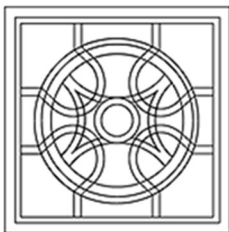


THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHESTNUT HILL
An inclusive community of faith

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

9 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE



8855 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

WELCOME!

Welcome to the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill!

Whether you're a first-time guest or a longtime 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.

PCCH HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS:

The Church office will be closed from Wednesday, December 25 through Wednesday, January 2.

The Center on the Hill will be closed from Monday, December 23, through Sunday, January 5.

2025 PLEDGE

If you have not yet submitted your pledge for 2025, you can pick up a pledge card in the church office. If you have questions about your pledge, would like to learn more about the pledging process, or would like to submit a pledge via email, please contact Rachel Cline: rcline@chestnuthillpres.org.

2024 TAX REMINDER

To be able to deduct donations and pledge payments made for 2024, funds must hand-delivered to the church office no later than Sunday, December 29, 2024 OR postmarked December 30, 2024 if mailed. Online donations can be made through Tuesday, December 31. All gifts of stock must be received by the church by Friday, December 27, 2024.

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

9 P.M.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC FOR BRASS *(beginning at 8:30 p.m.)*

All stand at the ringing of the bells.

*OPENING CAROL

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

I.

Solo

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

II.

Choir

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and scorned, the lowly,
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

III.

All

For he is our lifelong pattern;
Daily, when on earth he grew;
He was tempted, scorned, rejected,
Tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness,
And he shares in all our gladness.

IV.

All

And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love;
For that child who seemed so helpless
Is our Lord in heaven above,
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

V.

All

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
where his saints his throne surround:
Christ, revealed to faithful eye,
Set at God's right hand on high.

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER *(congregation seated)*

Beloved in Christ, in this Christmastide, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, and the babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us hear again from the Holy Scriptures the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our sin until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy child; and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray for the needs of the whole world, and all God's people: for peace upon the earth Jesus came to save; for love and unity within the one Church he did build; for goodwill among all peoples.

And particularly at this time, let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children.

Lastly, let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we forevermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words that Christ himself has taught us:

(unison)

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.

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15

Adam and Eve sin and are expelled from the garden

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR CAROL

Adam Lay y-Bounden

Frank Boles
(b. 1955)

Adam lay y-bounden, bounden in a bond;
four thousand winters thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple, an apple that he took,
as clerkes finden written in their book.

Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been,
ne had never our Lady a-been heavené queen.

Blessed be the time that apple taken was,
therefore we moun singen,
"Deo gracias."

THE SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

God promises to Abraham that in his offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: Thanks be to God.

*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

I.
O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourn in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

II.
O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

III.
O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

THE THIRD LESSON (*congregation seated*)

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior

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. 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.**

CHOIR CAROL

O nata lux

Thomas Tallis
(1505-1585)

*O nata lux de lumine,
Jesu redemptor saeculi,
dignare clemens supplicum
laudes preces que sumere.
Qui carne quondam contegi
dignatus es pro perditis,
nos membra confer effici
tui beati corporis.*

O Light born of Light,
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
with kindness deign to receive
the praise and prayer of suppliants.
You who once deigned to be clothed in flesh
for the sake of the lost,
grant us to be made members
of your blessed body.

THE FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

The prophet foretells the peace that the Messiah will bring

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR CAROL

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen

Hugo Distler
(1908-1942)

*Es ist ein Ros entsprungen,
aus einer Wurzel zart!
als uns die Alten sungen,
von Jesse kam die Art.
Und hat ein Blümlein bracht,
mitten im kalten Winter,
wohl zu der halben Nacht.*

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming,
as men of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel visits Mary and foretells the birth of Jesus

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

OFFERING**

OFFERTORY CAROL

Lux Aurumque

Eric Whitacre
(b. 1970)

*Lux, calida gravisque
pura velut aurum
et canunt angeli
molliter modo natum.*

Light, warm and heavy
as pure gold,
and the angels sing softly
to the newborn babe.

**Online giving options can be found on the last page of this bulletin

THE SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Luke's gospel recounts the birth of Jesus

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.

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: Thanks be to God.

*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

I.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th' angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

II.
Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th' incarnate deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.

Refrain

III.
Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.

Refrain

THE SEVENTH LESSON (*congregation seated*)

Luke 2:8-20

The shepherds go to the manger

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 Savior, who is the Messiah, the 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 favors!” 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.**

CHOIR CAROL

Shepherd's Carol

Bob Chilcott
(b. 1955)

We stood on the hills, Lady,
our day's work never done,
watching the frosted meadows
that winter had won.

The evening was calm, Lady,
the air so still.
Silence more lovely than music
folded on the hill.

There was a star, Lady,
shone in the night,
larger than Venus it was
and bright, so bright.

Oh, a voice from the sky, Lady
it seemed to us then
telling of God being born
in the world of men.

And so we have come, Lady,
our days work done.
Our love, our hopes, ourselves
we give to your son.

THE EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: Thanks be to God.

I.
The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as the lay;
In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!
Born is the King of Israel.

