



# Church of the Apostles UCC

*4th Sunday of Easter – April 26, 2026*  
*10 AM In-Person & Online Worship*

## Welcome!

“No matter where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here!” More than words, we are all here because of God’s love, grace, and mercy. This is a community united by the honesty of our shared brokenness and the healing we receive through Christ.

**Get Connected:** Use a Welcome Card to share your presence and prayer requests with us. To get more connected, signup online for the “Weekly Announcements” and “Crown Newsletter,” like us on Facebook or follow us on Instagram, give us a call, or send an email. It is our joy to know you!

**Children:** There are toys and activity bags for children in the Children’s Corner for use, as children are always welcome to remain in worship.

**Connection Cards:** We ask that all worshippers complete a “Connection Card” located in the pew rack near you. This allows us to know who was with us. They can also be used to give prayer requests or suggestions. These may be placed in the offering plates which will be passed following the sermon.

**First-Time Guests:** After worship, please visit our Welcome Center, where a congregation member will be available to answer your questions and provide a packet of information about our church. This is also where you'll receive a connection card to fill out, helping us stay connected with you!

**Offerings:** Any physical offerings you have brought can be placed in the offering plates which we will pass following the sermon. Electronic gifts may be given through the QR code on the bulletin or the one on a slip in the pew rack. Or Text 'COA' to 73256 with the amount you want to give.

**Restrooms:** Are available in the hallway to your left when you exit the sanctuary.

**Electronic Devices:** Remember to silence your device during worship. Wi-Fi is provided through "VisitorWifi." No password is needed.

**You are a blessing:** Let us know how we might better partner with you in this journey of faith and life. If you have thoughts, recommendations, or simply would like to join in prayer, we would love to hear from you!

## **Selected Scripture Readings**

John 10:1-10 & 1 John 3:18-24

## **Worship Leaders**

Minister – All Members  
Preacher – Nathan Moore  
Seminary Intern – Deklan Lewis  
Liturgist – Rev. Kathryn Kuhn  
Greeter – Mark Szalczyk  
Reader – Jim Eaton  
Ushers – Randy & Luanne Morrison,  
Karen & John Wallach,  
George Alspach  
Director of Music – Lars Potteiger

Praise Band Director – Nathan Sheffer  
Drums – Nathan Moore  
Bass – Charli Schultz  
Guitar – Ben Young  
Vocals – Johanna & Jan Baker,  
Apostles Adult Choir  
Streaming – Jim Stoltzfus  
Sound – Jaben Jury  
Projection – Bill Stock

## **Flower & Bulletin Sponsorship**

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Church of the Apostles, 1850 Marietta Ave, Lancaster PA 17603  
717-392-5718 + office@apostlesuuc.org + [www.apostlesucc.org](http://www.apostlesucc.org)

Pastor: Rev. Kathryn Kuhn – kathrynk@apostlesucc.org x8201

# Order of Worship

## We Gather in Your Presence

Gathering Music: "Imagine" – John Lennon

Focus Scripture: *Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.. - 1 John 3:18*

### Welcome

#### Exploring the Easter Season

Leaders: Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,  
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.  
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,  
Dare to dance again!

All: **Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,  
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.  
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,  
Dare to dance again!**

Leader: We lean into this day with the strength we have.

All: **We lift up our heads to meet the day.** (*Look upwards.*)

Leader: God send out a call that will not let us go. (*Turn your palms up.*)

All: **We fortify our hearts with compassion and action.**  
(*Place your hands on your heart.*)

Leader: If rain still lingers, open the umbrellas of hope and set out anyway.

All: **For we are called to dance again!**

### Prayer

All: **Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation – We know your voice,  
the sounds of your steps. Your love gathers us, urges us, encourages us.  
Come and dance with us, engage with us, as we seek you – so that we can  
be risen with Christ and in Christ. Be with us now, we pray. Amen.**

(*Please rise in body and/or spirit.*)

Song: "Let All Creation Dance" (*Tune: DARWALL'S 148TH*)

**Let all creation dance in energies sublime,  
as order turns with chance, unfolding space and time  
for nature's art in glory grows,**

and newly shows God's mind and heart.

