

An illustration on a dark blue background showing a tree stump with a branch grafted onto it. The stump is a dark blue cylinder with orange outlines. A white line represents the original trunk, and a green line represents the grafted branch with three leaves. The word "grafted." is written in green lowercase letters across the middle of the image.

grafted.

Advent 2022 at



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

Third Sunday of Advent, December 11, 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 chancel flowers are given by the McBride family in loving memory of the
Edwards family: Don Sr., Mary Jane, Cindy (Barton), and Don Jr.*

*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

Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 599

J.S. Bach

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Kostukovich Family

L: “The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus. It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing ... A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray ... And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.” (Isaiah 35:1-2, 8, 10.)

P: **The prophet Isaiah tells us about the joy of ascending to God's house. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else. And then he tells us that the journey to get there is just as much a joy.**

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

L: We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, and of deep and everlasting joy, as a sign that we are those who walk with a skip in our step because we can see the destination, and it is pure joy.
(The Candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy 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.*

*Call to Worship

L: God who approaches, you gather the ignored, so you can accomplish the unexpected for a world which no longer cares. Bread broken into pieces, you restore your shattered creation;

P: **As you let go of your Child, our emptiness is filled with immeasurable grace.**

L: Ever-new, always-scarred Jesus of the forgotten, through you, those whose voices are silenced hear the whispers of angels on hillsides and in shelters;

P: **By you, those who are knocked over lead the way into your kingdom; with you, those who wander in shadows are clasped tight in your love.**

L: Breath of Advent, you pour the promises of the Word into the shy and silent so they can sing a carol of your grace; you stretch out your hand to all in despair's exile, to place them on the holy way of hope;

P: **You gather up the scraps of our scattered fears, to build a new crib for a refugee family.**

L: Come, O Blessed Trinity of Love, be born in us again.

*Hymn 97

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

*Call to Confession/Silent Personal Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Be patient with us, God of our hearts, as we struggle to speak for the voiceless; to walk with those who have lost their way; and to listen to the songs of children proclaiming that peace which really can bring reconciliation, that grace which really can offer hope, that love which really came to us that night in Bethlehem, in the birth of Jesus, our Brother, our Savior. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Do not be afraid, only believe. Our God is here, opening our eyes to see the gift of our salvation coming near to us in this season of Advent. Let us wait in joyful expectation for the coming of our Lord.

*Gloria (Hymn 583)

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, Gloria, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

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.)

First Scripture Reading (NT, p.160)

Romans 10:1-15

L: This is the word of the Lord.

P: **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem

Chill of the Nightfall
The Chancel Choir

K. Lee Scott

Second Scripture Reading (NT, p. 57)

Luke 1:46b-55

L: This is the word of the Lord.

P: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

The Rev. Nancy Conklin

*Hymn 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

See, Amid the Winter's Snow
(Introduction and Meditation)

David Lasky

*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

We pray that with our gifts, as well as our lives, we will tell of those who are given voice, those who are put back on their feet, those who show us the way, and those who offer us grace and hope, as well. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*Hymn 79

Light Dawns on a Weary World

*Benediction

Postlude

See, Amid the Winter's Snow
(Trumpet Tune)

David Lasky

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.

CHPC Weekly Calendar

Monday, Dec. 12

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

1 p.m. — Quilters and Crafters for Mission; Q&C Room

Tuesday, Dec. 13

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

Wednesday, Dec. 14

9 a.m. — Prayer Fellowship; Blue Room

Noon — Preschool Choir Practice; Fellowship Hall

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

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

Saturday, Dec. 17

9 a.m. — Tot Spot; Bike Room

Sunday, Dec. 18

9 a.m. — PW Bake Sale; Gathering Place

9 a.m. — Adult Sunday School Classes; Kuhn Education Wing

Advent Study; Blue Room and via Zoom

Exegesis; Green Room

Men's Bible Study; Room 14

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

10:45 a.m. — Kirk Kids (following Children's Message); Little Kirk

11:45 a.m. — Brass Choir Rehearsal; Sanctuary

IT'S HAPPENING AT CHPC

- This year's Advent study, using Mary Lou Redding's "While We Wait: Living the Questions of Advent," does not require preparation. **It concludes next Sunday, Dec. 18, at 9 a.m. in the Blue Room.** A Zoom link is available by emailing the office.
- **The Quilters and Crafters Sale continues today in the Gathering Place.** Stop by after worship to purchase handmade Christmas gifts and support the Q&C's mission work.
- **The PW Bake Sale will be held Sunday, Dec. 18, before and after worship in the Gathering Place.** Stock up for Christmas with delicious homemade treats; all proceeds benefit Presbyterian Women's mission projects.
- **"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 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.
- Staff Commission is asking you to prayerfully consider giving a Christmas gift to our staff at CHPC. **Please make your contribution by Sunday, Dec. 18,** marking checks or online gifts with "Staff Christmas Gift" in the memo line. (Note that staff gifts are not tax-deductible.)
- PW continues to collect new and gently used blankets for the Downtown Daily Bread Emergency Shelter. Please place donations in the box labeled "Blankets" in the Gathering Place's Donation Center.

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