



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHESTNUT HILL PHILADELPHIA

The church's most vexing problem today is how to define itself by the gospel of Jesus' cross. Where is the gospel of Jesus' cross revealed today?

The cross of Jesus and the lynching tree of black victims are not literally the same—historically or theologically. Yet these two symbols or images are closely linked to Jesus' spiritual meaning for black and white life together...

Just as Jesus had no choice in his journey to Calvary,
so black people had no choice about being lynched. The evil forces of the
Roman state and white supremacy in American willed it.
Yet, God took the evil of the cross and the lynching tree and
transformed both into the transcendent beauty of the divine...

~ James H. Cone
The Cross and the Lynching Tree

The theology of the cross as faith's continuous commentary on the incarnating of God's suffering love for the world can only prove itself such by extending itself further and further into the actual. A theology of the cross that contented itself with a theoretical-theological contemplation of the cross of Christ, however spiritually satisfying that might be to those involved, would fall far short... For that aim is not the meaning of Christ's cross in and of itself and as such, but its meaning for and application to the here and now.

By definition, the theology of the cross is an *applied theology*.
How *in this world of the here and now* are we to perceive the presence of the crucified one, and how shall we translate that presence into words, and deeds—or sighs too deep for either?

~ Douglas John Hall
The Cross in Our Context

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

February 28, 2021

10:00 a.m.

INTROIT

Iain Quinn
(b. 1973)

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy;
come let us adore him.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning,
is now and will be forever.
Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 22)

Leader: Let us glorify and stand in awe of God.

People: **Let us praise God in the great congregation.**

Leader: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to God.

People: **All the people of the earth shall worship God.**

INVOCATION AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI 6.6.8.4 D

Daniel ben Judah, 1404
Trans. Max Landsberg and Newton Mann, 1885; alt.

Hebrew melody
Adapt. Thomas Olivers
and Meyer Lyon, 1770

1. The God of A-braham praise, Who reigns en-throned a - bove;
2. Your spir - it still flows free, High surg - ing where it will;
3. You have e - ter - nal life Im - plant - ed in the soul;

The an - cient of e - ter - nal days, The God of love!
In proph-et's word You spoke of old And You speak still.
Your love shall be our strength and stay, While a - ges roll.

The Lord, the great I Am, By earth and heaven con - fessed,
Es - tab - lished is Your law, And change-less it shall stand,
We praise You, liv - ing God! We praise Your ho - ly name;

We bow be - fore Your ho - ly name, For - ev - er blest,
Deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, On sea, or land.
The first, the last, be - yond all thought, And still the same!

WELCOME

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us, by your word, through these forty days, and minister to us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may be reformed, restored and renewed. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALTER

Psalm 22:24-25, 29-30

Edward John Hopkins
(1818-1901)

My praise is of him in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him:
"May your heart live for ever!"

My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him;
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn
the saving deeds that he has done.

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 8:31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Covenant and Alternative Math

John Wilkinson

ANTHEM

Francisco Guerrero
(1528-1599)

Hei mihi, Domine,
quia peccavi nimis in vita mea:
quid faciam miser,
ubi fugiam, nisi ad te,
Deus meus?
Miserere mei, dum veneris
in novissimo die.

*Alas, Lord, I have sinned greatly
in the course of my life:
What should I, poor wretch, do?
In whom should I find refuge if not in you,
my God?
Have mercy on me when thou shalt come
at the last judgment.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from "A Brief Statement of Faith,"
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.
Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and LORD'S PRAYER (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.

HYMN

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

BOURBON LM

Charles William Everest, 1833; alt.