God's breath each force unfurls,  
igniting from a spark expanding starry swirls,  
with whirlpools dense and dark.  
Though moon and sun seem mindless things,  
each orbit sings: "Your will be done."

Our own amazing earth, with sunlight, cloud and storms  
and life's abundant growth in lovely shapes and forms,  
is made for praise, a fragile whole,  
and from its soul heav'n's music plays.

Lift heart and soul and voice: in Christ all praises meet  
and nature shall rejoice as all is made complete.  
In hope be strong, all life befriend  
and kindly tend creation's song.  
*(Please be seated)*

### **Remembering Who We Are**

Leader: Reflecting on our lives this past week, we regret...  
*(Finish this sentence aloud or silently.)*

Leader: Holy One, we did not recognize you...  
*(Finish this sentence aloud or silently.)*

Leader: We did not love our neighbors when...  
*(Finish this sentence aloud or silently.)*

Leader: Forgive us, we pray.

**All: We forgive those who hurt us by...**  
*(Finish this sentence aloud or silently.)*

**All: and we release our anger about...**  
*(Finish this sentence aloud or silently.)*

**All: Forgive us as we forgive others. Amen**

### **Remembering Who God Is**

**Song: "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"**

- 1. He's got the whole world in his hands. (4 times)**
- 2. He's got the wind and the rain in his hands (4 times)**
- 3. He's got everybody here in his hands (4 times)**

**Children's Time**

## **We Listen for Your Word**

**Scripture Readings:** 1 John 3:16-18, 23-24 (Pew Bible, NT 240)  
John 10:11-17 (Pew Bible, NT 103)

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Contemporary Words:** "Faith of a Farmer"

## **We Respond to Your Word**

### **Generosity Moment**

**Special Music:** *"Dance, Sing, Clap Your Hands"* - Wagner

### **Prayers of the People**

*(Believing in God's truth, we open ourselves as God's servants through prayer.)*

#### **"Teach Me to Dance"**

Leaders: Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart,  
teach me to move in the power of your Spirit,  
teach me to [move] in the light of your presence,  
teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.

Leader: For the beauty of the world in all its diversity, we give you thanks, O God.

Leader: Hear us pray together...

**All: May our gratitude to you fill our days.**

Leader: Hear us pray together...

**All: Come, O God, and restore our lives.**

*Sing:*

**Teach me to pray in the power of Easter,  
following Christ in a life resurrected,  
teach me to act with compassion and justice,  
teach me to dance with the beat of your heart.**

Leader: Hear us pray together...

**All: Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

*Sing:*

**Teach me to love with your heart of compassion,**

teach me to trust in the word of your promise,  
teach me to hope in the day of your coming,  
teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.

All: 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 as we forgive others. And let us not fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## Returning to the World

*(Please rise in body or in spirit.)*

Song: "Lord of the Dance"

1. I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I  
2. I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but they  
3. I danced on the sab-bath when I cured the lame, the  
4. I danced on a Fri-day and the sky turned black; it's  
5. They cut me down and I leapt up high,

danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I  
would not dance and they would not fol - low me; I  
ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame; they  
hard to dance with the dev - il on your back; they  
I am the life that -'ll nev - er, nev - er die; I'll

Am D7

came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth. At  
 danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John; they  
 whipped and they stripped and they hung me high; and they  
 bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone, but  
 live in you if you'll live in me;

Am D7 C G Refrain G Bm

Beth - le - hem I had my birth.  
 came to me and the dance went on.  
 left me there on a cross to die. Dance, then, wher -  
 I am the dance and I still go on.  
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

Am D G C G D7

Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all wher - ev - er you may

G C D7 G C G

be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

## Benediction

Leader: And all God's people said,

**All: Amen!**

**All: God's love guides us to welcome and include people as they are, serve compassionately, and champion environmental care and social justice.**

## Announcements

### Passing of the Peace

Leader: You are not alone.

