



CAMP HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Second Sunday in Advent

December 10, 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 Ann & Roger Hummel, Lisa Love, and Rick Woodard.
Manning the audio/video booth and streaming the service are Bud Swartz, Jeff Heiss,
and Dale Meadowcroft.
Teaching Kirk Kids is Andrea Ebeling.*

*The chancel flowers are given by the McBride family in loving memory of the Edwards:
Don Sr., Mary Jane, Cindy (Barton), and Don Jr.*

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 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Lani Smith
Diane Rutzler, guest organist

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candles John & Monica Zazworsky

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

Teenager: Not being enough.

Adult: Not making enough of a difference.

Child: Falling down.

Older adult: That we will forget we belong to one another.

Teenager: Climate change.

Adult: My child having to learn gun violence drills at school.

Child: Spiders.

Older adult: Not having someone to take care of me; not having someone who knows my stories.

Teenager: My mental health slipping.

Adult: Ending up alone.

Child: Nightmares.

Older adult: Stopping short of following God all the way.

Today we light the candle of peace, because we so desperately need God's peace in the midst of all we fear.

(The Candle of Peace is lit.)

P: **May this light be a reminder that Christ is coming. God was with generations before, God is with us today, and God will be with us tomorrow. Even now, God is on the way. 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)

*Call to Worship

Elder Joe Harner

L: God's promises stand unshaken through all generations.

P: May we be awake and alert as we watch for the coming of our Lord.

L: Let us worship God!

*Hymn 373

O Day of Peace

*Call to Confession

Fear can be a good thing. It can help us be attentive while driving down the highway. It can alert us to possible accidents. It can motivate us to do our best. However, fear can be harmful. For so many of us, fear of the other, fear of failure, or fear of the unknown has led us to make sinful choices in our lives — choices such as building walls or tearing others down. Today, in confession, we ask for mercy and pray for guidance. As we confess, we come before an entirely merciful and loving God who says to us, "Do not be afraid." Let us pray.

*Prayer of Confession

Patient God, you know just how often we make decisions from a place of fear rather than love. You know just how often we allow fear to take the place of logic, fanning

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

unhealthy fires in our lives. You know just how often we tuck your words, “Do not be afraid” on dusty shelves and in the back of closets, stubbornly holding onto our own point of view. Forgive us for giving fear the microphone. Silence the voices of scarcity, shame, and rejection, which spark and feed so much of our fear, to re-center us in love. With hope, we pray. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Family of faith, even when we forget God’s words, God does not forget us. Even when we lose our way, God does not lose us. Even when we fall short or make mistakes, God forgives and holds onto us. We are known, forgiven, and loved. 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 Message

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

First Scripture Reading (OT, p.640)

Isaiah 11:1-10

L: This is the word of the Lord.

P: **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
The Chancel Choir

Robert Lau

Second Scripture Reading (NT, p.56)

Luke 1:16-38

L: This is the word of the Lord.

P: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

“From Generation to Generation: God Meets Us in Our Fear”

The Rev. Stuart Seelman

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a God who knows our fears. We believe in a God who says, “Be not afraid.” We believe in a God who kicks off her shoes and wades into the muck of our lives with us. We believe in a God who stitches herself to our heels, and invites us to dance. We believe in a God who hemmed stars into the night sky so that we can find our way home, and who sends us friends with open doors, so we can find our way to love. We believe in a God who finds us in our fear and does not leave us alone. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

*Hymn 129

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

An Angel to the Shepherds Spoke
Diane Rutzler, guest organist

E. Broughton

*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

Receive these gifts, O God, as a reflection of Christ's peace which surpasses understanding, but shows up anyway. May they bring further peace to those living in fear, we pray in the name of the One who has come and is coming anew, our Lord and Savior Jesus. 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 263

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

*Benediction

Postlude

Come Let Us Meet Him
Diane Rutzler, guest organist

Lani Smith

CHPC WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, December 11

7 p.m. – Staff Commission Meeting; Blue Room

Tuesday, December 12

11 a.m. – Preschool “Merry Christmas” Program; Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall

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

7 p.m. – Endowment Committee Meeting; Blue Room

Wednesday, December 13

10 a.m. – Prayer Fellowship; Blue Room

Noon – Preschool Choir Rehearsal; Sanctuary

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

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

Thursday, December 14

11 a.m. – Preschool “Merry Christmas” Program; Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall

11:30 a.m. – Dorcas Circle Christmas Lunch; Theo’s Restaurant

Sunday, December 17

PW Bake Sale; Gathering Place

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

9 a.m. – Men’s Bible Study; Green Room

9 a.m. – Women’s Advent Study; Fellowship Hall

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

10:30 a.m. – Worship Service with Preschool Choir; Sanctuary

11:30 a.m. – Brass Choir Rehearsal; Sanctuary

7 p.m. – Cedar Cliff H.S. Chamber Singers Concert and Reception; Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall

IT'S HAPPENING AT CHPC

- It's not too late to make a Christmas dedication for our Christmas Eve bulletin. **Make a donation to the Christmas Joy Offering or the Advent Decorations Fund to honor loved ones.** Forms are available in the Gathering Place and are **due to the office by Monday, Dec. 11.**
- Pastor Nancy is going on a prayer retreat until Tuesday, Dec. 12. If you have **pastoral needs between now and then, please call the office or reach out to Pastor Don or Pastor Stuart.**
- An **Advent study for women is taking place Sunday mornings through Dec. 24 at 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.** Copies of the Sanctified Art Advent devotional, "From Generation to Generation..." will be provided. See Cindy Thompson for more information.
- PW's Quilters & Crafters for Mission group is holding its annual **holiday craft sale today in the Gathering Place.** PW's **holiday bake sale will be next Sunday, Dec. 17.**
- The congregation is invited to the **CHPC Preschool "Merry Christmas" programs at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 12, and/or Thursday, Dec. 14, in the Sanctuary.** Receptions in Fellowship Hall will follow each performance.
- Don't miss the **Cedar Cliff High School Chamber Singers as they present "A Ceremony of Carols" at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 17, 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 Sunday, Dec. 17,** marking checks or online gifts with "Staff Christmas Gift" in the memo line. (Note that staff gifts are not tax-deductible.)
- Members of Presbyterian Women recently dropped off items for our neighbors in need at Downtown Daily Bread and the Harrisburg Food Pantry. These items included 38 pies for DDB's Thanksgiving meal, blankets for DDB's shelter; and personal care items and baked goods for HFP. **PW thanks everyone who donated, and wishes you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year!**
- **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.

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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Associate Pastor — The Rev. Stuart L. Seelman

Visitation Pastor — The Rev. Donald E. Potter

Office Manager — Andrea A. Ebeling

Preschool Director — Dana B. Tarnoci

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Organist/Choirmaster Emeritus — David H. Binkley II

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