



Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 24, 2023 10:30 a.m.

Welcome!

*Childcare is available from 10 a.m. to noon in Room 3 of the Kuhn Education Wing.
We also invite children to use our activity area in the sanctuary.*

Assistive listening devices are available at the sound booth (rear of sanctuary).

*Greeting you today are Dean & Alice Crossland and Dave & Judy Thompson.
Manning the sound booth is Bud Swartz. Livestreaming the service is Monica Zazworsky.
Hosting fellowship is Carol Groff.*

Today's liturgy is from Sanctified Art's "From Generation to Generation." ©A Sanctified Art LLC

Worship begins with the first note of the prelude – may we silence our voices and open our hearts, allowing the music to draw us together into the presence of God.

Prelude

Christmas Carol Medley
Diane Rutzler, guest organist

Robert Hughes

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candles

The Nilson Family

L: More than 100 people, from the ages of 2 to 80 years old, were asked the questions, "What makes you feel connected? What makes you feel loved?" From the voices of different generations, hear their answers –

Older adult: Handwritten notes.

Adult: Casseroles.

Teenager: Being invited in.

Child: Reading a book together.

Older adult: The passing of the peace.

Child: When I see my friends at preschool.

Older adult: Surprise phone calls.

Adult: Making music with other people.

Teenager: Homecooked food.

Child: Belly laughs.

Older adult: Eye contact.

Adult: Dinner parties.

Teenager: An inside joke.

Child: Hugs.

Older adult: Dancing with my partner in the kitchen.

Today, we light the Candle of Love as a reminder that from the very first generation, God has surrounded us with love. May this good news — these threads of love — not only weave deeper connections between neighbors, but shape our actions and allow us to see God more clearly.

(The Candle of Love is lit.)

P: In a lonely world, let this light shine bright. From generation to generation, we are held in God's love. Thanks be to God for that good news. Amen.

All: *When God Is a Child*

(Refrain): *When God is a child there's joy in our song.*

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.

Hope is a star that shines in the night, leading us on till the morning is bright.

(Refrain)

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth, giving a promise of safety and worth.

(Refrain)

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn, telling the world the Savior is born.

(Refrain)

Love is a flame that burns in our heart. Jesus has come and will never depart.

(Refrain)

*Call to Worship

L: With the prophet Isaiah, we call upon God, "Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness;

P: **Let the earth open, that salvation may spring up."**

L: Let us worship God!

*Hymn 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

*Call to Confession

One of the greatest gifts and challenges of faith is that we cannot be Christian alone. We need one another. We need one another to grow. We need one another to love. And we need one another to see God more clearly. So, together, let us lift our voices in unison. Let us lean into the ties that bind, and pray to our merciful God.

**Those who are able are asked to please stand.*

*Prayer of Confession

God of today and tomorrow, when Mary was pregnant and afraid, she ran to her cousin Elizabeth's house. Elizabeth threw open the door with joy and showered blessings upon her. How often do we have that same opportunity? How often do we leave the door locked, the curtains drawn, and the lights off? How often do we shower critique or judgment, instead of blessings and joy? Gracious God, forgive us for our wrongs. We want to see you when we see our neighbor. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, this is what I know — God delights in us. God throws open the door, just like Elizabeth, and says, “Come on home. There is room for you here!” And in that moment, we are blessed. In that moment, we are forgiven. In that moment, we are seen, healed, and welcomed home. So, rest in this good news: You are saved by grace.

*Gloria (Hymn 583)

*Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!*

*Passing of the Peace

L: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

P: **And also with you.**

Children's Message

The Rev. Stuart Seelman

First Scripture Reading (OT, p.865)

Micah 5:2-5

L: This is the word of the Lord.

P: **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem

Someone Will See The Star Tonight
The Chancel Choir

John Carter

Second Scripture Reading (NT, p.57)

Luke 1:39-45

L: This is the word of the Lord.

