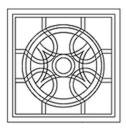
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHESTNUT HILL

An inclusive community of faith

Sunday December 25, 2022 10:00 a.m. CHRISTMAS DAY





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.

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.

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 12.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

This is no time for a child to be born, with the earth betrayed by war & hate and a comet slashing the sky to warn that time runs out & the sun burns late.

That was no time for a child to be born, in a land in the crushing grip of Rome; honor & truth were trampled by scorn—yet here did the Savior make his home.

When is the time for love to be born?

The inn is full on the planet earth, and by a comet the sky is torn—yet love still takes the risk of birth.

-Madeleine L'Engle The Risk of Birth, Christmas, 1973

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Variations on a French Noel (Où s'en vont ces gais bergers) Claude-Bénigne Balbastre (1727-1799)

^{*}Please stand as you are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The grace of God has appeared,

bringing salvation to all.

People: Glory to God in the highest.

Leader: The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light.

People: Glory to God in the highest.

Leader: For a child has been born for us,

a Son has been given to us.

People: Glory to God in the highest.

Leader: He is wonderful counselor, mighty God,

everlasting father, prince of peace.

People: Glory to God in the highest.

Leader: To us is born in the city of David

a savior, the messiah, the Lord.

People: Glory to God in the highest. Leader: And the word became flesh

and lived among us.

People: Glory to God in the highest.

All: Christ is born! Give him glory! Christ has come down from heaven!

Receive him! Christ is now on earth! Exalt him! O earth, sing to the Lord! O you nations, praise him in joy, for he has been glorified!

*HYMN 40 Joy to the World! ANTIOCH

*PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

Glory to you, Almighty God, for you sent your only-begotten son, that we might have new life. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for you became flesh and lived among us that we might become your people. Glory to you, Holy Spirit, for you direct and rule our lives. Glory to you, Almighty God and to your son, Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

*RESPONSE HYMN 41

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

(Verse 1)

*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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Lighting of the Christ candle.

PSALTER Psalm 96

Read responsively by verse

¹O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with his truth.

² Sing to the Lord; bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

³ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

⁴ For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.

⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

⁶ Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

⁸ Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.

⁹ Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

¹⁰ Say among the nations, "The Lord is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity."

¹¹Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar and all that fills it;

¹² let the field exult and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

¹³ before the Lord, for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth.

READING

Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem, Maya Angelou

HYMN 25 (remain seated)
(Verse 1)

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

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 Counsellor, 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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: Thanks be to God.

READING

First Coming, Madeleine L'Engle

HYMN 25 Away in a Manger (Verse 2)

Mueller

EPISTLE LESSON Titus 3:4-7

But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: Thanks be to God.

READING

God Is in the Manger, Dietrich Bonhoeffer

SOLO Polish Carol

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the babe is Lord of all.

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah,

Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: Thanks be to God.

READING

Christmas, Frederick Buechner

*HYMN 25 Away in a Manger MUELLER

(Verse 3)

*LITANY

Leader: God of joy and celebration,

God of love and mercy,

God of peace and righteousness

People: We sing aloud and dance with the angels.

The ruler of all worlds, the shepherd of creation,

Jesus Christ has come among us.

Leader: Our Savior Christ has come,

not in power, not in might, but in the tenderness of love.

People: In this season of God with us we celebrate with the angels,

we are graced by the wonder of God's presence. We are filled with the tenderness of Christ's love.

Leader: Love and faithfulness meet together,

righteousness and peace kiss each other, faithfulness springs forth from the earth.

People: God's faithfulness comes down from heaven.

This is God's promise: the Savior has been born and a new world begun.

Leader: This is the time we believe once more that perfect love casts out fear,

that generosity transforms scarcity into abundance, that righteousness overcomes oppression with justice.

People: God's faithfulness comes down from heaven.

This is God's promise: the Savior has been born and a new world begun.

Leader: We are graced by Christ's presence and filled with God's love:

People: May we become bearers of God's light,

and go out to transform our world.

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 SOLO

Gesu Bambino

Pietro Yon (1886-1943)

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night was born the child the Christmas Rose, the king of love and light the angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced and at his blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced.

O Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night that gave the world it's Christmas Rose, it's king of love and light let every voice acclaim his name, he grateful chorus swell from paradise to earth he came that we with him might dwell.

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord. Ah! O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord. O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord. *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 THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you. **People:** And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: All glory to you, great God, for the gift of your son, whom you sent to

save us. With singing angels, let us praise your name, and tell the earth his story, that all may believe, rejoice, and bow down, acknowledging our love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN 44 O Little Town of Bethlehem St. Louis

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*HYMN 29 Go, Tell It on the Mountain GO TELL IT

CLOSING VOLUNTARY Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella Denis Bédard (b. 1950)

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

LITURGISTS John Wilkinson Beth Shalom Hessel Harry Spaeth

MUSIC

Rebecca Siler soprano soloist Paul Fleckenstein guest organist

GREETERS

Ryan Mann Elder

Troy Foxworth Greeter and Sarah Wright Deacon

USHERS

William Cobb, Team #3 Leader; Robert Bausman, Peter Cooke, Doug Olson, Dom Rebeck

FLOWER GUILD

All Members

FLOWERS THROUGHOUT THE CHURCH

See Flower Memorials

COVER ART Edward Burne-Jones, *The Nativity* [section], 1646, watercolor and bodycolor heightened with gold, on paper, the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, California. Public domain. A member of the Pre-Raphaelite movement in Britain, Edward Burne-Jones (1833–1898) rendered this work—which measures almost five feet high—in various dreamy shades of blue offset with touches of gold. In the lower portion of the painting, Mary, Joseph, and a small group of angels gaze at the infant Jesus in wonderment. A cave set in the background creates a sense of protection and quiet piety. The piece served as a preparatory design for another work: a stained-glass window in the cathedral of the artist's hometown of Birmingham, England, but the artist designed a gilded frame for the work, clearly intending for it to be presented as a finished piece in its own right. Inspired by the art and culture that preceded the period of the great Renaissance artist Raphael (1483–1520), the Pre-Raphaelites emulated artists of the 1400s because they depicted nature more realistically than idealistically, and because their medieval craft guilds offered an alternative type of community to the industrialization of the mid-19th century.

MUSIC AND TEXTS reprinted and performed with permission. CCLI copyright license #3140916; streaming license #4387474.

GOOD TO KNOW

If you are interested in exploring membership at PCCH, please contact John Wilkinson at the church office or at jwilkinson@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 Brian Russo at the church office or at brusso@chestnuthillpres.org.

If you would like to receive a ride to church for Sunday worship, please contact the church office.

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.

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

TODAY AT PCCH

PHILADELPHIA COVID UPDATE

Masks during worship and other gatherings will be optional, not required. Thank you for your prayers and understanding as we seek to navigate in this season with full measures of care and compassion.

2022 TAX REMINDER

To be able to deduct donations and pledge payments made to PCCH for 2022, funds must be dated December 31, 2022 and hand-delivered to the church office no later than Sunday, January 1, 2023 OR postmarked December 31, 2022 if mailed. All gifts of stock need to be received by the church by December 31, 2022.

2023 PLEDGE ENVELOPES HAVE ARRIVED

If you requested 2023 pledge envelopes you may pick them up today in the church office. If you would like 2023 pledge envelopes and neglected to order them, please call the church office.

CHILD CARE ON DECEMBER 25 AND JANUARY 1

Our regular child care will not be provided on Christmas morning or New Year's Day morning, December 25 and January 1, so that our dedicated child care providers can celebrate the holidays.

MEMBERSHIP INQUIRY GATHERING-JANUARY 7

We will hold an informal gathering for those interested in church membership, or for those just interested in learning more about the church, on **Saturday, January 7, 2023** from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Lunch will be provided. If you are interested in attending, or want further information, contact John Wilkinson at the church office or at jwilkinson@chestnuthillpres.org.

