

<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

*John 4:23-24*



## **Abington Presbyterian Church**

March 8, 2026

10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

Third Sunday in Lent

### Centering Prayer

God of living water,  
amid all that parches  
our souls  
and drains our hearts of joy,  
we pray for refreshment  
and renewal.  
Fill us with your Holy Spirit  
until our delight overflows  
into praise and we cannot  
contain ourselves,  
running to tell  
your good news,  
alive with the presence  
of Jesus the Christ,  
in whose name 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. 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

## 3rd Sunday in Lent

### GATHERING

PRELUDE *Thy Holy Wings* arr. Cathy Moglebust  
Celebration Ringers: Lois Leong, director

WELCOME AND LIVING OUR FAITH

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, you who are thirsty—  
**here is living water.**  
Come, you who are weary—  
**here is the fount of eternal life.**  
Let us drink from the well of grace.  
**Let us worship the Lord!**

\*HYMN NO. 475 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* NETTLETON

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord, time and again, you defy our expectations.  
You cross barriers of culture and creed  
and look into the eyes of a stranger,  
and we are astonished.  
We confess that we are not keen to do the same.  
While you teach inclusion, we preserve division;  
while you model hospitality, we default to suspicion.  
Open our eyes to see your mission for what it is—  
the healing of the world.  
Astonish us with your grace, O God,  
that we might move from surprise to service,  
and from doubt to faithfulness.  
By your Spirit, inspire and empower us  
to proclaim your good news in word and deed.**

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS



**Deacons:**

Anna Colt, Russ Cornman, Marilyn Hagy, Glenn Hostetter, Gabriel Jackson, Kevin Kelly, Ted Lutkus, Joanne Maransky, Christine Sacco, Julia Waite.

**Elders:**

Kimberly Browna, Judy Cornman, Kathy Messina, John Miller, Alice Price, Taylor Richardson, Nate Sacco.

**\*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;  
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.**

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.

**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

### OFFERING

OFFERTORY      *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*      Bradley Ellingboe  
Chancel Choir: John Sall, director  
Text is a setting of Hymn No. 435

#### \*DOXOLOGY HYMN NO. 606

OLD HUNDREDETH

**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.**

#### \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

#### \*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.**

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

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.



LOOK AHEAD to verse 2. The asterisk invites variations to the words especially as we ordain and install new elders and deacons today. As we sing/pray this hymn you are invited to substitute “leaders” for pastors knowing we have many roles and gifts among these new ordinands.

## SENDING

*HYMN NO. 303	<i>God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian</i>	CHURCH UNITED
*CHARGE AND BLESSING		
POSTLUDE	<i>O Welt, ich muss dich lassen</i>	Johannes Brahms

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## TODAY AT ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

- 8:00 a.m.**     **Simple Gifts Worship Service** in the Sanctuary
- 8:45 a.m.**     **Adult Forum: Christian Century Article** in the Parlor
- 9:50 a.m.**     **Nursery Care** for infants and toddlers in Rooms 110  
**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  
**Middle School Sunday School** in Malachi Jones Room
- 3:00 p.m.**     **Festive Youth Ringers** in the Bell Room  
**MAA Concert: Zen Shakuhachi** in the Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m.**     **Youth Fellowship** in the Youth Lounge  
**MAA Reception** in the Parlor
- 5:30 p.m.**     **Youth Dinner** in the Parish Hall
- 6:00 p.m.**     **Chapel Choir** in the Choir Room

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### PRAYER LIST

**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), 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), 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](mailto: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](mailto: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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215.887.4530 • [apcusa.org](http://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.