



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHESTNUT HILL PHILADELPHIA

It has seemed to me sometimes as though the Lord breathes on this poor gray ember of Creation and it turns to radiance - for a moment or a year or the span of a life. And then it sinks back into itself again, and to look at it no one would know it had anything to do with fire, or light

Wherever you turn your eyes the world can shine like transfiguration. You don't have to bring a thing to it except a little willingness to see. Only, who could have the courage to see it?

Theologians talk about a prevenient grace that precedes grace itself and allows us to accept it.

I think there must also be a prevenient courage that allows us to be brave - that is, to acknowledge that there is more beauty than our eyes can bear, that precious things have been put into our hands and to do nothing to honor them is to do great harm.

~ Marilynne Robinson
Gilead

Jews read the books of Moses not just as history but as divine command.

The question to which they are an answer is not,

'What happened?' but rather, 'How then shall I live?'

And it's only with the exodus that the life of the commands really begins.

~ Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

The concrete claims of Judaism and the large liberation trajectory of interpretation are not mutually exclusive. The God named and known first by Jews is the God who, in many other ventures, is also the God who enacts exoduses where none have seemed possible.

~ Walter Brueggemann
An Introduction to the Old Testament

ORDER OF WORSHIP
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 13, 2020

10:00 a.m.

INTROIT

Robert Lehman
(b. 1960)

O Lord, open thou our lips:
and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us:
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory 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.

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 114)

Leader: Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

**People: who turned the hard rock into a pool of water
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.**

Leader: This is the day that God has made.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

INVOCATION

HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI 6.68.4 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)

Transform us, O God, with your truth and open our hearts and our minds to your wondrous love. Speak your word to us. Silence in us any voice but your own and be with us now as we turn our attention, our minds and our hearts, to you, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALTER

Psalm 114

George Mursell Garrett
(1834-1897)

Hallelujah!
When Israel came out of Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

Judah became God's sanctuary
and Israel his dominion.

The sea beheld it and fled;
Jordan turned and went back.

The mountains skipped like rams,
and the little hills like young sheep.

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled?
O Jordan, that you turned back?

You mountains, that you skipped like rams?
You little hills like young sheep?

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Strong Winds and Divided Waters"

John Wilkinson

ANTHEM*The Road Home*Stephen Paulus
(1949-2014)

Tell me, where is the road
I can call my own,
That I left, that I lost
So long ago?
All these years I have wandered,
Oh when will I know
There's a way, there's a road
That will lead me home?

After wind, after rain,
When the dark is done,
As I wake from a dream
In the gold of day,
Through the air there's a calling
From far away,
There's a voice I can hear
That will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me,
Come away, is the call,
With the love in your heart
As the only song;
There is no such beauty
As where you belong;
Rise up, follow me,
I will lead you home.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

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 (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

Let All Things Now Living

G D G Am D

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks-giv - ing
 2 By law God en - forc - es, the stars in their cours - es,

G C G D G

to God our Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise;
 the sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

G D G Am D

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us,
 the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and four - tains,

G C G D G

by guid - ing us on to the end of our days.
 the depths of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

Harmony G E Am D

God's ban - ners are o'er us; pure light goes be - fore us,
 We too should be voic - ing our love and re - joic - ing;

G Em D A7 D

a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night;
 with glad ad - o - ra - tion, a song let us raise,

G D G Am D

till shad - ows have van - ished, all fear - ful - ness ban - ished,
 till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing:

G C G D G

as for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
 to God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Festival Voluntary

Flor Peeters
(1903-1986)

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

LITURGISTS: The Vaccaro-Jones family: Landon, Beth, Luke and Adam

MUSIC: Joanna Gates, Rebecca Siler, Julie Snyder, Colin Dill and Steve Williamson, members of the Gallery Choir; Daniel Spratlan, conducting; Ken Lovett, organist

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 James, *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*

The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill

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telephone: 215.247.8855

web site: <http://chestnuthillpres.org> email: info@chestnuthillpres.org

facebook link: www.facebook.com/PCChestnutHill

Preschool: 215.247.8865

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

NEW PROGRAM YEAR BEGINS TODAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Sunday, September 13

9:30 a.m. **Children's Church School** (PCCH website)

By 9:30 a.m., our weekly church school lesson may be found by clicking on the button labeled "Church School" at the top of PCCH's website. We'll be reading through *Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible* edited by Carol Wehrheim and Elizabeth Caldwell, wondering together about the stories we read and how those stories impact our lives today, and also learning and practicing music with Julie Snyder in Joyful Noise.