CHRISTMAS GIFT-GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Several opportunities are available to you as we prepare for the Advent season:

- Reverse Advent Boxes: place items in the Reverse Advent box to be distributed among
 four ministries—Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry; Face to Face; Philadelphia
 Interfaith Housing Network (PIHN); and West Kensington Ministry. Bring your
 boxes to church by Sunday, January 1, 2023, New Years day.
- Gathering Winter Clothing for West Kensington Ministry: West Kensington Ministry is in need of gloves, scarves and hats of all sizes, baby to adult. Please bring new or gently used items to the church and leave them in the reception room. Help us make our mission partners feel warm and loved during this beautiful season. If you have any questions about this effort, please contact Laura Brobyn at brobynlaura@gmail.com. Thank you for your anticipated giving and kindness.
- Christmas Giving Tree: support the 2023 youth mission trip to Colorado Springs by taking a flower, or two, off the large tree in Widener Hall. Deadline for donations is Sunday, January 8, 2023. Return the flowers with a check made payable to PCCH and indicate "youth mission trip" on the memo line. The gold flowers are \$75, the silver flowers are \$25 and the red flowers are \$50. Thank you for your generosity.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Sunday School Update

Church school will not be held today, Sunday, December 25. Church school will take place as a combined class (3 years—grade 7) on Sunday, January 1, 2023 with a new story!

Joyful Noise will resume Sunday, January 8, 2023

Youth Choir will resume Sunday, January 8, 2023

Nursery care is not available today.

CALLING ALL KIDS

All children ages 3 through grade 5 who like to sing are invited to join Joyful Noise, our children's choir, as they rehearse and perform the musical *Who Built the Ark?*, based on the



Old Testament story of Noah. Children who participate will gain confidence, musical and theatrical skills, and an understanding of the relevance of Noah's story to their lives. Church attendance is not required for participation, and friends are welcome to join us.

Rehearsals will take place on Sundays from 11:10 a.m.-12:10 p.m. (children who are not yet in kindergarten will be dismissed at 11:40 a.m.). Rehearsal dates: January 8-May 7 (no rehearsal February 5 and 12 and April 9).

Performance date: Sunday, May 14 at 10:00 a.m. during the worship service. Scan the QR code to register. Deadline to register is January 2.

CENTER ON THE HILL

The Center on the Hill will be closed for a holiday break from Monday, December 19 until Friday, December 30 and will reopen on Monday, January 2, 2023. Beginning on January 2, 2023 the Center on the Hill will be open Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. with all our practices and protocols in place. New online content is posted Monday to Thursday at 12:00 p.m. on our programs page: chestnuthillpres.org/center-on-the-hill/programs. Registration is required for all activities and classes at the Center as space is limited for social distancing. Call 215-247-4654 or email msaavedra@chestnuthillpres.org.

HAPPENING HERE THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, December 25
Worship
Christmas Day
sanctuary, 10:00 a.m.

MONDAY, December 26 Office and Center Closed

WEDNESDAY, December 27

Weight Watchers meeting room 1&2, 5:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, December 30

International Folk Dancing Widener Hall, 12:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, December 31 New Year's Eve Royal Scottish Country Dancers Party Widener Hall, 5:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, January 1

Worship

New Year's Day
Sanctuary, 10:00 a.m.

Church School Strouse, 10:20 a.m.

MONDAY, January 2 Office and Center Closed

Epiphany Brunch



Farewell
Celebration

Brian Russo

Sunday, January 8

Congregational Meeting (*brief*) in the sanctuary immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service

Epiphany Brunch (delicious) in Widener Hall hosted by the Deacons with

Celebration & Recognition (poignant & joyous) of Brian's ministry at PCCH

All are welcome!

