

St. Philip's United Church of Christ

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December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Pastor: Rev. Laura Mignerone
Administrative Assistant: Carol O'Shea

Council President: Sandy Stevenson
Youth Director: Andrea Tukin

Liturgists: Mike Shelton
Music Director: Mike Orzel

*indicates that you may rise as comfortably able
(text in bold read in unison)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER CONCERNS

* CALL TO WORSHIP - Worship Ways(Responsively)

We come seeking a sign from you, the One who sits upon the throne.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

We come seeking to worship you, the One who dwells with us always.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

We come seeking to witness your might, a child to be born in a coming night.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

* OPENING HYMN: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" # 144 Verse 1, 3, 4

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!

So God imparts to human hearts the joys of highest heaven.

No ear may hear Christ coming,

but in this world of sin,

where meek souls will receive him still,

the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;

cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, our God, Emmanuel.

* PRAYER OF INVOCATION - Worship Ways (Together)

God of love—ferocious love, fierce love, unending love, everlasting love—we gather in this place with gratitude for the ways your love has called us out of the bleakest and into your most marvelous. We know of your renown, and we stand in awe of your work. In our own time revive it; in our own time make it known. Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel. Stir up your might in this place. Give us life, and we will call on your name as we worship you in spirit and in truth. AMEN.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: LOVE (PBUCC)

We have come in out of the cold to be warmed by the Spirit.

We have come in to dream God's dream.

We have come to listen for God's call.

We have come to be overwhelmed with love.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE

HYMN: "One Candle is Lit" # 128 Verse 4

Come, wander where lion and lamb gently play,
where evil is banished and faith takes the day
a babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes
One candle is lit for God's loving surprise.

PRAYER - UCC BOW (Together)

O God, we thank you that Jesus showed your love for every person—babies and children, old people and young, sick people and those who were strong, rich people and those who were poor. Come to us in this Advent season, and give us love in our hearts for all people. AMEN.

A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

RESPONSE: "Jesus Loves the Little Children"

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.
Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight,
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.

Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will have his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

HYMN: "Angels From the Realms of Glory" # 149

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Sages, leave your contemplations brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations, you have seen the natal star;
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending, here among us shall appear:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

SERMON: "The Stuff of Dreams"
Rev. Laura Mignerone

ANTHEM: "All Earth is Waiting"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Your 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.

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERING

Offertory

* Doxology #46 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host:

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication (Together)

We dedicate these gifts that have been shared for the fortification of the beloved community. Let these gifts do justice in the world so that all may know they are loved by God. AMEN.

* CLOSING HYMN: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" # 153 Verses 1, 3, 4

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth good will to all, from heaven's all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Ang you beneath life's crushing load whose forms ae bending low,
who toll along the climbing way, with painful steps and slow,
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE



Please wear your name tag
during worship.

Thank you!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

**Happy Birthday to our members
who will be celebrating this month.**

We will sing on the 1st Sunday
of each month.

*“Happy Birthday to You!,
Happy Birthday to You!,
Happy Birthday Everybody!
and God Bless You!”*

Linda Kotthoff	5
Kim Tangeman	7
Sarah Witte	9
Carla Moran	11
Robyn Mikusch	15
Devin Coleman	21
Missy Ruffino	21
Chloe Armistead	24
Karen Nickel	26
Katie Eason	28
Ashley Henson	30
Scott Stevenson	30



CHOIR REHEARSAL AFTER WORSHIP

Anyone interested in joining the Choir please join us for another rehearsal. For now, **we will meet every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.** The last December rehearsal will be on the 18th.

The Choir rehearses the Anthem and Hymns for the upcoming Sunday worship service. New members are always welcome. There is no audition – anyone with a love for music and a desire to sing is invited to join. Rehearsal lasts usually about an hour and we always have fun! Contact Mike Orzel, our Music Director, for more information.

WORSHIP LISTENING DEVICES

Listening devices used during worship are now available in the Admin Assistant Office as you walk in the door to the right.

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Our **Cap, Mitten, Glove, and Scarf tree** is up and awaiting your contributions! Items collected will go to Caroline Mission, which has an Early Childhood Education program for infants to 5-year olds, and items for babies and children are especially appreciated. The families served also have older children and adults, so items of all sizes are needed.

We are again participating in the Feed My People **"Adopt a Family Program"**. Our family members are Zemfira, 47 years old, Kasim, 52 years old, and their four children ages 14-24. We hope to collect funds to buy a \$50 gift card for each of them and a \$50 grocery card for a holiday meal. Contributions can be made in your offering envelope with "Adopt a Family" written on the memo line. Thanks ahead of time for your hospitality!

BOOK CLUB

We will meet on **December 18** after church to discuss 'Less' by Andrew Greer, and to share a potluck lunch. Books are checked out from the St Louis County Library in kit form, and can be picked up at church on December 18, or they can be delivered to your house on request.

Our next selection is Beartown by Fredrik Backman. We have enjoyed two of his previous books and expect to enjoy this one as well. Consider joining us, we always have a good time, and everyone is welcome, even those who have not read the book!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18 9:30 Sunday Worship In-person, Facebook 9:45 Sunday School In-person 10:15 Choir Rehearsal 10:15 Book Club	19	20	21	22	23	24 8:00 Christmas Eve Worship
25 No Worship Service	26 January CRIER Articles Due	27	28	29	30	31
1 January 9:30 Sunday Worship In-person, Facebook 9:45 Sunday School In-person	2 7:00 Church Council Mtg	3	4	5	6	7
8 9:30 Sunday Worship In-person, Facebook 9:45 Sunday School In-person	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 9:30 Sunday Worship In-person, Facebook 9:45 Sunday School In-person	16 4:30 ECC Board Meeting	17	18 5:30 LOGOS	19	20	21



Our Vision Statement

St. Philip's Vision Statement

We are called to the body of Jesus Christ, with:

Minds to study God's word,
Mouths to proclaim the Gospel,
Eyes to see the needs of others,
Arms to welcome all,

Hearts big enough to share God's love with all God's children.



Gail Avery
Joyce Brand
Sandy Ganz
Grace Heady
Virginia Hladnick
Pam Kelly
Marilyn Milne

Sue Myers
Jered Nagle
Shirley Nottelmann
Janet Remmers
Paul Shrout
Lily Swanson
Paula Williams



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