confidence is gained
by giving away what is ours to treasure.
Show us again what matters.**

**Forgive our misplaced values,
and draw us into your extravagance,
that we, too, might be generous with our love.**

*SILENT PRAYER

*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE NO. 447

We Are Forgiven

WE ARE FORGIVEN

**We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

WORD AND SACRAMENT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Russ Cornman

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 43:16-21

Old Testament, p. 672

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Ruth Sall

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Lillian Merie Cardellino,
daughter of Anna & Matthew Cardellino

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

There is one body and one Spirit,
just as we were called to the one hope
of our calling,
**one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all,
who is above all and through all and in all.**

PRESENTATION

Elder Valerie Pendley

PROMISES OF COMMITMENT

To the parents:
Anna and Matthew,
do you desire Lillian to be baptized?

Relying on God's grace,
do you promise to live the Christian faith
and to teach that faith to your child?

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

Baptism is the sign and seal of our incorporation into Jesus Christ. In the waters of baptism, God claims us as beloved children and calls us to participate in Christ's ministry of love, justice, and peace. Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we become members of Christ's body, the church, and are welcomed into the family of faith.

Do you renounce all evil and powers in the world which defy God's righteousness and love?

Do you intend to be Christ's faithful disciples, discerning his word and showing his love, to your life's end?

To the sponsors:

Will you, by your prayers and witness, help Lillian to grow into the full stature of Christ?

To the children of the church:

Do you promise to be a friend to Lillian?

If she gets lost, do you promise to show her the way?

If she falls down, will you help her get back up?

Will you share with her the stories of Jesus?

To the congregation:

Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Lillian by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging her to know and follow Christ and to be a faithful member of his church?

We do.

As the baptismal affirmation of the early church, the *Apostles' Creed* is still regularly used when celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism.

*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 OVER THE WATER

THE BAPTISM

WELCOME

RESPONSE HYMN *Welcome, Child of God*

AR HYD Y NOS

**Raindrops, oceans, lakes, and rivers;
welcome, child of God.
Mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters;
welcome, child of God.
When the world feels wide around you,
When the dark of night surrounds you,
We are here to tend and guide you.
Welcome, child of God.**

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

SCRIPTURE READING John 12:1-8 New Testament, p. 106

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.

SERMON The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson

*HYMN NO. 704 *To My Precious Lord* TO MY PRECIOUS LORD
All sing the Refrain, Chancel Choir sings the verses.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.**

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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Today's Centering Prayer is "Blessing of Balm" by Jan Richardson (paintedprayerbook.com).

The Prayer of Confession is adapted from the prayer to accompany John 12:1-8 in *Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching, and the Arts* (Volume 55.1).

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THANKSGIVING AND SENDING

OFFERING

OFFERING ANTHEM *Etude #2 in B Major* arr. David Justice
Celebration Youth Ringers: Shirley Keiter, director

*DOXOLOGY HYMN NO. 606

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN NO. 201 *A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar* HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING
(Verses 1 & 4)

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE *Aurelia* Setting by Ron Schmoltze

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: West Kensington Ministry** 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 Youth Lounge
- 11:15 a.m.** **Festive Youth Ringers** in the Bell Room
- 4:00 p.m.** **MAA: Memorial Concert** in the Sanctuary
Youth Fellowship in the Youth Lounge
- 5:00 p.m.** **MAA Reception** in the Parish Hall
- 5:30 p.m.** **Youth Dinner** in the Parlor
- 6:00 p.m.** **Chapel Choir** in the Choir Room

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), 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, Sue Holden (sister of Cindy Miller), Gail Mignogna.

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.