

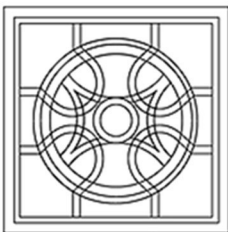
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHESTNUT HILL

An inclusive community of faith

Sunday, December 24, 2023

10 a.m.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



8855 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

WELCOME!

Welcome to the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill!

Whether you're a first-time guest or a long-time member, we are grateful for your presence. There's a place for you here!

See an usher for hearing devices or large-print bulletins.

Nursery care for infants through age 2 is available in the Strouse building—ask an usher for assistance. Children who are 3 are encouraged to attend Godly Play but are welcome to remain in the nursery at parental discretion.

Children's "Praise Packs" to aid with worship participation are available in the narthex. Please return these after worship.

We encourage you to fill out the black fellowship pads in the pews, to help us to get to know all who've shared worship with us today.

Following the 10 a.m. service, all are invited for refreshments and fellowship in Widener Hall.

We send regular email updates about worship, church life, and other events. Please contact the church office if you'd like to receive them.

Please silence all electronic devices.

Find more information about PCCH on page 10.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

O God, our loving Savior, as we remember the birth of Jesus, we would share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Deliver us from sin and evil by the blessings Christ brings. Teach us to be merry with clean hearts. Let kindness come with every gift, and good will with every greeting. Close the door of hate and open the door of love throughout the world.

—Robert Louis Stevenson

SILENT CONFESSION

KYRIE ELEISON

Richard Proulx

The musical notation for 'Kyrie Eleison' is presented in three systems, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first system shows the Cantor's part (labeled 'Cantor') and the Assembly's part (labeled 'Assembly'). The lyrics are: 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' The second system shows the Cantor's part and the Assembly's part. The lyrics are: 'Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.' The third system shows the Cantor's part and the Assembly's part. The lyrics are: 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.'

PROMISE OF THE GOSPEL

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*GLORIA PATRI

REGENT SQUARE
(Hymn 417)

Laud and honor to the Father,
laud and honor to the Son,
laud and honor to the Spirit,
ever three and ever one;
one in might and one in glory,
while unending ages run.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: As a forgiven people, let us share Christ's peace with one another.
The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*unison*)

Open our hearts to your holy Word in Scripture,
O God of our salvation,
that we may behold good news of great joy.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 1:18-23

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALTER

Psalm 89:14

PLAINSONG

Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing;
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever;
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

“I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn an oath to David my servant;

I will establish your line forever,
and preserve your throne for all generations.”

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Gifts of the Messiah: Love
*For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us...*
Isaiah 9:6

Dr. Craig Barnes

*HYMN 5

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

from *Messiah*

G. F. Handel
(1685-1759)

For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given:
and the government shall be upon His shoulder:
and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God,
The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

***DOXOLOGY**

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.

***PRAYER OF THANKGIVING**

Leader: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.

People: **We have beheld his glory. Alleluia!**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Holy God we present these tithes and offerings, as we present
ourselves, to be used for the work of your unfolding love on earth.**

***HYMN 23**

Angels We Have Heard on High!

GLORIA

***BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Amen

John Rutter
(b. 1945)

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*Herr Christ,
der einge Gottessohn*

J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

PREACHER

The Rev. Dr. M. Craig Barnes

LITURGIST

The Rev. Dr. Russell C. Sullivan, Jr.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Joy Warren and Rebecca Thornburgh

MUSIC

Gallery Choir, Daniel Spratlan conductor

Jeffrey DeVault organist

GREETERS

Elizabeth Podraza and Michelle Shachtman Elders

Catherine Brzozowski and Jane McGill Deacons

USHERS

Joan Demme Team #4 Leader, Bill Cobb, Barbara Keeler, Harry Spaeth

FLOWER GUILD

All team members

COVER ART William-Adolphe Bouguereau, *L'Innocence*, oil on linen canvas, 1893, Manchester Art Gallery. Bouguereau (1825-1905) was a French academic painter. In his realistic genre paintings, he used mythological themes, making modern interpretations of classical subjects, with an emphasis on the female figure. During his life, he enjoyed significant popularity in France and the United States, was given numerous official honors, and received top prices for his work. As the quintessential salon painter of his generation, he was reviled by the Impressionist avant-garde. By the early twentieth century, Bouguereau and his art fell out of favor with the public, due in part to changing tastes. In the 1980s, a revival of interest in figure painting led to a rediscovery of Bouguereau and his work. He finished 822 known paintings, but the whereabouts of many are still unknown.

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GOOD TO KNOW

If you are interested in exploring membership at PCCH, please contact Craig Barnes at the church office or at cbarnes@chestnuthillpres.org.

Sunday worship is live-streamed at chestnuthillpres.org/live and is recorded for later viewing. This offering extends our reach across the country and beyond. Visit us when you're away and tell your friends about this new opportunity to join us.

Please share any pastoral care needs or concerns with Russell Sullivan at the church office or at rsullivan@chestnuthillpres.org.

Please see the back cover for information about our church staff and how to contact and connect with us. You also can access today's Bulletin online.

The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill has committed itself to be a Matthew 25 congregation, joining an initiative of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) focused on three areas:



Building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, eradicating systemic poverty.

Visit our Matthew 25 page: chestnuthillpres.org/matthew-25 for more information about Matthew 25 news and events.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Only to one who prays can God make himself vivid. (Harry Emerson Fosdick)

The Prayer Team of the congregation values deeply the spirituality and practice of prayer and would love to receive any prayer requests that you have. Please share your requests by contacting Deacon Kelly Baughman at kellybaughman@yahoo.com or Russell Sullivan at rsullivan@chestnuthillpres.com.



