



CAMP HILL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 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 Charlie & Sue Appleby, Joann Fissel, and Gail Mark.*

Cover art, "Magnify," Luke 1:46-55, and liturgy from Sanctified Art's "Words for 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

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night
Kellen Mikesell, piano

Joseph Parry

Welcome

Introit

The Friendly Beasts
The CHPC Preschool Choir and the Chancel Choir

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Love

Abby & John Tierney

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

P: **Let us begin with tenderness. Let us begin with our hearts on our sleeve. Let us begin from a place of vulnerability and hope. Let us begin with love.**

L: Yes, let us start with love. Today we light the Candle of Love.

P: **May the warmth of these lights be our cornerstone. May the truth in these lights help us begin again.**

L: May it be so! Amen.

(The Candle of Love 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)

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

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 that the Savior is born.

(Refrain)

Love is a flame that burns in our heart, Jesus has come and will never depart.

(Refrain)

*Call to Worship

Elder David Watts

L: In this weary world,

P: **We sing of joy.**

L: In this fragile world,

P: **We lift each other up.**

L: In this beautiful world,

P: **We look for God.**

L: In this tender world,

P: **We hold onto hope.**

L: This is the invitation of faith. So in this time of worship, may we sing, lift up, look for, and hold onto our with-us God.

P: **With hope in our hearts, Amen!**

*Hymn 114

Away in a Manger

*Call to Confession/Litany of Confession

Friends, hope can feel slippery. One moment, we may believe that change will come, that good will win, that the suffering of today will not be the suffering of tomorrow. The next moment, we can receive word of more gun violence, of more mudslinging, or yet another missile headed toward a group of humans. Hope can feel slippery. Fortunately for us, God's grace is not. No matter what we are able to hold, God is able to hold onto us. Trusting that God's grace does not let us go, join me in the Litany of Confession:

L: Gracious God, you paint pictures of what could be,

P: **But we declare those visions impossible.**

L: You speak of the lion lying down with the lamb,

P: **But we spout skepticism and uncertainty.**

L: You dream of a more just day,

P: **But we poke holes in the plan, unable to fathom that horizon.**

L: Forgive us for losing sight of hope.

P: **Forgive us for assuming that what we see is all there is.**

L: Open up our hearts to see the world as you see it.

P: **Open up our hearts to risk hope, to dream dreams, and to not be afraid of either. With gratitude we pray, Amen.**

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, no matter what you hold onto, and no matter what you let slip through your hands, God is holding onto you. That good news will never change. So hear and believe the good news of the Gospel: Today is a new day. Today, we have reason to hope. Today, we are forgiven. And the same will be true tomorrow. Thanks be to God for a love like that. 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.**

Children's Songs

Ring Those Bells

Three Wise Men (finger play)

Away in a Manger

Angel Band

The CHPC Preschool Choir

Children's Message

(After the message, preschool and elementary-age children are invited to follow the volunteers to Room 15 for an age-appropriate craft.)

First Scripture Reading (OT, p.865)

Micah 5:2-5a

Anthem

Is Your Heart Prepared for a King?

Robert Lau

The Chancel Choir

Second Scripture Reading (NT, p.1)

Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon

“Words for the Beginning: Hope Is Worth the Risk”

The Rev. Nancy Conklin

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a God who gives us reason to hope, a God who fills our nights with stars, who follows winter with spring, who dwells with and among us. We believe that this God has dreams for creation, dreams of justice like a mighty stream and swords that will be beaten into plowshares. Therefore, we push cynicism aside. We risk vulnerability. We hold onto hope, and we declare: “My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”

*Hymn 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Presentation of God’s Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

Of the Father's Love Begotten
Kellen Mikesell, violin

arr. Matthew Riley

*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

May these offerings, O God, be a source of tangible hope for the coming of your kingdom. Bless we who offer them and those who will receive them; we pray in the name of Christ our Lord. 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 145

What Child Is This

*Benediction

Postlude

God's Love Will Show Us the Way
The Chancel Choir

Russell Mauldin &
Sue Smith

CHPC WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, December 23

Preschool Closed Until January 6

Tuesday, December 24

4:30 p.m. — “The ABCs of Christmas” Interactive Service; Sanctuary

6:30 p.m. — A.A. Big Book Study; Reception Room

7:30 p.m. — “A Service of Lessons & Carols” Traditional Service; Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 25

Office Closed for Christmas Day

Sunday, December 29

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

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

10:30 a.m. — Worship Service (Lessons & Carols); Sanctuary

IT'S HAPPENING AT CHPC

■ Today, **we welcome our CHPC Preschool Choir**, led by music teacher Tracy Fisher-Neely with assistance from Preschool Director Dana Tarnoci and teachers Elena Bartlett and Maura Brittingham. Please enjoy their participation in worship today!

■ **Visitation Pastor Don Potter will be out of town through Friday, Jan. 3.** Please contact the office if you require pastoral care during this time.

■ Join us this **Christmas Eve** for one of **two worship services** — or come to both!

At 4:30 p.m., the Interactive Family Service will feature “The ABCs of Christmas.”

At 7:30 p.m., a traditional “Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols” will be held.

The offerings from both services will be given to Christian Churches United’s Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven, a residential facility in downtown Harrisburg offering support and stable housing to men who are chronically homeless.

CHPC LEADERSHIP

Our leadership structure exists to create ministry opportunities for congregants to share the gifts endowed upon them by the Holy Spirit.

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY

Elder Dave Getz, Chair; Elder David Watts, Treasurer;
Elder Joe Harner, Clerk of Session

Staff Commission

Elder John Robinson, Chair

Property & Maintenance Commission

Elder Carol Helsel, Chair; Elder Bryan Kostukovich

Communications Commission

Elder Jeff Heiss, Chair

Nominating Committee

Elder John Groff, Chair

WORSHIP & FINE ARTS MINISTRY

Elder Abby Tierney, Chair

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY

Kirk Families Team

Elder Nancy Nilson, Chair

Congregational Care Team

The Rev. Nancy Conklin, Chair; Deacon Moderator Chris Forbrich;
Deacon Susan Ault; Deacon Rob Brown; Deacon Vonny Getz; Deacon Peggy Heiss;
Deacon Lisa Love; Deacon Anne Gray Sarvis; Deacon Carol Staz;
Deacon Cindy Thompson

Mission Outreach Team

Elder E.J. Barben, Chair; Deacon Susan Ault; Deacon Sandy Bogden;
Deacon Molly McBride; Deacon Cathy Snavely; Deacon Carol Staz

Adult Discipleship Team

Elder Jeff Thompson, Chair

Membership Team

Elder Monica Zazworsky, Chair; Elder Sue Rothman; Deacon Vonny Getz;
Deacon Ann Kalata; Deacon Susan Steele; Deacon Josh Wiedt



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

101 N. 23rd Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011

(717) 737-0488 • www.camphillpres.org • aebeling@thechpc.com

Pastor/Head of Staff — The Rev. Nancy Conklin

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

Pastoral Contact Information:

Pastor Conklin — nconklin@thechpc.com, (908) 500-7928

Pastor Potter — (717) 574-3161

