



grafted.

Advent 2022 at



A shoot will grow up from the stump of Jesse;
a branch will sprout from his roots. –Isaiah 11:1

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18, 2022

Welcome!

We are glad you are worshipping with us today.

*Childcare is available from 8:45 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).

The flowers are presented by Gail Mark in loving memory of her husband, Lenny.

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

Prelude

Forever Rejoice!
The Handbell Choir

Linda Scholes

Welcome

The Rev. Stuart Seelman

Introit

The Friendly Beasts
CHPC Preschool Choir; The Chancel Choir

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Wiedt Family

L: Isaiah said that the Lord spoke to the king and said, “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But when the king refused, God would not be stopped. “Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel.” (Isaiah 7:14)

P: God wants us to know, even when we aren’t sure ourselves. God wants us to experience God’s presence, even when we think we can handle life on our own. God sends us signs of God’s presence with us; all we need to do is keep our eyes open and look.

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

L: We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, of deep everlasting joy, and, today, of presence that speaks of love, as a sign that no matter our circumstance, we know we are not alone.
(The Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love are lit.)

All singing:

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Desire of Nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine Advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily
To the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*Call to Worship

L: All creation holds its breath.
P: The time is almost here.
L: The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing.
P: Excitement is all around us.
L: Prepare your hearts – the grace of God takes on human form. Good news! Emmanuel, God-with-Us, comes to us.
P: We gather to make ready our hearts for the coming of Christ, our hope.

*Hymn 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*Prayer of Approach

Our saving God, long ago you sent your Son Jesus among us, but we have been little aware of his presence and we hide him even from others. Wake us up, make us recognize him, that he may be the light of our lives, and that eagerly we may lead people to him. May he build up among us, and with us, a world and a kingdom of peace and love, where we serve you in one another, as we move forward in hope to your home of endless joy and rest. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Special Music

CHPC Preschool Choir

Children's Message

The Rev. Stuart Seelman

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

First Scripture Reading (NT, p.152)

Romans 1:1-7

L: This is the word of the Lord.

P: **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem

Mary's Wonder
The Chancel Choir

John Seagard

Second Scripture Reading (NT, p. 1)

Matthew 1:18-25

L: This is the word of the Lord.

P: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

The Rev. Nancy Conklin

*Hymn 129

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

Creator of the Stars of Night
The Handbell Choir

Arr. Joe Galyon

*Doxology (Tune: "Old Hundredth")

*Hope in the God who reigns above, who holds us all in steadfast love;
Whose Spirit blows across the earth, preparing us for second birth.
Amen.*

*Prayer of Dedication

In this moment of worship, we embrace your presence again, O God, and we offer you our love. In this moment of prayer, we proclaim again your purpose for the world, O Savior, and we offer you our resources. In this moment of giving, we hear your call again, O Lord, and we offer you ourselves. Use us and all that we have and all that we are to touch the world with the Christmas message: God is love. God is with us. God will never leave us. Amen.

Prayers of the People

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 105

People, Look East

*Benediction

Postlude

Trumpet Tune in D

David N. Johnson

Please forgive our diminished lighting. The chandelier and high-ceiling lights will soon be retrofitted with low-energy bulbs. Contractor and supply chain issues have pushed this project into early 2023.

Prayer List for December 18

Prayers for healing: Risa Armstrong; Cathy Dittmar; Kathleen Fulton; Richard and Sandy Gordon; Bob Griesemer; Arlene Heintzelman; Jere Hoy; Ed Lenda; Ann Markley; Sally Matter; Holly Robertson; Robyn Sealover; Sherry Stout; Pam Thompson

Prayers for the grieving: Gwen Fourson on the loss of her sister, Joan Wilson; the family of Matthew Hintz

Prayers for the world: All those suffering due to war, mass shootings, violence, natural disasters, disease, and poverty

Names will remain on the Prayer List for four weeks. If you wish for a name to remain after that, please contact the church office or a pastor.

CHPC Weekly Calendar

Monday, Dec. 19

Preschool Closed Until Tuesday, January 3

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

Tuesday, Dec. 20

1 p.m. — Staff Lunch; Offsite

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

Wednesday, Dec. 21

9 a.m. — Prayer Fellowship; Blue Room

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

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

Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24

5 p.m. — “The Friendly Beasts” Story Walk; Church Grounds

7 p.m. — A Service of Lessons and Carols; Sanctuary

10 p.m. — Meditative Service; Sanctuary

Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25

No Sunday School, Fellowship or Worship Service

Monday, Dec. 26

IT'S HAPPENING AT CHPC

- "O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!" Young members of the CHPC Music program's newest addition, the Preschool Choir, have worked hard to prepare for their first worship performance today. Over the past several months, preschool participants learned important music fundamentals, encountered the story behind the lyrics, and shared a whole lot of fun. With excitement, we welcome our Preschool community as they share Christmas songs in worship to prepare for our Savior's coming.
- **The PW Bake Sale is being held today in the Gathering Place.** Stock up for Christmas with delicious homemade treats; all proceeds benefit Presbyterian Women's mission projects.
- Staff Commission is asking you to prayerfully consider giving a Christmas gift to our staff at CHPC. **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.)
- "**The Friendly Beasts: A Live Action Story Walk**" will take place at 5 p.m. **Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24, on the CHPC grounds.** Experience the old, old story anew in this interactive retelling for all ages. Start at the welcome station to warm up by the fire with some hot cocoa, then journey to Bethlehem with caroling and storytelling. Donations will be collected for our mission partner, the Harrisburg sub-office of Church World Service.
- **A Service of Lessons and Carols will be held at 7 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24, in the Sanctuary.** The service also will be livestreamed on our Facebook page and website. It features the familiar Nativity story, favorite carols with special music, and candle lighting to close. Childcare is available and participation by all is welcome.
- **A Meditative Service (featuring lessons and carols) will be held at 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24, in the Sanctuary.** Beginning in darkness, this candlelight service explores the riches of Christian spirituality in the Christmas season, offering a full Christmas Eve service experience and something new for all.
- **In lieu of gathering for worship on Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25, we will be worshiping in our homes.** Please pick up a copy of our at-home worship bulletin in the Gathering Place, or view it in the "CHPConnections" weekly email.

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