10:00 a.m. **Worship** (PCCH website), John Wilkinson preaching

11:00 a.m. **Second Hour Live** (on Zoom), Rachel Falkove, PIHN (see below for further information)

3:00 to 5:00 p.m. **Ice Cream Social** (Distanced) at the church

Drop-in/drive-thru are welcome (and we will have chairs set up under the tent if you'd like to stay for a socially distanced visit), but it would help us if you let us know you're planning to stop by—email ecarpenter@chestnuthillpres.org or call 215.247.8855.

Families with children who are ages birth—fifth grade are invited and encouraged to drop by to pick up a Worship-at-Home bag! Austin will be introducing these bags during our church school lesson on September 13. Every item inside each bag is intended to help families set aside a space for worship at home and to actively engage children in our weekly worship service and in other faith practices throughout each week. Every family will receive its own *Growing in God's Love* story Bible as well as other items that will hopefully nourish the faith of our children during this time.

We will also be receiving food donations to support the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry

5:00 p.m. **Evening Prayer Service** – at the church, RSVP to ecarpenter@chestnuthillpres.org or 215.247.8855.

SECOND HOUR ONLINE RETURNS

Sunday, September 13, 11:00 a.m. on Zoom

The Adult Education and Social Witness Committees invite you to join us at 11:00 a.m. each Sunday in September to hear from the leaders of our mission partners. These Zoom conversations will help us connect more deeply with the organizations whose important work we support.

- September 13, 11:00 a.m. – Rachel Falkove, PIHN
- September 20, 11:00 a.m. – Bryan Miller, Heeding God's Call
- September 27, 11:00 a.m. – Mary Kay Meeks-Hank, Face to Face
- October to be announced

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82157837121?pwd=cXB4d2l2WnJuM0VCQzB3d1VxTmxTUT09>

Dial by your location

1.301.715.8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 821 5783 7121

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82157837121>

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Tuesday, September 15, 7:30 p.m. on Zoom

Theology on Tap is now meeting live on Zoom! If you are interested in joining our conversation, please RSVP to Brian Russo (brusso@chestnuthillpres.org) for the Zoom link.

PCCH BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, September 16, 7:30 p.m. on Zoom

Ta-Nahesi Coates, "Between the World and Me"

Join us via Zoom for a discussion of the powerful book "Between the World and Me" by Ta-Nahesi Coates, a personal work taking the form of a long letter from a Black father to his son.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86469409371?pwd=cU5Bd01UNGNUMHp6d1hGU085QWRhQT09>

Dial by your location

1.301.715 .592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 864 6940 9371

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86469409371>

SPEAKERS SERIES ON THE HILL ONLINE

Thursday, September 17, 12:30 p.m.

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

Speaker: Mark Nottingham; Topic: An Economic Outlook. What the Presidential Election foretells and what to expect in 2021.

2020 will be remembered as the most turbulent and unpredictable year since 1968. A year that began with promise and enthusiasm quickly devolved into economic shutdowns caused by a global pandemic, the deepest recession since the Great Depression, social unrest and now a presidential election unlike any ever seen before. What can we expect from the election and where will the markets and economy go in 2021? This presentation will present a roadmap for planning over the next 12 months and how one should position their financial planning and investment plan in one of the greatest times of uncertainty in a generation. More specifically, Mark will address the short and long term implications this presents for those who are currently retired or near retirement.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

Wednesday – Bible Study, 12:00 noon, Facebook Live

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.

THE BIG TENT HAS ARRIVED!

To help us safely gather this Fall, a large tent has been erected in the parking lot. A variety of worship, study and fellowship activities will be scheduled through the coming weeks. If you have ideas to suggest, or simply want to gather safely with church friends, please let us know. Contact Esther Cole at ecole@chestnuthillpres.org for scheduling information.

PASTORAL CARE

As Fall approaches and the COVID season persists, we continue to be in prayer for one another as we face physical, emotional and spiritual challenges. If you have prayer concerns, either for yourself or others, please be in touch with one of the pastors.

Also, did you know we have a Prayer Chain that regularly prays for the concerns of church members? If you'd like a concern added to the prayer list, please be in touch with Brian Russo at brusso@chestnuthillpres.org.

