

³ If you, O LORD, should mark
iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
⁴ But there is forgiveness with
you,
so that you may be revered.

Psalm 130:3-4



Abington Presbyterian Church

March 22, 2026

10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Centering Prayer

Holy God, Creator of Life,
you call us out
of our dark places,
offering us the grace
of new life.

When we see nothing
but hopelessness,
you surprise us with the
breath of your spirit.

Call us out
of our complacency
and routines,
set us free from our
self-imposed bonds,
and fill us
with your spirit of life,
compassion, and peace.
In the name of Jesus,
your anointed one, we pray.
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!

Hearing Assistance Devices
are available in the Narthex
(at the back of the Sanctu-
ary). Please see an Usher for
Assistance.

Children's Worship Bags are
available at each entrance to
the Sanctuary.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

5th Sunday in Lent

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Ever Faithful, Ever Near

Franklin Ritter

WELCOME AND LIVING OUR FAITH

CALL TO WORSHIP

Spirit of life, light of life, breath of life,

breathe new life into us.

Christ of love, Christ of sorrow, Christ of hope,

breathe new life into us.

Wind of God, breath of God, spirit of God,

breathe new life into us.

We worship you, open to your grace.

Raise us to new life in your spirit. Amen.

*HYMN NO. 53

O God, Who Gives Us Life

NOEL

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We are set free by your saving grace, Generous God,
yet we must confess how we are still bound
by our pride and arrogance.**

**We seem unable to throw off the grave clothes of our habitual sin,
finding them too comfortable to wear.**

**We cling to our fears,
for they are so familiar and make such good companions.**

**Yet, there in every corner of our lives,
in every shadow we fear,
into the cold embrace of death itself,
you come, Steadfast Love.**

**You break the bonds of sin and terror,
giving us new strength and hope for the journey,
and calling us to new life through the love and sacrifice
of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.
We pray once more for that new life to come.**

*SILENT PRAYER

*RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

You can put your hope in God, dear friends, for God offers us that love which never fades, that life which never ends.

**We wait for God, and God does not fail us.
God's hope, God's love, and God's grace are forever.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 6/8 time signature. It consists of three staves of music. The lyrics are: 'You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!' on the first staff; 'You are the Christ, giv-er of mer-cy!' on the second staff; and 'You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!' on the third staff. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: Em, D, Em, Am, Em, D, Em on the first staff; Am, D, C, D, Em, C, Em on the second staff; and Em, D, G, Am, Em, D, E on the third staff.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

WORD

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Ruth Sall

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Chuck Twining

DRAMATIC READING

John 11:1-45

READER’S THEATER

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"The Art of Resurrection"

The Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

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.

4 Colorful Creator

Unison

1 Col - or - ful Cre - a - tor, God of mys - ter - y,
 2 Har - mo - ny of a - ges, God of lis - tening ear,
 3 Au - thor of our jour - ney, God of near and far,
 4 God of truth and beau - ty, Po - et of the Word,

thank you for the art - ist teach - ing us to see
 thank you for com - pos - ers tun - ing us to hear
 praise for tale and dra - ma tell - ing who we are,
 may we be cre - a - tors by the Spir - it stirred,

glimp - es of the mean - ing of the com - mon - place,
 ech - oes of the gos - pel in the songs we sing,
 strip - ping to the es - sence strug - gles of our day,
 o - pen to your pres - ence in our joy and strife,

vi - sions of the ho - ly in each hu - man face.
 sounds of love and long - ing from the deep - est spring.
 times of change and con - flict when we choose our way.
 ves - sels of the ho - ly cours - ing through our life.

WORDS: Ruth Duck
 MUSIC: Carlton R. Young
 Words and Music © 1993 Hope Publishing Company

HOUGHTON
 6.5.6.5.D.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

PRESENTATION

New Members:

Yao Amewoa, Adjo Awounou, Abigail Clayton, Scott Clayton, Gabriel Jackson, Stephanie Patterson, Julie Schneebele, Robert Schneebele, Courtney Spitko, Anna Mary Wiater.

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE (Ephesians 4:4-6)

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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**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.**

Apostles' Creed

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.

QUESTION FOR NEW MEMBERS

Will you be a faithful member of this congregation,
sharing in its worship and mission
through your prayers and gifts,
your study and service,
and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?
I will, with God's help.

PRAYER

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.**

WELCOME

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.



THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Death Be Never Last

DEATH BE NEVER LAST

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

1. We walk in light of countless faces bright as beams of rising sun
Certain as the morning chases night in endless ages' run

Refrain: Turning eyes now to their shining Mem'ry to their faithful past
Saints be now the truth divining: Death be now but never last.

2. When sorrow's heavy hand has weighted loss against the greater gain
Pinning down that grief sore fated laden on the bed of pain. Refrain.

3. When joy returns with laughter singing thanks to God for life's sweet song
Let us follow after bringing thanks to God for those now gone. Refrain.

*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.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

*HYMN NO. 250 *In the Bulb There Is a Flower* PROMISE

*CHARGE AND BLESSING *The Lazarus Blessing*

POSTLUDE *Hymn of Promise* arr. John Ferguson

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The Centering Prayer is written by Nancy Johnson, and posted on *Wonderings through life and other such nonsense*. <http://ruminari.wordpress.com/>

The Call to Worship and the Prayer after Communion are written by Steve Garnaas-Holmes and posted on his worship blog, *Unfolding Light*. <http://unfoldinglight.net>.

