

St. Philip's United Church of Christ

10708 Lavinia Drive St. Louis, Missouri 63123 314-843-5100

www.stphilipsucc.com

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent



Pastor: Rev. Laura Mignerone

Council President: Sandy Stevenson

Administrative Assistant: Carol O'Shea

Youth Director: Andrea Tukin

Liturgist: Mike Shelton and Shirley Illert

Music Director: Mike Orzel

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

Second Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS and PRAYER CONCERNS

* CALL TO WORSHIP - Worship Ways - Inspired by Isaiah 40

A voice cries out declaring God's presence. Comfort, O Comfort my people, says God.

We come preparing the way of the Lord. Together, we actively wait for God's peace.

A voice cries out declaring God's equity. Valleys shall be lifted and hills be made low.

We come to make straight in the desert a highway. Together, we're pressing toward God's peace.

A voice cries out declaring steadfastness. Grass withers, flowers fade, but God's word stands forever.

We lift up our voices with strength and good tidings. Together, we carry out God's peace.

* OPENING HYMN: "All Earth Is Waiting" # 139 Verses 1-3

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows, the sowing of our God.

All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,

"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";

one whose name is "God with us," our Savior shall be,
through whom hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;
open new highways, new highways for our God,
who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

* PRAYER OF INVOCATION - Worship Ways (Together)

Spirit of God, who dwells within our hearts, wean it from that which aims to separate us from you. In this moment of collective worship take the dimness of our souls away. Let us seek you. Let us find you. Teach us to feel that you are always nigh as we lift up our voices with strength to worship you. AMEN!

* LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE (PBUCC)

Paul wrote to the Philippians that the peace of God surpasses all understanding.

So, we gather around this Advent wreath—humbly, vulnerably, and guided by a longing older than reason.

Maya Angelou reminded us that peace is always louder, louder than the explosion of bombs and the sounds of violence.

And so, we call upon the triumphant symphony of peace—the choirs of angels and saints, the laughter of children with their elders, the sobs of loved ones reuniting in safety, and the breaking of bread at a Passover meal.

Let us speak into being a peace that is as loud as it is delicious—hard earned and satisfying.

Yes, peace has a way with the senses. It soothes like a hum and settles us back into our bodies.

Back here

Back where the work and the pleasure of peace lives. AMEN.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE

HYMN: “One Candle is Lit” # 128 Verse 2

Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.

Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.

One candle is lit for the reign of God’s peace.

...Let us pray. (UCC BOW)

Eternal God, we thank you that through all the years you have given peace to your people. Help us to have your peace in our lives. We pray that, in this Advent season, we may, by what we do, show your presence to the sick, to the hungry, and to the lonely, so that they too may have peace. 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 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers; the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers; the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight,'" so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

HYMN: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" # 119 Verses 1-3

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer, our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's deep shadows put to flight.
(Refrain)

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go. (Refrain)

SERMON VIDEO: "Prepare the Way of the Lord"
Rev. Laura Mignerone

ANTHEM VIDEO: "Hark The Herald Angels Sing"
Art Kuhn and Paul Shrout

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Silence

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 OUR TITHES AND OFFERING

* 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, the heavenly host:

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication - Worship Ways (Together)

We dedicate these gifts that have been shared for the fortification of the beloved community. Let these gifts usher peace into this world and signal to the people that God is with us. AMEN.

* CLOSING HYMN: "Christians All, Your Lord is Coming" # 136 Verses 1-3

Christians all, your Lord is coming, drawing near in holy birth.

Ring the bells and sound the trumpets, let your music fill the earth.

Dance and move to show God's glory; kneel and pause to hear God's word.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Rise and let your songs be heard.

Christians all, your Lord is coming, calling you to service in deed.

See the ones who hurt and suffer, hear their cry and act with speed.

Set all selfish ways behind you. Purge your hearts of sinful greed.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ in you will meet their need.

Christians all, your Lord is coming, he will rise up from the dead.
Lift the cup, of sin forgiven; bless the host and eat his bread.
Mend the ways where peace is broken, give yourselves to tru Shalom.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Dwell as one in church and home.

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

POINSETTIA ORDERS ARE DUE MONDAY, DECEMBER 11 by Noon

See the order form on page 9 of this Bulletin or the pink order forms on the credenza outside the Sanctuary.