SHARE YOUR INTEREST AND COMMITMENT BY JOINING A COMMITTEE

The PCCH committees and task forces offer a range of volunteer opportunities for you to get involved and share your energy and gifts. As the new program year begins, perhaps you are discerning this kind of service as a way to get connected and involved. We are especially welcoming people to serve on our various education committees, as well as Social Witness, Church Life, Music and Arts, Worship, and the newly formed Racial Justice Task Force and Property Team. Please be in touch with John Wilkinson at jwilkinson@chestnuthillpres.org for more information.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES UNDER THE TENT

- Sunday, September 20, 12:15 p.m. “Third Hour” – BYO coffee, donuts, lunch and meet for socially-distanced fellowship and conversation.
- Sunday, September 27, 12:15 p.m. “Third Hour” – see above
- Sunday, September 27, 5:00 p.m. “Service of Evening Prayer,” RSVP at ecarpenter@chestnuthillpres.org or 215.247.8855
- Saturday, October 3, 9:00 a.m. Breakfast Club, bring your breakfast or place an order – details to follow

VIRTUAL GALLERY EXHIBITION—NEW ART ON VIEW NOW!

The Music and Arts Committee is delighted to present the third in our series of virtual art exhibitions, titled “What I Did on My Summer Vacation.” The exhibit is NOW live! To see it and the previous exhibitions, visit the church's website and check under Music and Arts.

Our next themed exhibition is a celebration of our annual Homecoming Sunday—we invite you to share your September smiles with our church family via the PCCH online gallery. Send us a selfie featuring your face in your favorite place! It's a super simple way to reconnect with your PCCH pals. Please send your photos by September 24 to pcchvirtualgallery@gmail.com. We encourage you to include some text to accompany the image—tell us why this is your favorite place right now or share what's on your mind at the moment. Your text can be attached in a Word doc or just included in your email. We can't wait to see your beautiful smiles!

On behalf of the PCCH Music & Arts Committee, Laura Madeleine and Rebecca Thornburgh

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE UPDATES AND SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

In August, PCCH hosted three Red Cross Blood Drives. Those three drives yielded 80 units of blood which will help up to 240 hospital patients! Many church members have numbered among the donors at these drives and have volunteered to welcome and register donors.

In September PCCH will host three drives:

- **Friday, September 18 – 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, September 22 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday, September 24 – 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

If you can volunteer to greet and take temperatures of potential donors and check them in using the Red Cross computerized system, please email Liz Podraza at lizpodraza@gmail.com. Volunteer shifts are flexible, but two hours is the minimum. One volunteer said she enjoyed helping, in part, because it allowed her to spend some time at church even if she wasn't surrounded by fellow members. All Red Cross employees and donors wear masks and the number of people in Widener Hall at any time is fewer than ten.

If you would like to be a blood donor, go to redcrossblood.org and search for Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill using the zip code 19118. You must have an appointment to donate; no walk-ins can be accepted in an effort to control the number of people in the room.

CENTER ON THE HILL

Center on the Hill—NEW online programming such as interactive games, virtual tours, fitness workouts, art classes, activities, lectures and much more are created and posted Monday-Friday at Noon on our programs page here: www.chestnuthillpres.org/center-on-the-hill/programs/. Community Resources are still being updated regularly and can be found here: www.chestnuthillpres.org/center-on-the-hill/community-resources/. **Newly added content this week:** active stretches to improve your balance; three easy and healthy meals to make at home; basics of watercolor painting lesson; learn about the Grand Teton National Park; visit and explore Mt. Fuji in Japan; play a fun round of Name That Tune, with songs from the 1950's; new rounds of our interactive trivia game Tri-Bond; and new episodes of Tell Me Something Good! with special guests. Visit our pages often to stay active and stay connected.

UPDATE ON ONLINE GIVING AT PCCH

PCCH has partnered with the Presbyterian Foundation to securely process your electronic giving, whether through your computer or smartphone. These options can save you—and the church office—time!

If you wish to make a tax-deductible gift, please use this Give Now button  (also on our website) to set up new one-time, or recurring gifts.

The Presbyterian Foundation also offers the GivePlus Church app which is available through the App Store and Google Play. Search for “GivePlus Church” to download the app. GivePlus Church is free to download and there are no fees to make a donation.