



# CAMP HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Third Sunday in Advent

December 17, 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 Dave & Judy Thompson and Rick Woodard.  
Manning the audio/video booth and streaming the service are Bud Swartz, Jeff Heiss,  
and Dale Meadowcroft.*

*Teaching Kirk Kids are Andrea Ebeling and Nate Ebeling.  
Leading the Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir is guest organist Diane Rutzler.  
Leading the CHPC Preschool Choir is Tracy Fisher-Neely.*

*The chancel flowers are given in honor and memory of Bob Griesemer on his birthday,  
by his family.*

*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 *Creator of the Stars of Night* Joe Gaylon  
The Handbell Choir

Welcome

Children's Introit *Go Tell It on the Mountain*  
CHPC Preschool Choir

Lighting of the Advent Candles Linus & Sharon Fenicle

L: More than 100 people, from the ages of 2 to 80 years old, were asked the question, "What brings you joy?" From the voices of different generations, hear their answers —

Adult: A clean kitchen.

Older adult: Sand between my toes.

Child: Being outside.

Teenager: Sleeping in my own bed after a night away.

Older adult: My partner's laugh.

Teenager: Mountain air.

Child: When my parents pick me up.

Adult: The end of my to-do list.

Teenager: Baby giggles.

Adult: Putting my hands in the garden.

Teenager: Stargazing.

Child: Bedtime books.

Adult: A warm cup of coffee with friends.

Older adult: My new granddaughter.

Teenager: Lingering at the table after dinner.

Child: Time with family.

Today, we light the Candle of Joy.

(The Candle of Joy is lit.)

**P:** **May this light remind us of all the good news this season brings. May its light remind us of the many sources of joy in our lives, and may that joy not only draw us closer to one another, but closer to God. 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)

\*Call to Worship

L: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom.

P: Like the crocus, it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.

L: Let us worship God!

\*Hymn 1147

*Away in a Manger*

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

\*Call to Confession

Psychologists tell us that it only takes a tenth of a second for us to form an impression of a stranger. In other words, it only takes a tenth of a second for us to look at someone's face and determine a stereotype about who they are. With decisions happening that quickly, it is not hard to imagine why we might need this moment of confession. The Prayer of Confession is an opportunity to slow down. We take that tenth of a second and give it room to breathe. We reflect on the decisions that we've made this past week, and we ask for God's mercy to be in all of them. And without fail, God redeems the cracks of our lives, and we are made better for it. With that confidence, let us go to God in prayer.

\*Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, a million times a day we have the opportunity to be gracious, to assume the best in others, to give the benefit of the doubt. A million times a day, we could choose the better way, but so often we don't. Fear and greed kick in, assumptions and insecurities take the wheel, comparison and critique lead the charge. Forgive us for forgetting that we are descendants of Joseph. Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy are in our blood. Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you. Give us the courage to love even bigger than before and the wisdom to choose a better way. Amen.

\*Assurance of Forgiveness

Family of faith, hear this good news: We who have chosen wrong are given a second chance. We who have lost our way are welcomed into community. We who feel alone are seen, held, and known. This is the good news of the gospel. No matter how many times we choose wrong or lose our way, God continues to be a God of second chances, community, and love. Thanks be to God! Amen.

\*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 Songs

*Baby Jesus, We Love You  
A Shining Star  
The Angel Band  
The Bells on the Sleigh  
The CHPC Preschool Choir*

Children's Message

The Rev. Stuart Seelman

*(After the message, preschool and elementary-age children are invited to follow volunteers to the Little Kirk for an age-appropriate worship experience.)*

Scripture Reading (NT, p.1)

Matthew 1:18-25

L: This is the word of the Lord.

P: **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem

*Gentle Mary, Laid Her Child*  
The Handbell Choir

Lloyd Larson

Sermon

“From Generation to Generation: We Can Choose a Better Way”

The Rev. Nancy Conklin

\*Hymn 104

*O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

*Lost in the Night*  
The Chancel Choir

Kyle Haugen

\*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

**Lord, God our Savior, help us to be like Joseph, who reminds us that grace is within reach. In a world full of competition, help us choose celebration. In a world full of scarcity, help us choose abundance. In a world of war and violence, help us choose peace and grace. In a world of divided lines, help us choose connection and relationship. In a world of quick assumptions and stereotypes, help us choose curiosity and compassion. And in our striving to choose a better way, God, may we be transformed. 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 144

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

\*Benediction

Postlude

*Laudation*

G. Martin

Diane Rutzler, guest organist

## **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.

## IT'S HAPPENING AT CHPC

- Today, **we welcome our CHPC Preschool Choir**, led by music teacher Tracy Neely-Fisher with assistance from Pastor Stuart, Preschool Director Dana Tarnoci, and teachers Elena Bartlett and Maura Brittingham. The group has practiced on Wednesdays after their regular preschool classes, learning new songs, sharing lunch together, and doing crafts or other activities. Please enjoy their participation in worship today!
- PW is holding its annual **holiday bake sale today in the Gathering Place**. Stop by after worship to stock up on treats for Christmas!
- Don't miss the **Cedar Cliff High School Chamber Singers as they present "A Ceremony of Carols" at 7 p.m. tonight in the Sanctuary**. The concert will feature organ and harp accompaniment and traditional carol singing. CHPC will host a reception immediately after the concert in Fellowship Hall.
- Staff Commission is asking you to prayerfully consider giving a Christmas gift to our CHPC staff. **Please make your contribution by today**, marking checks or online gifts with "Staff Christmas Gift" in the memo line. (Note that staff gifts are not tax-deductible.)
- **Visitation Pastor Don Potter will be out of town Wednesday, Dec. 20, through Wednesday, Jan. 3**. If you have visitation needs between now and then, please call the office or reach out to Pastor Nancy or Pastor Stuart.
- 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.

Next Sunday is the Fourth Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve!

Our service schedule includes:

- Fourth Sunday in Advent Service; 10 a.m.
- 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!

## CHPC WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Monday, December 18

10 a.m. — Staff Meeting; Pastor's Study

### Tuesday, December 19

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

### Wednesday, December 20

10 a.m. — Prayer Fellowship; Blue Room

6 p.m. — Handbell Choir Rehearsal; Music Room

7 p.m. — Chancel Choir Rehearsal; Music Room

### Sunday, December 24

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

9 a.m. — Women's Advent Study; Fellowship Hall

9:45 a.m. — Chancel Choir Rehearsal; Music Room

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

4:30 p.m. — Christmas Eve Family Service; Sanctuary

7 p.m. — Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols; Sanctuary

10 p.m. — Meditative Candlelight Service of Readings and Carols; Sanctuary

## Camp Hill Presbyterian Church

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Pastor/Head of Staff — The Rev. Nancy A. Conklin

Associate Pastor — The Rev. Stuart L. Seelman

Visitation Pastor — The Rev. Donald E. Potter

Office Manager — Andrea A. Ebeling

Preschool Director — Dana B. Tarnoci

Custodians — Kem Bonner, Frank Smith

Organist/Choirmaster Emeritus — David H. Binkley II

### Pastoral Contact Information:

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