Attr. Freeman Lewis, 1825
Harm. John Leon Hooker, 1984

1. Take up your cross, the Sav - ior said, If
2. Take up your cross, let not its weight Fill
3. Take up your cross, heed not the shame, And
4. Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength, And

you would My dis - ci - ple be; Take up your cross with
your weak spir - it with a - larm; Christ's strength shall bear your
let your fool - ish heart be still; The Lord for you ac -
calm - ly ev - ery dan - ger brave: It guides you to a -

will - ing heart, And hum - bly fol - low af - ter Me.
spir - it up And brace your heart and nerve your arm.
cept - ed death Up - on a cross, on Cal - vary's hill.
bun - dant life And leads to vic - tory o'er the grave.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Forlana

Gerald Finzi
(1901-1956)

WORSHIP LEADERS: Brian Russo, Associate Pastor; Austin Crenshaw Shelley, Associate Pastor; John Wilkinson, Pastor

LITURGIST: Susan Brunell

MUSIC: Members of the Gallery Choir, Daniel Spratlan, conductor; Ken Lovett, organist

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Church Staff

John Wilkinson, *Pastor*
Brian D. Russo, *Associate Pastor for Youth and Senior Adults*
Austin Crenshaw Shelley, *Associate Pastor for Christian Education*
Daniel Spratlan, *Director of Music*
Ken Lovett, *Organist/Associate Director of Music*
Esther Cole, *Church Administrator*
Carla DiOrio, *Director, Preschool*
Mariangela Saavedra, *Director, Center on the Hill*
Leslie A. Lefer, *Communications Coordinator*
Evelyn F. Carpenter, *Administrative Assistant*
Felix Delgado, *Sexton*
Owintier Charles, *Sunday Sexton*
Icilda James and Debbie Lambeth, *Sunday Child Care Givers*

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ANNUAL MEETING

The Session of the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill has called for the annual meeting of the congregation for Sunday, March 7, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. The meeting will be held on Zoom, with both video and telephone options. This meeting will be streamlined from our traditional in-person meetings and will focus on the election of new officers and approval of changes in terms of call for the pastors.

Watch your email for the 2020 annual report; if you would like a printed copy, please be in touch with the church office.

The link for the annual meeting is
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84424184194?pwd=Yi9SNVpnS252NXFELzg2c290d2N5UT09>

If you are joining via the telephone:

+1 646 876 9923 US,

Meeting ID: 844 2418 4194

Call the church office if you need assistance in joining the meeting.

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

WALKING IN FAITH: STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

We are closing in on our 2021 goal! Thanks to all who have pledged thus far. The total to date is \$550,053. Another \$5,800 was pledged this past week. If you are among the households who pledged in 2020 but haven't yet pledged for 2021, now is the time. We need you to help keep our ministry going strong. You can send your pledge to the church office or make a confidential pledge to ecole@chestnuthillpres.org. Thank you for your faithful support.

CANTATAS AND CHAMBER MUSIC

Friday, March 12, 7:00 p.m., Livestream Performance

Streaming on Facebook Live (<https://www.chestnuthillpres.org/music-arts/cantatas-and-chamber-music/>). Join us for our next Cantatas and Chamber Music Livestream Performance to hear pianist Mark Livshits in concert. Mark will perform works by Brahms, Mahler, Strauss, Debussy, Rachmaninoff and Marx.

ONLINE PLAY READING OF A NEW COMEDY

"Waiting For The Host" by Marc Palmieri, Friday April 23

We are currently seeking people who would be interested in participating. We are looking for four men and three women to play the characters and one person to read the stage directions. This will be rehearsed a few times on Zoom, and then read live on Zoom on April 23. Anyone interested in being considered for one of the roles please contact Mariangela at msaavedra@chestnuthillpres.org and she will send you more information.

Play Synopsis: *While theatres, playgrounds, schools, and churches are shuttered by a modern plague, the rector of a small church on Long Island gathers a handful of parishioners via video conference. His goal is to record a theatrical reading of the story of the Passion for the church website. As exes bicker and technology confuses, this socially distant endeavor quickly becomes hilariously chaotic.*

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School Online – www.chestnuthillpres.org

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. on Vimeo

Our weekly recorded church school videos now include a welcome song, a worship set-up, and a Bible story with Austin, as well as a yoga component with Amy Raphael! The yoga poses reinforce the Bible story the children have heard—just one more way to help these faith stories “stick” in our children’s minds and hearts. Later this spring, we’ll transition to including videos from church members who enjoy different hobbies and pastimes. Hopefully we will be able to virtually “visit” with painters, race car drivers, photographers, illustrators, fitness instructors, woodworkers, builders, baseball fanatics, musicians, artists, and more! (If you have a hobby, vocation, or interesting skill you’d like to share, contact Austin at ashelley@chestnuthillpres.org to be added to her list of special guests!)