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHESTNUT HILL 215.247.8855 www.chestnuthillpres.org



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

In Memory of Given by

Our parents Martha and Will Agate

Departed loved ones Anonymous

Margaret Friel Mark, Rebecca, Frances and

Taylor Bernstein

Harriet and Jim Ahstrom Jill and Randy Bown

Dr. Tom Brobyn Laura Leeds Brobyn

Ken Knight Laura Leeds Brobyn

George Butler Barbara Butler

Peter and Jim Van Blarcom and

George Butler

Lisa and Tom Butler and family

Loved ones Ann Carr

Mildred S. Owen, Harris A. Carr

and Owintier Charles

Emilie H. Carr

Our loved ones, our parents and grandparents, brother, Joel and sister,

Betty Jean

William and Susan Cobb

Carol Manser, Ernestine Manser,

Anne Dickinson and Caroline Morrison

Greg and Maddie Dickinson and

Jon Manser

Shirley Rose Leach Kevin, Maura and Shirley Rose DuBois

Jane Beatrice Finbow and Nancy and

Robert Innes

Their loving family

Terry Frazier and my parents

Barbara Frazier

Our fathers, Terry Frazier and Bob Spahr

Becky and Graeme Frazier

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

In Memory of

Given by

R. F. Hawley Barbara Hawley

Dr. Spurgeon S. Johns Jr. His family

Francis M. Knight June Knight

Thomas N. Lawton and Fritz and John and Kristin Lawton

Beverly Dorer

Jeanne Lutz and Andy Csizmadia The Lutz family

James F. Currie Mary D. Nahan

Jean Benjamin The Olson family

Loved ones The Shuchat family

Barbara Spaeth Harry Spaeth

Blair and Jacquelyn McKillip, Richard Lewis Rebecca and David Thornburgh

Thornburgh, Peter Lewis Thornburgh

Audrey and Russ Van Riper and Debbie Van Riper Harper Cheryl Van Riper Allen

Peter and James Van Blarcom

Mary Anne Van Blarcom

In Celebration of Given by

Merry Christmas Grammy and Poppy

Love Billy, Sam and Sloane Agate

The beautiful music program, not just at this

Anonymous

season but all year long!

Todd and Craig Armbruster John and Barbara Armbruster

The marriage of Alice Thornburgh-Lind and Rebecca and David Thornburgh

Eric Lind

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

In Honor of

Given by

Brian Russo Barbara Butler

Our children and grandchildren Jane and Russ Kaufman

Ned and Rujean Mitinger Their family

My wonderful family Alice Lea Tasman

In Thanksgiving for Given by

Grandchildren (Blake Brown and Diane Cornely

Harper and Flynn Herlihy)

George Lyons and our family Anne Lyons

Our wonderful family Frank and Taylor Slaughter

Emily McKillip Rebecca and David Thornburgh

The inclusive community of PCCH Elsbeth Wrigley

In Gratitude for Given by

The PCCH staff Anonymous

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

R Grama France	Michelle Shachtman
Lisa Guyer	Taylor Slaughter
Kate Houstoun	Harry Spaeth
Kathryn Krantz	James Spause
James Lutz	Margaret Spencer
Katherine Magid	Beth Nell Vaccaro
Ryan Mann	Christen Webber
William Murphy	Kevin Welsh
	Kathryn Krantz James Lutz Katherine Magid Ryan Mann

BOARD OF DEACONS

Emily Barth	Debby Evans	Barbara Olson
Kelly Baughman	Courtney Franklin	Linda Pettengill
Mark Bernstein	Trish Franklin	Amy Raphael
Cathy Brzozowski	Becky Frazier	Dominick Rebeck
Emily Camp	Beverly Heimbach	Deborah Robinson
Rebecca DePasquale	Lyn Huertgen	Edna Russo
Beth DeSoo	Jane Kaufman	Beth Vaccaro
Sara Eastman	Kristin Lawton	Sarah Wright
	Jane McGill	

CHURCH STAFF

John Wilkinson Pastor

Brian D. Russo Associate Pastor for Youth and Senior Adults

Megan Petero Acting Coordinator of Children's Ministry

Beth Shalom Hessel Parish Associate

Cynthia A. Jarvis Pastor Emeritus

Daniel Spratlan Director of Music

Jeffrey DeVault Organist/Associate Director of Music

Julie Snyder Director, Joyful Noise and Youth Choir

Megan Cullen Church Administrator

Diana Rodgers Interim 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



chestnuthillpres.org



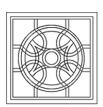
PCCHestnuthill



chestnuthillpres.org/live



PCCH Bulletin online



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