The Prayer of Confession, Assurance of Pardon and Great Prayer of Thanksgiving are written by Thom Shuman and posted on his website at lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com

The Scripture Reading in the style of Reader's Theater is found on ReWorship Blogspot at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2014/03/readers-theatre-john-11-1-45.html>.

The Dramatic Reading of John 11:1-45 is found on the ReWorship blog: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2014/03/readers-theatre-john-11-1-45.html>

The Offering Prayer is written by Carol Penner and posted on her *Leading in Worship* blog.

The "Lazarus Blessing" is written by Jan Richardson and posted on *The Painted Prayerbook*. <http://paintedprayerbook.com/>

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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

TODAY AT ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

- 8:00 a.m.** **Simple Gifts Worship Service** in the Sanctuary
- 8:45 a.m.** **Adult Forum: Local Immigration Response** 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
- 11:15 a.m.** **Crafts and Laughs** in the Parlor
- 3:00 p.m.** **Festive Youth Ringers** in the Bell Room
- 4:00 p.m.** **Annual Memorial Concert: Haydn’s Creation** in the Sanctuary
Youth Fellowship in the Youth Lounge
- 5:00 p.m.** **MAA Reception** in Parish Hall
- 5:30 p.m.** **Youth Dinner** in the Parlor
- 6:00 p.m.** **Chapel Choir** in the Choir Room

PRAYER LIST

We offer prayers of comfort & sympathy to the Boerner family, upon the death of Doris Boerner (July 14, 1926—March 15, 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, Rick Bruce, 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), 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).

Holy Week at Abington Presbyterian Church

Worshippers of all ages are welcome at all Holy Week services. Childcare is also available on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday and at the 10:00 service on Easter Sunday. Services that take place entirely in the Sanctuary will be livestreamed.

Maundy Thursday | April 2 at 7:30 p.m. | Beginning in Parish Hall

Join us as we remember Jesus' final meal with the disciples and his betrayal and arrest in the garden. The Maundy Thursday service will begin in Parish Hall, where worshippers are invited to gather beginning at 7:15 p.m. to partake of light fare and fellowship before worship. Following the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, the congregation will travel to the Sanctuary to conclude the service. We need your help "setting the stage" for the story of Jesus' arrest in the garden. **If you have a potted plant (small enough for one person to carry) that you'd like to lend for use in worship, please bring it to the Sanctuary no later than 7:15 p.m.** You will be invited to retrieve your plant during the Stripping of the Church at the conclusion of the service. You may take your plant home following the service, or leave it in our care for use in worship on Good Friday.

Good Friday | April 3 at 1:00 p.m. | Sanctuary + Livestream

This service, featuring the Chancel Choir, will remember the story of Jesus' final hours through the reading of Scripture and musical responses. The Good Friday service also includes an opportunity to reflect upon this sacred story through interactive prayer stations.

Easter Sunday | April 5

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Join us as we celebrate Christ's resurrection.

Easter Worship Service | 8:00 a.m. | Cemetery and Sanctuary

This Service begins in the Abington Presbyterian Church Cemetery, then moves to the Sanctuary for the proclamation of the word and celebration of the Lord's Supper. The Chapel Youth Choir will help lead the Service.

Celebration Worship Service | 10:00 a.m. | Sanctuary + Livestream

Our Easter Celebration Service includes the proclamation of the Easter story, a sermon by the Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson, a Children's Message, and festive music led by the Chancel and Chapel choirs, brass, and organ (including the *Hallelujah Chorus!*).

Easter Egg Hunt and Fellowship | 11:00 a.m. | Parish Hall and Front Lawn

Easter Egg Hunt: All children are invited to meet in the Parish Hall after the 10:00 a.m. service to gather and decorate Easter Egg Hunt bags. We will head out to the Old York Road lawn for the Easter Egg Hunt around 11:15 a.m.

Easter Fellowship: There is a fancy fellowship and coffee in the Parish Hall as well. Come and fellowship together as we celebrate our risen Lord!



Music
at Abington presents

Sunday, March 22, 2026, 4:00 P.M.

FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN
THE CREATION
ANNUAL MEMORIAL CONCERT

Abington Symphony Orchestra and Oratorio Choir

Ruth Ideen-Sall, soprano

Luke Norvell, tenor

Patrick Wilhelm, bass

John Sall, director

Abington Presbyterian Church, 1082 Old York Road, Abington PA
livestream option available at www.apcusa.org/MusicAtAbington
free childcare • fully accessible • free will donations received

The Abington Presbyterian Church Session
The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson, Moderator
Sandy Hostetter, Clerk of Session

Class of 2027

Marie Barnhurst
Zene Colt II
Sandy Hostetter
Karen Hoyle
Blythe Palumbo
William Stock

Class of 2028

Michelle Feil
Aized Gill
Bill Gustafson
Valerie Pendley
Lillian Sall
Chuck Twining

Class of 2029

Kimberly Browna
Judy Cornman
Kathy Messina
John Miller
Alice Price

Youth Elders (September 2025 - June 2026): Lukas Meyer & Auggie Sall

The Abington Presbyterian Church Board of Deacons

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Russ Cornman, Vice Moderator
Rev. Judith A. Dwyer, Staff Liaison

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Glenn Hostetter
Kevin Kelly
Ted Lutkus
Joanne Maransky
Chris Sacco
Julia Waite

Youth Deacons (September 2025 - June 2026): Lily Orlevitch

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

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Fred Cipriano Facilities Manager
Susan Schied Secretary
Jackie Thurlow Bookkeeper



Abington Presbyterian Church | Founded 1714

1082 Old York Road, Abington, PA, 19001
215.887.4530 • 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.