If you haven’t already, please take a moment to follow our Church School Vimeo page. Following us helps others to find our page online (The more followers we have, the more Vimeo will promote our site.), and it will ensure that new videos come to your inbox when they are posted. Here’s the link: <https://vimeo.com/506752509>

JOYFUL NOISE REHEARSAL

No Joyful Noise Rehearsal on February 28.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, February 28, 4:00—5:00 p.m. in the church parking lot

THE CHURCH IN COMMUNITY

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

Friday – Morning Prayer, 7:30 a.m., Facebook Live

Visit our website www.chestnuthillpres.org and our Facebook page regularly for updates and events. Let us know if you have prayer concerns.

SECOND HOUR OPPORTUNITIES

Join us on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom as we seek to grow in faith.

- February 28
 - **PCCH Book Club**—*Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths*, by Bruce Feiler, chapters 3 and 4. Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84588861863?pwd=V1dzZGVScVVRINHVPMDUUnGvYXVCUT09>
- March 7
 - **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** (see announcement and separate link)

- March 14
 - **Austin Crenshaw Shelley**
Rachel Held Evans once wrote that “...Christianity isn’t meant to simply be believed; it’s meant to be lived, shared, eaten, spoken, and enacted in the presence of other people.” As we continue to reimagine what a Christian community looks like in the age of COVID, join our own Austin Crenshaw Shelley as she helps us to explore new ways to grow our faith even in the face of physical isolation.
Link:<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84588861863?pwd=V1dzZGVScVVRINHVPmndUUnQvYXVCUT09>
- March 21
 - **David Stevenson, M.Div., CT**
Please join us in Second Hour as we welcome David Stevenson, M.Div, CT. He is a bereavement coordinator and counselor at Crossroads Hospice and Palliative Care and will lead us in a discussion about coping with the grief associated with these pandemic times.
Link:<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84588861863?pwd=V1dzZGVScVVRINHVPmndUUnQvYXVCUT09>
- March 28
 - **PCCH Book Club**—*Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths*, by Bruce Feiler, chapters 5 and 6. Join us as we continue this important work.
Link:<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84588861863?pwd=V1dzZGVScVVRINHVPmndUUnQvYXVCUT09>

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, March 3 and 17, 7:30 p.m.

Join us for a discussion of the upcoming lectionary texts. Here is the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87362411434?pwd=YmVvRkJsRms5RkhON1UyNERzT3o0QT09>

RACIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITIES IN LENT

The PCCH Racial Justice Working Group invites you to several opportunities for learning and discussion this Lent. If you would like to participate in the work of the Racial Justice Working Group, please be in touch with John Wilkinson.

>March 10 Discussion at 7:30 p.m.

“*Acting Against Racism*,” Articles from *The Christian Century*. We will discuss a series of brief articles from this popular faith-based journal.

Part II on March 10

Zoom link for the discussions:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87362411434?pwd=YmVvRkJsRms5RkhON1UyNERzT3o0QT09>

Here is the link for the articles [.Layout 1 \(mcusercontent.com\)](https://www.mcusercontent.com)

If you'd like a printed version, please contact the church office.

>March 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Discussion of “Lent of Liberation: Confronting the Legacy of American Slavery,” by Cheri Mills.

This devotional invites readers to learn more about the impact of slavery and its ongoing repercussions. Each daily entry includes a testimony, biblical passage and reflection. You may purchase this resource here: [Lent of Liberation Paper - Cheri L. Mills : Westminster John Knox Press \(wjkbooks.com\)](https://www.wjkbooks.com/)

Link for the discussion:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87362411434?pwd=YmVvRkJsRms5RkhONlUyNERzT3o0QT09>

>March 27 at 10:00 a.m.—NOTE NEW DATE

Presbytery Discussion of *Caste*

John Wilkinson will help lead a Presbytery wide forum—to which all are invited—on Isabel Wilkerson's important work, *Caste*. You are encouraged to begin the book now. Event details and link information will be forthcoming.

