

St. Philip's United Church of Christ

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www.stphilipsucc.com

December 17, 2023
Third Sunday of Advent



Pastor: Rev. Laura Mignerone

Council President: Sandy Stevenson

Administrative Assistant: Carol O'Shea

Youth Director: Andrea Tukin

Music Director: Mike Orzel

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

Third Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS and PRAYER CONCERNS

- * CALL TO WORSHIP - Worship Ways—Inspired by Psalm 34 in conversation with the Magnificat)

O magnify our God with me and let us exalt God's name together.

Our souls magnify the Lord. Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

We will bless the Lord at all times; God's praise shall continually be in our mouths.

Our souls magnify the Lord. God's mercy endures from generation to generation.

Let our souls make their boasts in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.

Our souls magnify the Lord for the Mighty One has done great things.

- * OPENING HYMN: "Creator of the Stars of Night" # 127 1,2,4

Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,

O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.

To you the deep travail was known that made the whole creation groan.

You came, O Savior, to set free your own in glorious liberty.

At your great name, O Jesus, now all knees much bend, all hearts must bow;
all things on earth with one accord, like those in heaven shall call you Lord.

- * PRAYER OF INVOCATION - Worship Ways (Together)

**God of Mary, Mother of Jesus—and all of the lowly who seek to be lifted
—God of Isaiah, who felt the Spirit upon him calling him to bring Good
News—let your Spirit fall upon us in this hour. Out of the ruins,
remind us of your everlasting covenant. Anoint us as we seek to**

**share and experience your Good News. Bind our broken hearts.
Awaken us to the liberation within and among us. Embolden us to
proclaim your favor as we seek you more deeply. AMEN!**

* LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE: JOY (PBUCC)

Ancestors of Advent, we call upon you in this season of waiting, of journey, and creation-time.

Your story is our story, your songs we still sing, your silence sits like a friend beside ours.

On this third week of Advent, we gather around this wreath, hand in hand like Mary and Elizabeth,

Welcoming in the joy of two cousins meeting womb to womb.

May we call on such jubilation to awaken us into worship.

**Come, let us magnify the greatness of God with this ritual's delight.
AMEN.**

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY

HYMN: "One Candle is Lit" # 128 Verse 3

Come festively sing while awaiting the birth,
join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.

Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.

...Let us pray. (UCC BOW)

O Holy One, as Christmas draws near, there is a sense of excitement in the air. We can feel a joy in our lives and see it in those around us. Still, for some of us this is a sad time because of unhappy things that have happened in our lives. Help us to have the joy that does not depend on earthly happiness but on you. Help us to be filled with your joy so that we may share it with a joyless world. AMEN.

HYMN: "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" # 134 (Sing twice)
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

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.

ANTHEM: "Hallowed Manger Ground" Sung by Cara Schamburg

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 joy into this world and signal to the people that God is still setting captives free. AMEN.

HYMN: "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" # 140 Verse 1,2,4

Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!

Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!

He comes to break oppression, to set the captives free,
to take away transgressions, and rule in equity.

He comes with justice speedy to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong,
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.

To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
the tide of time shall never his covenant remove.
His name shall stand forever; that name to us is Love.

THE STORY OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS

HYMN: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” # 144

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.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth.
Your voices raise to God in praise; and peace to all on earth.

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.

HYMN: “Away in a Manger” # 147

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

HYMN: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" # 150

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 the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, off-spring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
please in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

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

HYMN: "Silent Night, Holy Night" # 145

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.

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.

HYMN: "Joy to the World" # 143

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

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!

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
17 9:30 Worship in-person, Facebook - Youth Christmas Program	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 4:00-8:00 MPR Rental
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
14 9:30 Worship in-person, Facebook 9:45 Sunday School	15	16	17	18	19	20

**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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