II.
They look-ed up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

III.
And by the light of that same star,
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

IV.
Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
And with His blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

THE NINTH LESSON (*congregation seated*)

John 1:1-14

John's gospel unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL *(remain seated)*

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

During the introduction to the carol, the choir will light the candles of those seated on the outside aisles. Please pass the light down your pew until all candles are lighted.

(Choir only)

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

(Congregation joins)

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born."

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS

Great God, as you came at night when all was still, so enter our lives this night. Illumine our paths with the light of Christ's presence, that we may clearly see the way, the truth, and the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

***CONGREGATIONAL CAROL** O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELIS

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him,
Born the King of angels;

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, glory in the highest!

Refrain

FESTIVAL BRASS POSTLUDE

LEADING WORSHIP 9:00 p.m.

LITURGIST: Rev. Ellen Williams Hensle

READERS: Ryan Mann, Mark Conti, Sharon Rising, David Thornburgh, Helen Lutz, and Jeff Podraza

MUSIC: PCCH Festival Brass John Meko, Sean McCusker, Banks Sapnar, and Emmett Sykes, Gallery Choir, Dr. Daniel Spratlan Conductor, Helen Lutz Soloist, Jeffrey DeVault Organist

GREETERS: Amy Raphael and Ryan Mann Elders, Nicolette Cobbold and Becky Frazier Deacons

USHERS: Kevin Raphael Team #4 Leader; James Cupp, Joan Demme

PCCH FLOWER GUILD: All team members

COVER ART curated by Rebecca Thornburgh

John Singleton Copley, *The Nativity*, circa 1776, oil on canvas, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Born in Boston, Province of Massachusetts, Copley (1738-1815) was an Anglo-American painter, active in both colonial America and England. Though the Boston of his youth offered no art schools, art museums or galleries, Copley was a precocious artist. By age 16 he was painting portraits; George Washington sat for the 17-year-old portraitist. Copley painted other notables of the time, including Paul Revere, Samuel Adams, and John Hancock. His move to Britain at age 36 inspired him to paint mythological, literary and religious subjects, as in this Nativity scene, on which he worked for two years.

Rev. Hensle chose Copley's depiction of the Nativity because of the expression on Mary's face. Mary seems here to be an overstimulated mom trying to focus on her baby amidst the chaos of the manger scene. This helps to humanize Mary, who is so often depicted as a saintly bystander, and connects her to all parents who feel touched out at Christmastime.

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PRAYERS for the Festival of Lessons and Carols are adapted from King's College, Cambridge, where the service was first held in 1918.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

<i>In Loving Memory of</i>	<i>Given by</i>
Our parents	Martha and Will Agate
Our loved ones	Sandy and George Connelly
Our fathers	Graeme and Becky Frazier
Armstrong family loved ones, Lucey family loved ones	John and Pat Armstrong
Jack and Martha Loughridge	Jeffrey J. Loughridge
Jane Beatrice Finbow and Nancy and Bob Innes	Their family
Margaret A. Friel	Mark, Rebecca, Frances and Taylor Bernstein
Our loved ones	Susan and David Shuchat
Loved ones	Ann O. Carr
Mildred S. Owen, Harris A. Carr, Timothy A. Carr	Emilie H. Carr
John Armbruster	Barbara Armbruster
Barbara A. Spaeth	Harry M. Spaeth
Jon Baughman and David and Margaret Lawson	Michael, Kelly, Charlotte, Caroline, Lilly and William Baughman
Stanley Elwell	The Elwell family
Francie, Bill and Rickie Jones, Susan and Ed Bean, Nanny D'Oly-Hughes	The DeCaro family
Thomas N. Lawton, Beverly and Fritz Dorer	The Lawton family
Bob Innes	Sandi L. Innes

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

In Honor of

Our new baby cousin Lucia

Barbara and George Butler,
Peter and Jim Van Blarcom

Peter and Jim Van Blarcom

Given by

Louisa, Susie and
Julia Rodgers-Genuardi

Lisa and Tom Butler, and family

Mary Anne Van Blarcom

In Thanksgiving for

This church, its message, its music and
its members

Our granddaughters Libby and Sloane

The work of the Pastor Nominating
Committee

Our grandchildren Blake Brown, Harper
and Flynn Herliny

Our loved ones

Friends and loved ones, past and present

Our loved ones

Our children and grandchildren

The staff and members of PCCH

Our family

Given by

anonymous

Martha and Will Agate

The Hensle family

Ed and Diane Cornely

Jane and Russ Kaufman

Elsbeth Wrigley

Susan and Bill Cobb

Frank and Taylor Slaughter

Russell and Myriam Sullivan

Liz and Jeff Podraza

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Ellen Williams Hensle Senior Minister and Head of Staff

The Rev. Cynthia A. Jarvis Pastor Emerita

Dr. Daniel Spratlan Director of Music

Jeffrey DeVault Organist/Associate Director of Music

Dr. 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

Mary Frommer Office and Media Coordinator

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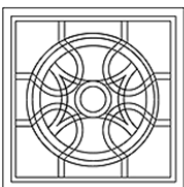
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PCCH links and
online giving options



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