**All: You are not alone.**

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**Sending Music:** "Guide My Feet" - African-American spiritual

*Go into all the world to love and serve those who are afraid or powerless following Jesus' example!*

[Liturgy comes from *Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services* by the United Church of Canada, Call to Remember Who We Are is from "Small Victories" a commencement speech UC Berkley, 2003. Hymns licensed by: One License – annual license w/ podcasting renewal: category D A-708862 and CCLI – copyright license 1193972

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## Give Online Through Realm



*Or Text 'COA' to 73256 with the amount you want to give*

## Prayers of Joy and Concern

(as of printing on 4/22/2026)

Joys: Kendra's Successful Surgery; Safe Return of Astronauts; Raising \$7,086 at our Garage Sale for Anchor Lancaster; Congratulations to Dr. Nate Sheffer; Pat Hess' healing and rain.

Concerns: Pat DiDomenico; Family & Friends of Ty Gant; Kit Mariah's Brother, Jerry; Bill Hager's Friends, Claude & Alexandra; Mason Koehler; Frederick Smith & Philip Taylor; Pat Hess; Dot Lippart's Brother, Chris; Donna Carr's Friend, Ruth Boose; Family & Friends of Sydney; Family & Friends fo Jeff; Holly Kleimo's Granddaughter, Lorelai; Scott Moore's Brother, Paul; Lisa Christoffel; Monica Daniels; Monica's brother, Al; Jean Cunningham; Ken Keller; Michele Wherley's father and Megan Hope's brother and sisters.

Our Compassion Team members are available by calling (717) 475-5285.  
To add your prayers of joy and concern, email [office@apostlesucc.org](mailto:office@apostlesucc.org)  
or call 717-392-5718 ext 8200

## APOSTLE ANNOUNCEMENTS

**APRIL INCLUSIVE CHURCH FOCUS** – Rising antisemitism and Islamophobia in the U.S. remind us that many of our neighbors feel unsafe, 93% of American Jews say antisemitism is a problem, and reports of anti-Muslim discrimination are at an all-time high. This matters because our call as followers of Jesus is not only to love our neighbors but to help create communities where all people feel secure and valued. Take time to reflect on how you might respond in moments of bias or silence, and how you can show up as a faithful ally to those of other faiths.

**PRAYER VIGIL FOR PEACE & HEALING** – In response to the division and injustice we see in our country, local faith communities are gathering for prayer, healing, and hope. Church of the Apostles will host a gathering on TODAY at 5 PM in the Sanctuary. All are welcome to join in this time of reflection and prayer.

**MOCKTAILS & MEANING SCREENING** – Make plans for a special Mocktails & Meaning™ gathering on Saturday, May 2nd, at 2:30 PM in the Sanctuary as we host a screening of the documentary *The Librarians*. This powerful film follows librarians across the United States who find themselves on the front lines of debates about censorship, intellectual freedom, and access to information. Following the screening, we will hold a Q&A and open discussion led by a panel of Lancaster Librarians. All are welcome for this thoughtful afternoon of film, conversation, and connection. Scan the QR Code to Register.



**ASKING THE HARD QUESTIONS** – Faith can come with big questions, and you're not alone. Join our new monthly series, Asking the Hard Questions, with seminary intern Deklan Lewis as we explore doubt, belief, and faithful wrestling together. Meeting on the last Monday, April 27th, at 10 AM & Thursday, April 30th, at 6 PM.

**BABY SHOWER** – This spring, Church of the Apostles is hosting a Baby Shower to support the Healthy Beginnings program at LGH. From April through May, you can participate by selecting a tag from the poster on the Outreach bulletin board, purchasing the listed baby item, and placing it in the Caring Cart in the Narthex by May 31. Your gift helps provide essentials for new mothers while reminding them that they are supported, valued, and cared for during this important season of life.

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE** – Our Where Welcome Grows: 50-Year Renewal campaign is underway! Together, we've already raised \$250,130.86 toward our new \$290,000 goal. Due to rising project costs, we've increased our campaign goal to ensure we can fully complete the planned renovations. We're excited to share that we're preparing to begin renovations in late May. Learn more by visiting the display in the Narthex, online at [apostlesucc.org/wherewelcomegrows](http://apostlesucc.org/wherewelcomegrows), or by emailing Melissa Kosman at [admin@apostlesucc.org](mailto:admin@apostlesucc.org)