SPEAKER SERIES ON THE HILL

Thursday, March 11, 12:30 p.m.

The link to join live at 12:30 p.m., followed by the recorded presentation at 5:00 p.m., is

<https://www.chestnuthillpres.org/education/speaker-series-hill/>

Speaker: Mike Sielski

Topic: Philadelphia Sports Media—Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

A star in the sports journalism world, Mike Sielski is a columnist for The Philadelphia Inquirer and the author of three books. Mike will be discussing the Philadelphia sports scene, the state of journalism and media (*sports and otherwise*), and his upcoming book on Kobe Bryant, which is scheduled for publication in the fall of 2021. *An alumnus of La Salle University and the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, Sielski is one of the most literate and insightful journalists in the nation, and his writing stretches beyond sports into the realms of culture, politics, and American history*

THE CENTER ON THE HILL

The Center on the Hill is offering ONLINE ONLY events, and classes for participation from home for the winter months of January, February and March. New Online content, such as virtual tours, fitness videos, art lessons, recorded presentations and more, are also posted Monday—Thursday at 12:00 noon on our programs page here:

<https://www.chestnuthillpres.org/center-on-the-hill/programs/> The schedule for upcoming online events can also be found there.

Upcoming online classes and events:

REGISTRATION REQUIRED for online participation on Zoom by Computer, Tablet or Dial-in by telephone. Instructions and link to join will be sent after you register. Call 215-247-4654 or email msaavedra@chestnuthillpres.org to register.

STRENGTHEN YOUR VOICE WITH JULIE SNYDER

Mondays, ongoing, 1:00—2:00 p.m., \$25 per class, join at any time

Designed for those interested in improving their singing voices, although no prior singing experience is necessary. Students will warm up as a group and work on several songs each week. New songs are added every 3-4 weeks based on student interest! This is an excellent opportunity for those who want to develop their singing skills but who are not able to commit to private lessons.

GOLDEN YOGA

Wednesdays, start anytime, 3:00—4:00 p.m., \$40 a month or \$10 per class

Golden Yoga is a classical yoga, adapted by the SKY Foundation, to accommodate those who have difficulty getting up and down from the floor. The practices include stretching, breathing, relaxation, and meditation techniques—all done while sitting in a chair or standing.

KEYS TO POSTURE AND BALANCE

Thursdays, March 4 and 11, 2:00—3:00 p.m., \$10 per class—take one or both classes.

It is extremely important to maintain good posture to support our health and minimize structural discomforts. In the aging process, alignment and balance can become challenged. This class will give foundational guidelines to maintain postural alignment and increase balance efficiency.

SOULS SHOT PORTRAIT PROJECT



Portraits of Victims of Gun Violence

From the Souls Shot Portrait Project:

Thank you, wonderful members of PCCH, for your donations!

We have received so many, many messages of gratitude from the families and friends of the victims of gun violence that we represent with our portraits. We are bringing attention to the far reaching effects of gun violence on families and communities and we are moving people both in and outside of these communities to work towards changing the current systems that facilitate this violence.

As many of you know, thanks to the Social Witness Committee and the Presbytery of Philadelphia we have been able to hire a part time administrative and digital marketing assistant, Chrissy Ngugi, to help make our online presence robust and relevant during these times when the impact of experiencing our powerful exhibitions is limited. She has also done a fabulous job of organizing the project to make it most effective. She is amazing!

So THANK YOU, again, to all of you who have helped keep the Souls Shot Portrait Project going. Artists are already at work on the next group of portraits.

If you have not yet donated, but would like to, there is a fundraising campaign on facebook which can be accessed by going to the Souls Shot Portrait Project page, or you can donate through our website, soulshotportraitproject.org, or by donating to PCCH and indicating that your donation is for the Souls Shot Portrait Project.

Scan QR code to reach our website.