Christmas Eve

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:30 pm **Worship & Children's Christmas Pageant**

9:30 pm **Prelude**

*featuring the Soloists of the Gallery Choir
& PCCH Festival Brass*

10 pm **Christmas Eve Service**

Traditional Service of Lessons & Carols
led by the Gallery Choir

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

UPCOMING EVENTS AT PCCH

PCCH HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, December 25 through Thursday, December 28, the church office and Center on the Hill will be closed.

Friday, December 29 the office will be open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and Center on the Hill will be closed.

Monday, January 1, 2024 office and Center on the Hill will be closed.

SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP

All are welcome in Widener Hall immediately following worship.

2024 PLEDGE CARDS

Please return your 2024 pledge cards as soon as possible so that the Finance Committee can finalize the 2024 budget. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

2023 TAX REMINDER

To be able to deduct donations and pledge payments made to PCCH for 2023, funds must be dated December 31, 2023 and hand-delivered to the church office no later than Sunday, December 31, 2023 OR postmarked December 30, 2023 if mailed. All gifts of stock need to be received by the church by Friday, December 29, 2023.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS

The Board of Deacons will meet on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the Harris room on the lower level of the church.

PCCH WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

We will take a holiday break this week and will resume on Wednesday, January 3, 2024.

ANNUAL DEACON BRUNCH

Join the Board of Deacons for a New Year's brunch on Sunday, January 7, 2024 in Widener Hall immediately following worship.

HOLIDAY GIVING AT PCCH

COLLECTIONS FOR OUR MISSION PARTNERS: Each Sunday during Advent we will be collecting food and toiletries for our mission partners Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry and Face to Face. In addition to suggested items, we will have a basket for monetary donation to purchase needed items for organizations. *December 24:* individually wrapped tooth brushes and full-size toothpaste for Face to Face

YOUTH MISSION GIVING TREE: The Mission Giving Tree will be set up in Widener Hall for the month of December. Consider purchasing an ornament on the tree to support the Youth Mission Trip to Montana in the summer 2024. Most ornaments have been hand-painted by our talented youth. Only six beautiful ornaments still remain to be taken. A table will be set up next to the Giving Tree during fellowship hour for your donations.

FACE TO FACE SERVICE DAY JANUARY 14, 2024

We will be sending a team of six people to help with meal serving in January. Sign up on the Social Witness table outside of the reception room or contact Liz Podraza at lizpodraza@gmail.com.

PCCH SOCIAL WITNESS COMMITTEE

The Social Witness Committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. We would love to have you join us. For more information about any of the above mission partners, contact Beth Nell Vaccaro at bethnellvaccaro@gmail.com.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

No Sunday School on Sunday, December 24 or Sunday, December 31. Children age 3 years and over will remain in worship with their parent. Nursery is still available for children under the age of 3 years.

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MUSIC UPDATE

Joyful Noise and Youth Choir will not have regular rehearsals until Sunday, January 7, 2024.

YOUTH UPDATE

Youth group will not meet again until Sunday, January 7, 2024.

CENTER ON THE HILL

The Center on the Hill will be closed from December 18–January 1 for the holiday break. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 2 at 9:00 a.m.

ABOUT PCCH

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHESTNUT HILL is a lively congregation that has been serving Philadelphia and beyond since 1852. We have been located on this site since 1950. We are a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

Our traditional worship service connects with contemporary approaches to questions of faith and life. We support a wide range of mission partners throughout the city and are home to a number of music groups.

Our membership is drawn from the city and surrounding communities. We aspire to be an inclusive community of faith in our work and worship together.

SESSION

Jill Bown	Lisa Guyer	Taylor Slaughter
Shannon Cavanaugh	Kate Houstoun	Harry Spaeth
Rebecca DePasquale	James Lutz	James Spause
Gregory Dickinson	Ryan Mann	Margaret Spencer
Matthew Eastman	William Murphy	William Storm
Jack Evans	Elizabeth Podraza	Beth Nell Vaccaro
Graeme Frazier	Michelle Shachtman	Clarke Woodruff

BOARD OF DEACONS

Emily Barth	Becky Frazier	Barbara Olson
Kelly Baughman	Ann Goslin	Thanice Petrak
Mark Bernstein	Beverly Heimbach	Linda Pettengill
Cathy Brzozowski	Lyn Huertgen	Rachelle Pretz
Nicolette Cobbold	Kristin Lawton	Amy Raphael
Beth DeSoo	Emily McCahery	Dominick Rebeck
Debby Evans	Jane McGill	Sarah Wright

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. M. Craig Barnes Interim Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Russell C. Sullivan, Jr. Minister of Visitation
The Rev. Cynthia A. Jarvis Pastor Emerita
Daniel Spratlan Director of Music
Jeffrey DeVault Organist/Associate Director of Music
Julie Snyder Director of Children's Education/Director, Joyful Noise and Youth Choir
Katherine McGill Magid Director of Youth Ministry
Rachel Cline Church Administrator
Megan Cullen Director, Preschool
Mariangela Saavedra Director, Center on the Hill
Leslie A. Lefer Communications Coordinator
Evelyn F. Carpenter Administrative Assistant
Felix Delgado Sexton
Donna Marciel Sunday Sexton
Debbie Lambeth Sunday Child Care Giver

CONTACT PCCH

Church office 215.247.8855
Preschool 215.247.8865
Center on the Hill 215.247.4654

info@chestnuthillpres.org

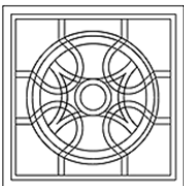
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 [chestnuthillpres.org/live](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



PCCH Bulletin online



The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill
8855 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118