



The Presbyterian Church on the Hill
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
December 2, 2018

In Preparation (*Thought for Silent Reflection*)

“What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace.”

- Agnes M. Pabro

Chimes

Prelude

“Veni Emmanuel”

Calvin Hampton

As we gather together in the sanctuary, please listen to the music and spend time in silent reflection in preparation for worship.

Lighting the First Candle of the Advent Wreath

The Pagnoni Family

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Our lanterns are lit, O Lord, and we gather together to give each other courage for the waiting. The world is dark, but your promise illumines our hearts. We pray, O God, that you keep our hearts alight with your compassion, your courage, and your power. So that even in the midst of this darkness, we might carry our lanterns into the world that others might come to know and understand the Hope you bring us. We give of our hearts, our lives, our Hope. Amen.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In this dark and frightening world, O Lord, we wait for you,

People: As ones who wait for the dawn.

Leader: As the shepherds kept their vigil, protecting the sheep in their care, O Lord, we wait for you,

People: As ones who wait for the dawn.

Leader: Our lanterns are lit, our hearts filled with hope, O Lord, we wait for you.

People: As ones who wait for the dawn.

Leader: Come to us, Sun of the Morning, wiping out our darkness. We wait for you,

All: As ones who wait for the dawn.

▲ UNISON GATHERING PRAYER

Compassionate God, greet us with your grace this day, for we need you. We cannot save ourselves. Though we may be frantic with activity, our efforts do not yield peace, peace as you can give. Today we would be quiet enough to hear your voice. Today we would be still enough to feel your touch. Help us to find that place where we can receive as well as give, wait as well as act, and listen as well as speak. Our whole world needs your peace. Let

us come before you and learn your ways, laying down our weapons and feeding the hungry. Come to us now, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

▲ Hymn No. 82 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Hyfrydol

▲ CALL TO CONFESSION

▲ UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess, O God, that we do not take seriously your coming into our lives. We do not believe that salvation is near; we do not act uprightly, loving you, our neighbors, or ourselves; nor do we bend our swords and spears. Forgive us, we pray, that we might once again walk in your light, choosing for the world of our Christ. Amen.

(Silent Reflection)

▲ ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

▲ PASSING OF THE PEACE

▲ RESPONSE Hymn No. 581 “Glory Be to the Father”

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end, amen, amen.**

Life on the Hill

Today (December 2):

✠ Worship with Holy Communion 10:15am
Youth Group Ice Skating 5:30pm

Tuesday (December 4):

✠ Lydia & Rachel Circles 7pm

Wednesday (December 5):

✠ Mission Community 7pm

Thursday (December 6):

✠ Moms & Young Gals 9:30am
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm

Next Sunday:

✠ WORSHIP 10:15am
Advent Lessons & Carols at
Westminster Pres. Church 3:30pm

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Dismiss ALL children through 5th grade

ANTHEM

“The King Shall Come”

arr. John Leavitt

The King shall come when morning dawns
and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills
and life to joy awakes.

O, brighter than that glorious morn
shall dawn upon our race
the day when Christ in splendor comes
and we shall see his face.

The King shall come when morning dawns
and light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
Come quickly, King of kings. Amen

John Brownlie (1859-1925)

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD



Michael Compoly

First Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16 (NRSV)

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 21:25-36 (NRSV)

²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Exhortation to Watch

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

SERMON **“Keep Our Lanterns Lit”** *Rev. Deb Packard*

▲ Communion Hymn – SEE INSERT **“Holy Eucharist”**
Land of Rest

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

OFFERTORY **“Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”**
arr. John Carter

▲ DOXOLOGY – Hymn No. 607

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” *Old Hundredth*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen**

▲ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE EUCHARIST

*Christ invites all those to this table who wish to meet him here,
who endeavor to be at peace with their neighbors
and who seek the mercy of God*

THE INVITATION

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord’s Prayer

Lift up your hearts
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Communion of Bread* and Cup
**(The bread in the small cup is gluten free.)*

Let us partake together, when all are served.

Music at Communion
“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” *arr. Paul Woblgemuth*
“People Look East” *arr. Joseph Bertolo*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

▲ Closing Hymn No. 93 “Lift Up Your Heads,
Ye Mighty Gates”

Truro

▲ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Finale on Hyfrydol”

Henry Colman

▲ *Indicates when, if you are able, the congregation stands.*

Our worship has ended – now our service begins.

We sincerely welcome all who have come to worship the Creator of us all. As brothers and sisters, let us give evidence that we belong to the family of God. Extend the hand of friendship to those around you, and be grateful for the gift of friends and family. If you are in need of pastoral care or perhaps a listening ear, please speak to one of our Elders, Deacons, or Stephen Ministers.