OUTREACH MINISTRY NEWS

We are again participating in Feed My People's "**Adopt a Family**" Program. We will collect funds for a gift card for each family member and a grocery card for a holiday meal. We have requested a family with school-age children this year, and LOGOS has expressed interest in buying one gift for each of the children in the family.

Contributions can be made in the offering plate or by mail. Please write "Adopt a Family" on the Lower left side of checks or specify "Adopt a Family" on the outside of your church contribution envelope.

Cap and Mitten Tree: a skinny little tree will appear in the gathering area during Hanging of the Greens on December 3. We will "decorate" it with scarves, mittens and gloves during advent, with items going to a charity, most likely Caroline Mission. All sizes, children's thru adult, are appreciated!

BOOK CLUB

We will meet after church on Sunday, **December 10** to discuss *The Maid*, and to share a potluck lunch.

Our next selection is *Girl Waits With Gun* by Amy Stewart. Meeting date in January tbd. Books are available in kit form, and we always have a good time! Let Barbara Barnes know if you would like to have a copy of the book (314-843-4157). Consider joining us!

ADVENT WREATH READERS NEEDED!

Would you like to read the Advent Wreath liturgy and light the candles during worship on a Sunday morning OR Christmas Eve? Talk to Pastor Laura to volunteer!

CHRISTMAS LUNCH BUNCH WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2023 NOON – AT SANDY’S HOUSE

Join us for the annual pre-Christmas potluck lunch. Bring a dish to share and prepare for a time of food, fun and fellowship.

Don't forget to bring a wrapped white elephant present for the much anticipated and highly competitive Rob Your Neighbor contest. You never know what treasure you might win!

See the GREEN signup sheet on the bulletin board to RSVP or contact Sandy Stevenson.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Our Christmas Program will be **December 17** during worship.

Plan to stay after church with Mike Orzel for about 10-15 minutes each Sunday through December 10 to practice our songs.

On December 10 please plan to stay about 30-45 minutes to do a rehearsal.

If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Tukin, 314-566-8633 or andreatukin@gmail.com.



Christmas Poinsettias

Back again this year are beautiful poinsettia plants in your choice of red or pink, and mums in either white or yellow.

The poinsettias will decorate the sanctuary on Sunday, December 24 during the Christmas Eve service. You may take your plants home after the Christmas Eve service.

The cost is \$11.50 each plant.

Make check payable to 'Walter Knoll Florist'

Name _____

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Color</u>
_____	Red Poinsettia
_____	Pink Poinsettia
_____	White Mum
_____	Yellow Mum

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

You can drop your order form and payment in the offering plate or give to Carol O'Shea in the church office **by Monday, December 11th**.

LOGOS

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Wednesday, December 13

5:30 PM

Join us for dinner, games and a short Christmas program put on by the youth and families of LOGOS. We will have dessert and a craft afterwards!

This will be our last LOGOS of 2023. We will resume in January 2024! See you then!

DECEMBER 24

WORSHIP SERVICES

9:30am Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00pm Christmas Eve Worship

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

PASTOR LAURA VACATION DECEMBER 25 - JANUARY 1

Pastor Laura will be taking some vacation time.

In case of emergency pastoral care needs during this time, please reach out to our Council President, Sandy Stevenson.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 9:30 Worship in-person, Facebook 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Book Club	11 noon Christmas Poinsettia Orders Due	12	13 noon Lunch Bunch @ Sandy's 5:30-7:00 LOGOS	14 5:00-6:00 Scouts GS	15	16
17 9:30 Worship in-person, Facebook - Youth Christmas Program 9:45 Sunday School	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 9:30 Worship in-person, Facebook, Sunday School noon-6:00 MPR Rental 8:00p Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:30 Worship in-person, Facebook 9:45 Sunday School	1 January	2	3	4	5	6
7 9:30 Worship in-person, Facebook 9:45 Sunday School	8 4:45 ECC Board Mtg 7:00 Church Council Mtg	9	10	11 5:00-6:00 Scouts GS	12	13

**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.



Iveta Boyanchek
Joyce Brand
Bob Eillson
Grace Heady
Ron Hemingway
Virginia Hladnick
LaDonna Kay

Mary Ann Krewson
Marilyn Milne
Jered Nagle
Shirley Nottelmann
Paul Shrout
Lily Swanson
Paula Williams



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