

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help
come?
² My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121:1-2



Abington Presbyterian Church

March 1, 2026

10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

Second Sunday in Lent

ORDER OF WORSHIP

2nd Sunday in Lent

Centering Prayer

Food to pilgrims given,
strength upon the way;
bread come down
from heaven—
Christ is ours today!
Feed us now, O Lord,
with this holy food—
Let your kingdom come,
O Lord,
let your kingdom come;
Let your kingdom come,
O Lord,
let your kingdom come.

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.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Communion

Healey Willan

WELCOME AND LIVING OUR FAITH

CALL TO WORSHIP

Like our ancestors in the faith,
we come to Jesus seeking answers—
looking to the Light of the World
to help us find our way in the darkness.
And to all our questions,
Christ's answer comes constant and clear:

**God did not send the Son into the world
to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.**

God's love endures forever.

Thanks be to God!

*HYMN NO. 7

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

NORWICH

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Teacher,
you call us to go,
following the plan that you have set out for us.
You promise us blessings and purpose,
but we do not trust your words.
We cling to what we already know,
we trust in what we can see and touch,
we make excuses for our failure to trust in you.
Call to us again,
that we may be born again through your Spirit.
Help us to believe
and give us the abundant life
that comes from following your will.**

*SILENT PRAYER

*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE NO. 437 *You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!* WAYFARING STRANGER

Em D Em Am Em D Em
You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!

Am D C D Em C Em
You are the Christ, giv-er of mer-cy!

Em D G Am Em D E
You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Ruth Sall

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

SCRIPTURE READING

John 3:1-17

New Testament, p. 93

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"A Witness to the Word: Nicodemus"

The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson

*HYMN NO. 292

As the Wind Song

WAIKUA TAPU

*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.**

(Continued on page 4.)

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.

**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

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Witness* African-American Spiritual, arr. Jack Halloran
Chancel Choir: John Sall, director

Who'll be a witness for my Lord?
Oh I'll be a witness for my Lord.

There was a man of the Pharisees,
His name was Nicodemus and he didn't believe.
The same came to Christ by night,
wanted to be taught out of human sight.
Nicodemus was a man who desired to know
how a man can be born when he is old.
Christ told Nicodemus as a friend,
"Man, you must be born again"
He said, "Marvel not, If you want to be wise,
repent, believe and be baptized."
Then you'll be a witness for my Lord.
You'll be a witness for my Lord.
You'll be a witness for my Lord, soul is a witness for my Lord.

You read about Samson, from his birth
he was the strongest man that ever lived on earth.
Way back yonder in the ancient times
he killed ten thousand of the Philistines.
Then old Samson went a wandering about.
Samson's strength was never found out.
'Til his wife sat up on his knee.
She said, "Tell me where your strength lies, if you please"
Well old Samson's wife, she talked so fair

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 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.



Samson said, "cut off a my hair." "Cut it off!"
"Shave my head just as clean as your hand,
and my strength will come like a natural man."
Samson was a witness for my Lord.
Samson was a witness for my Lord.
Samson was a witness for my Lord, soul is a witness for my Lord.

There's another witness!
My soul is a witness for my Lord!!

*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.**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 God, Creator of our wilderness world.

O God, Savior of the lost,

O God, Comforter of the sick and suffering,

we give you thanks for your everlasting might;

we glorify you for your covenant of mercy.

For forty days you cleansed the earth with the water of the flood.

We praise you, O God:

We praise you, O God.

For forty days you illumined Moses with the words of your law.

We praise you, O God:

We praise you, O God.

For forty years you fed your people with manna from heaven.

We praise you, O God:

We praise you, O God.

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.

You became truly human in Jesus our brother...

...We extol his life.

Amen.

We lament his death.

Amen.

We celebrate his resurrection.

Amen.

Transform us, O God, with your lively Spirit...

...To you, O God, Creator, Savior, Comforter,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be our worship and praise, adoration and thanksgiving,
now and forever.

Amen.

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.

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The Centering prayer is from *Prayers Encircling the World: An International Anthology* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998.)

The Prayer of Confession is from *Call to Worship* (Volume 56.1).

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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

SENDING

*HYMN NO. 826

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Finale (from Concerto #5)

George F. Handel

TODAY AT ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

- 8:00 a.m.** **Simple Gifts Worship Service** in the Sanctuary
- 8:45 a.m.** **Adult Forum: The Power of Creating Community For People with Special Needs** in the Parlor
- 9:50 a.m.** **Nursery Care** for infants and toddlers in Rooms 110
Preschool Sunday School in Room 112
- 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 Richard Treat Rm.
- 11:15 a.m.** **Chili Cookoff** 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 Parish Hall
- 6:00 p.m.** **Chapel Choir** in the Choir Room

PRAYER LIST

In need of special prayers this week: Tom Chant (family member of Sarah Caldwell-Berry),

We offer special prayers of comfort and sympathy for the **Bowie family** on the death of **Leland Bowie** (February 23, 1939—February 21, 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, John Connelly (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), 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), Ted Hyczko, Diane Johnson, Stephen Krewson, Emil Kupper, Laura Lafferty, Family of Katie Link (APNS parent), Holland Lutzow (APNS student), Diane Marsh (daughter of Diane Reed), 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).

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

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

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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.