□
LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Lisa Keller, DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN ED. & NURTURE

Dr. Jeff Unger, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ORGANIST

Bonnie Carle, NURSERY SUPERVISOR

Isaiah C. Mason, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN’S & YOUTH MUSIC

Sharon Fix, CLERK OF SESSION

Jamie Montero, HEAD USHER

Deanne Nirider & Rick Degurski,

STEPHEN MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Michael Compoly, TREASURER

Jackie Colin, ADMIN. ASSISTANT/OFFICE SUPERVISOR

Letitia Jensen, WORSHIP PREPARATION COORDINATOR

Bill Turner, PASTOR – HONORABLY RETIRED

Deborah A. Packard, INTERIM PASTOR

The Chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of her mother, Olga Ducz, by Barbara & Stephen Lofthouse.

Serving Today

† **Greeters:** Junior & Senior High Youth Groups

† **Ushers:** **Team 5:** Elda Gall, Capt., Rob Bataille, Bill Brown, Robin Compoly, Guy Rayner, Roger Stewart

† **Flower Duty:** Carol Cox, Buffy Zazzo

† **Trustee Duty:** Mike Ryan, Michael Compoly

† **Fellowship Host:** Junior & Senior High Youth Groups

† **Worship Prep:** 12/01 – Carol Cox, 12/8 – Laura & Ed Kelsey

† **Communion Setup:** Gail Loeser, Stephanie Toth

† **Communion Cleanup:** Jamie Montero, Sherri Ryan

† **Elders and Deacons Serving Communion:** Rick Degurski, Captain, Carol Cox, Elda Gall, Jamie Montero, Janet Lee, Wendy Robinson, Kurt Kaboth, Michael Compoly

† **Deacons Serving Communion to Contacts:** Stephanie Toth, Buffy Zazzo, Gee McCormick, Robin Compoly, Carol Cox, Joanie Kralyovich, Sherri Ryan

† **Contacts Receiving Communion:** Barbara Sicherman, Ginny Akelaitis, Jim Isacson, Mary Galyean, Asela Gejo, Diane Foye, Bill Weller



Music Notes from Dr. Jeff

Thanks to all of the singing volunteers this morning!

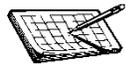
Next Sunday, December 9, at 3:30 pm, the Chancel Choir will join the choir at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Middletown for a combined service of Advent Lessons and Carols. Erika and Jeff will lead the music.



The Ministry of Flowers



Flower Chart is posted outside of the Office! If you would like flowers in the sanctuary for a particular Sunday please sign up. Cost: \$45.00. Questions? Please speak with one of our Deacons. Are you aware that our Deacons deliver the flowers to our shut-ins and hospitalized folks with our prayers and concern every Sunday?



Sign Up Sheets

(posted on rear table in sanctuary)



Fellowship Time Hosts



Scripture Readers



Greeters

Life on the Hill Notes December 2th



PCOH NURSERY

TODAY

Jean Brown

December 9 Jamie Montero December 16 _____

December 23 _____ *December 30 _____

*Need two in the nursery.



Children & Youth Team Leaders

Today

December 9th

Pre-k & Kindergarten

(brick classroom)

Shirley Carle
Stephanie Toth

Jessica Pursell
Stephanie Toth

1st – 5th Grade

(fellowship hall)

Meghan Pringle
Sherri Ryan

Laura Morales
Carol Cox

6th – 12th Grade

(youth room)

No Sunday
School
Holy Communion

Anne Pagnoni
Jill Vacchiano



Saturday Soup Kitchen at Trinity Episcopal Church in Asbury is in need of volunteers on **Saturday, December 29**, from 9:30-1:30. Sign-up sheet is in the rear of the church. Any questions please call or text Holly Hansen at 848-466-0284.

FAMILY PROMISE--SAVE THE DATES!

Church on the Hill will host Family Promise guests, (anticipated to be 5 families!) for the week of **December 23 - 30**. As is the tradition of Family Promise, the guests are able to celebrate Christmas at a local hotel through donations from FP supporters, so we expect that all of the guests will begin their week with PCOH on Dec. 26th at 5pm. (Details to follow.)

The PCOH Mission Community greatly appreciates anyone that can volunteer during this week, please see Wendy Robinson or Marilyn Dicken if you have any questions. Thank you!



*When you are shopping,
please remember that:*

Trinity Needs Food

*When you are cooking,
please remember that:*

The Center Needs Meals

STEPHEN MINISTRY



“CHRIST CARING FOR PEOPLE THROUGH PEOPLE”

If you, or a neighbor, co-worker or friend could benefit from the trained, caring presence and listening ear of a Stephen Minister, please contact Stephen Leader Deanne Nirider (281/744-1054)

“CHURCH ON THE HILL is a diverse, inclusive community of God’s people whose faith is led by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. We welcome, love, and empower all persons to become constructive, affirming thinkers, filled with hope, making a difference in the world. Armed with forgiveness and understanding in the knowledge that “God alone is Lord of the conscience” (Historical Principles, G-1.0301a), we will move forward in an ever changing culture and world.

FAITH **LOVE** **HOPE** **FORGIVENESS** **UNDERSTANDING**

Presbyterian Church on the Hill

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Church Office HOURS: Mon. - Wed. - Fri. 9am-1pm