P: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

“From Generation to Generation: We See God in Each Other”

The Rev. Nancy Conklin

Affirmation of Faith

We believe that creation is inextricably linked.

We belong to one another in an undeniable way.

We are bone of bone and flesh of flesh, life breathed into dust.

We believe that God invites us to live into that truth — to love without abandon, to see the good in one another, to trust that all belong to God.

We know that this life of connection is easier said than done, which is why we gather in this space, week after week, generation after generation, to be reminded: We see God in each other. This we believe. Amen.

*Hymn 105

People, Look East

Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

The Birthday of a King
Diane Rutzler, guest organist

Joseph Prentess

*Doxology (Tune: "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

God of yesterday and God of tomorrow, from the very beginning, you gave us the gift of relationships. From the very beginning, you tucked us into communities. From the very beginning, you wired us for connection. From the very beginning, you made our hearts capable of love. From generation to generation, you have left your fingerprints all over creation. Help us to be like Elizabeth — to see and celebrate glimmers of your good news — in all walks of life. Amen.

Prayers of the People/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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

*Hymn 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Benediction

Postlude

Rejoice Greatly in the Lord
Diane Rutzler, guest organist

Rex Kourtney

Today is Christmas Eve!

Our service schedule for this evening includes:

- Family Service (featuring a participatory pageant for all children);
4:30 p.m.
- Traditional Service of Lessons and Carols; 7 p.m.
- Meditative Service of Lessons and Carols; 10 p.m.

Join us for one or all of these services as we celebrate the
birth of Christ our King!

IT'S HAPPENING AT CHPC

- **Visitation Pastor Don Potter will be out of town through Wednesday, Jan. 3.** If you have visitation needs between now and then, please call or email the office.
- The church office will be closed Monday, Dec. 25, and Tuesday, Dec. 26, as well as Monday, Jan. 1.
- We are pleased to announce that **a new organist and choirmaster has been hired!** Byron Mikesell, former music teacher and director of bands at Carlisle High School, will be joining our staff at the beginning of the new year. **His first worship service with us will be Sunday, Jan. 7.** More information about meeting Byron and welcoming him to CHPC will be forthcoming.
- **The Harrisburg Area Food Pantry is in need of toilet paper, bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and deodorant.** Please leave these items, as well as non-perishable food items, in the Donation Station area of the Gathering Place.
- **PW collects new and gently used blankets year-round for the Downtown Daily Bread Emergency Shelter.** Please put your donations in the designated boxes in the Donation Station area of the Gathering Place.
- As a Community Aid partner, we receive checks reflecting the amount of donations made to our two bins (located in the parking lot). **Those funds are used to support CHPC Preschool scholarships for families in need.** Please drop clothing items you are donating in the bins; if you have household items, please take them to the Community Aid store/donation center and tell them our **Partner Number is 10220.**

CHPC WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, December 25

Office closed

Tuesday, December 26

Office closed

6 p.m. — West Shore A.A. Big Book Study; Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 31

9 a.m. — Exegesis Adult Sunday School Class; Blue Room and via Zoom

10:30 a.m. — Worship Service; Sanctuary

Statement of Welcome & Inclusion

As followers of Jesus, we affirm the dignity and worth of every person as created in the image of God. We are committed to creating an inclusive space of belonging and safety. Therefore, this community of faith welcomes into full participation, membership, and leadership persons of diverse age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical and mental ability, level of education, class, and income.

Rooted in the Reformed tradition, we affirm that “God alone is Lord of the conscience,” allowing for a breadth of diverse theological and biblical interpretations. We covenant to accept, respect, and love one another as we apply our faith in the circumstances of our lives and in the matters of our world.

Camp Hill Presbyterian Church

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Visitation Pastor — The Rev. Donald E. Potter

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Preschool Director — Dana B. Tarnoci

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Organist/Choirmaster Emeritus — David H. Binkley II

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