



Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024 10:30 a.m.

Welcome!

- *We invite children to use our activity area in the sanctuary. If your child needs a break away from the Sanctuary, feel free to use Room 3 of the Education Wing.*
- *Assistive listening devices are available at the sound booth (rear of sanctuary).*
- *Greeting you today are Vonny Getz, Ann & Roger Hummel, and Rick Woodard.*

The McBride family presents this morning's flowers in honor and memory of the Edwards: Don Sr., MaryJane, Cindy (Barton), and Don III.

Cover art, "From the Three," Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, and liturgy from Sanctified Art's "Words From the Beginning." ©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

Prepare the Way, O Zion
Lynn Kloske, flute

Robert J. Powell

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Hope

Andrea and Nate Ebeling

L: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

P: **Let us begin together. Let us begin arm in arm. Let us begin by holding each other up, instead of tearing each other down. Let us begin with words of peace.**

L: Yes, let us begin with peace. Today we light the candle of peace.

P: **May these lights mark a new beginning where peace flows like a river, and may it start with us.**

(The Candle of Peace is lit.)

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)

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

*Call to Worship

Elder Beth Fine

L: In a world that is lonely,

P: **We will save a seat for you.**

L: In a world that is anxious,

P: **We will light candles against the gloom.**

L: In a world that is weary,

P: **We will sing songs of joy and truth.**

L: We are not alone.

P: **For here in this place, God is weaving us together. We are a three-cord strand, not easily broken.**

*Hymn 88 (v.1-4)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Call to Confession

Family of faith, there are times when we close our eyes, bow our heads, and exchange private words with our Creator. But one of the beautiful things about the Prayer of Confession is it is a prayer we say together. Praying out loud as a community allows us to right our relationship with God and with one another, as well. So as a community, please join me in our call-and-response Prayer of Confession.

*Prayer of Confession

L: I have tried to make my own way. I have tried to lace my own shoes, to build my own house, to kindle my own faith. I have said a thousand times, “turn back,” as if I am fine on my own. But the days are long and I am forgetful. I need your help. Can you remind me?

P: **We will remind you of this everlasting truth: You are not alone. Where you go, God goes. You are held in grace. Trust in this good news.**

L: Thanks be to God! I remember. I believe.

P: **Now we need your help. We, too, have tried to make our own way. We have tried to lace our own shoes, to build our own houses, to kindle our own faiths. We have said a thousand times, “turn back,” as if we are fine on our own. But the days are long and we are forgetful. We confess our stubborn willfulness and our failure to acknowledge the need for the companionship of God and others as we seek to bring about God’s reign of peace.**

*Assurance of Forgiveness

L: I will remind you of this everlasting truth: God chose to come in the flesh and dwell among us that we might become the incarnation of God’s love in the lives of others. We are not alone. Where we go, God goes.

P: **Thanks be to God! We remember. We believe. Alleluia! Amen.**

*Gloria (Hymn 583)

Glo-ri-a, glo-ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De-o! Glo-ri-a, glo-ri-a, al-le-lu-ia, a-le-lu-ia!

*Passing of the Peace

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: **And also with you.**

First Scripture Reading (OT, p.616)

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Anthem

The King of Glory

Austin C. Lovelace

The Chancel Choir with Congregation

Lift up your heads, O ye gates

And be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors;

The King of glory shall come in,

The King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory?

Who is this King of glory?

The Lord strong and mighty,

Mighty in battle.

(Congregation and Choir)

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates,

Behold, the King of glory waits;

The King of kings is drawing near;

The Savior of the world is here!

Who is this King of glory?

Who is this King of glory?

The Lord of hosts,

The Lord of hosts,

He is the King of glory.

(Congregation and Choir)

Fling wide the portals of your heart;

Make it a temple set apart

From earthly use for heav'ns employ

Adorned with prayer, and love and joy.

He is the King of glory!

Sermon

“Words From the Beginning: We Can’t Go Alone”

The Rev. Don Potter

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a with-us God: a God who walks with us in the valley, dances with us on the mountaintop, sings with us through the night, and rejoices in the morning. We believe that this with-us God wired us for relationship, saying to creation on the very first week, “Humans should not be alone.” Therefore, in an effort to be who God called us to be, we strive to live like the Trinity – connected, united, and centered. We believe in the power of community. We commit to learning each other’s names. We choose to journey with each other, like Ruth with Naomi. And we remember that no one can go through life alone. Thanks be to God, for lighting our way.

*Hymn 84

Creator of the Stars of Night

Presentation of God’s Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

Carol of the Bells
The CHPC Handbell Choir

arr. Kathleen Wissinger

*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

Dear God, as we journey down this Advent road, grant us the courage to make peace: peace in our hearts, peace in our homes, peace in our communities. 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 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

*Benediction

Postlude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

CHPC WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, December 9

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

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

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

Tuesday, December 10

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

Wednesday, December 11

10 a.m. — Prayer Fellowship; Fellowship Hall (window side)

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

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

Thursday, December 12

11:30 a.m. — Dorcas Circle Luncheon; Pizza Grille (Gettysburg Road)

Saturday, December 14

9 a.m. — CHPC Preschool Santa Experience; Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m. — PW Second Saturday Breakfast; Silver Spring Diner

Sunday, December 15

PW Bake Sale; Gathering Place

8:30 a.m. — ARISE Service; Sanctuary

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

9 a.m. — Men's Bible Study; Green Room

9:45 a.m. — Choir Practice; Music Room

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

11:45 p.m. — Christmas Caroling Lite Lunch & Carpooling; Fellowship Hall

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

7 p.m. — Cedar Cliff Chamber Singers Christmas Concert and Reception; Sanctuary/
Fellowship Hall

IT'S HAPPENING AT CHPC

- PW's Quilters & Crafters for Mission group concludes its annual **holiday craft sale today, before and after worship, in the Gathering Place**. Don't forget to stop by and purchase beautiful handcrafted gifts that support PW's mission work! And, mark your calendars for **PW's holiday bake sale, which will be held next Sunday, Dec. 15**.
- Help New Hope Ministries supply Christmas gifts to local families in need. **Unwrapped gifts, checks made out to "NHM," and gift cards are due today**. Thank you for your support!
- CHPC Preschool presents **"The Santa Experience" on Saturday, Dec. 14, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**. For \$25, a family of four (\$5 for each additional person), can enjoy a winter wonderland that includes a visit with Santa and much more. **Payment must be received by Tuesday, Dec. 10**. Flyers with information about how to sign up are available in the Gathering Place.
- All voices are welcome to join a **church-wide Christmas caroling event following worship on Sunday, Dec. 15**. Following a quick lunch at the church, we will head to Messiah Lifeways and Bethany Village to sing. **Please RSVP to the church office by Tuesday, Dec. 10**, if you plan to attend, also indicating if you will need a ride. Directions and meeting location/ times will be provided to all drivers.
- Don't miss the **Cedar Cliff High School Chamber Singers' Christmas performance at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 15, in the Sanctuary**. The concert will feature organ accompaniment and traditional carol singing, including a candlelight version of "Silent Night." A reception will be held 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. 15**, marking checks or online gifts with "Staff Christmas Gift" in the memo line. (Note that staff gifts are not tax-deductible.)
- **Dedications and donations to the Advent Decoration Fund or Christmas Joy Offering are due Monday, Dec. 16**. Forms can be found in the Gathering Place or online in the weekly CHPCConnections mailing.
- If you have **non-fragile Nativity scene angels, shepherds, and/or animals that you are willing to lend or give** to be used during the Christmas Eve family service, please contact the office.
- While our Noonday Organ Recitals and MAD Series are on hiatus, **we welcome your suggestions for musicians and artists who may be featured in our lovely sanctuary**. Please contact Abby Tierney with any suggestions you would like to share.

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

Organist/Choir Director – Byron Mikesell

Office Manager – Andrea Ebeling

Preschool Director – Dana Tarnoci

Custodian – Netia Vaughan

Organist/Choirmaster Emeritus – David H. Binkley II

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