

St. Philip's United Church of Christ

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

www.stphilipsucc.com

December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion



Pastor: Rev. Laura Mignerone Council President: Sandy Stevenson
Administrative Assistant: Carol O'Shea Youth Director: Andrea Tukin

Liturgist: Rev. Dori Hudson
Music Director: Mike Orzel

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

Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WELCOME

* CALL TO WORSHIP - Worship Ways

In the beginning, there was the Word;

The Word was in God's presence, and the Word was God.

The Word was present to God from the beginning. Through the Word all things came into being...

In the Word was life, and that life was humanity's light—

And the Word became flesh and stayed for a little while among us;

We saw the Word's glory—

The favor and position a parent gives an only child—

Filled with grace, filled with truth.

Let us rejoice in the Word!

Let us worship our God!

* PRAYER OF INVOCATION - Worship Ways (Together)

O Word made flesh, you have come into our midst as light and wisdom, desiring to be known to us in our lives and to be found in the world around us. Open our eyes and our ears and our hearts to recognize you where you dwell—in our midst—challenging, heartening, lighting the way to truth, peace, and justice. AMEN!

* OPENING 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!"

* LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES (PBUCC)

O God who finds room when there is no vacancy, and swaddles us in the
promise of prophets, we rejoice in how you dwell among us,
And are born in us this day.

We gather on our journey toward the star, only to find that the light is within
and between us,
For God is born in us this day.

We give ourselves over to the manger of this moment, and allow ourselves
to be nourished and nuzzled and held in our wholeness,
For God is born in us this day.

When the night's exhaustion overwhelms us, and the wise ones come with
their gifts,
Our God is born in us this day.

We come with stories to offer and burdens to set down—not knowing how
life will turn out or what angel will come to us next,
Yet God is born in us this day.

So, let us adore our God who comes to us and through us,
Who is born in us each day. AMEN.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

HYMN: "One Candle is Lit" # 128 Verse 5

Come, listen, the sounds of God with us ring clear,
and signs of a cross in the distance appear.
the word once made flesh, yet the Word ever near.
One candle is lit for the Christ-birthday here.

...Let us pray. (UCC BOW)

We thank you, God, for your gift of Jesus Christ to the entire world. We thank you that Christ's coming makes hope, peace, love, and joy possible for every person in every nation. Encourage us to do our part to bring goodwill and peace to our families, our churches, our neighborhoods, and the world. Now let your Spirit put us in touch with you, the living God, through the words and music we hear tonight. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, AMEN.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN LESSONS AND CAROLS

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

CAROL: "What Child Is This" # 162

What Child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste, to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christian fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. (Refrain)

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, rich and poor, to own him,
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. (Refrain)

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 pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce 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 save 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 become pregnant and give birth to 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 given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

CAROL: “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” # 163

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all, Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new,
saw the glory, heard the story - tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you, Christ the babe was born for you!

Luke 1:39-56

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb.

And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.” And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

CAROL: "I Wonder as I Wander" # 161

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor ordinary people like you and like i:
I wonder as I wander, out under he sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall,
with wisemen and farmers and shepherds and all,
but high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
a star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,
he surely could have it, 'cause he ws the King.

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

CAROL: "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.

Luke 2:8-14

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

CAROL: "Angels We Have Heard on High" # 155

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire you heav'nly song?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ, who comes in lowly birth.
Come adore on bended knee Jesus, joy of heav'n and earth.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Luke 2:15-20

When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right

now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

CAROL: "The First Noel" # 151

The first Noel, the angel did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light
and so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

HOMILY

ANTHEM: "O Holy Night"

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)

God of peace and joy, you bind us together as if in swaddling bands of our own cloth. We are meant to be together, meant to be active participants in your great story, the story of humanity's redemption. We give these gifts with open eyes that can see, if for but a moment, strands of linen gently guiding us all toward one another. AMEN.

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING, POURING, SHARING

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Together)

Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west and north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will.

Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. AMEN.

TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

PASSING THE LIGHT

* CLOSING HYMN: "Silent Night" # 145 Verses 1 - 3

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.

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

Thank you to all who
helped beautify our Church
this Christmas season.



Lois Decker in memory of Roger and Jeffrey Decker

Judy Hickman & Family in memory of Russ Hickman

The Knoll Family in memory of Gail and Bradley Knoll
and our Parents & Grandparents

Leo Ruffino in memory of Grandpa “Rick” Yager

Art Kuhn and Paul Shrout in memory of
Rev. Stanley & Nettie May Shrout
Arthur, Consuela, & Ted Kuhn

Mike & Kathy Shelton in memory of our Parents

Don & Patty Siewing in memory of our beloved families -
the Siewing’s & the Patterson’s

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.

OUTREACH MINISTRY NEWS

We are again participating in Feed My People's **"Adopt a Family"** Program. We will continue to collect funds during Advent. Excess funds will help pay utility bills.

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 has been placed in the gathering space that many have been "decorating" with hats, scarves, mittens and gloves during advent. Items will be going to Caroline Mission after the new year. All sizes, children's thru adult, are appreciated!

LUNCH BUNCH BRUNCH

Please join us for a Lunch Bunch Brunch on **Wednesday, January 10** at **noon** at the Golden Oak Pancake House located at 7289 Watson Road, 63119.

See the PURPLE signup sheet on the bulletin board or call Dolores Zikes at 314-282-0197 by Sunday, January 7th.

YOUNG ADULT APPETIZER PARTY

Children are welcome too!
Join us for an evening of appetizers and fellowship at the Tukins! Bring an appetizer to share and BYOB. There will also be some kid friendly foods along with soda, lemonade, and tea.

Saturday, January 27
4-8pm

[RSVP HERE](#) or to Andrea Tukin

LOGOS MINISTRY

Would you be interested in making a meal for our LOGOS ministry? If so, we'd love to try your cooking (and have you join us for an evening)! Receipts may be turned in for reimbursement.


Need ideas on feeding 30 people?

Here are some meals we've had in the past that have been successful for our group:

- Spaghetti, garlic bread, salad
- Baked potato bar with soup
- Chili & hot dogs
- Taco night! (beef, chicken or pork)
- Build your own sub/sandwich night
- Lasagna
- Ham or Turkey & Cheese Sliders
- Pulled pork & macaroni & cheese
- Enchiladas
- Chicken Alfredo
- We'd love to try your ideas too!!

If you are interested, please see the schedule on the Bulletin Board.

Thank you for your support,
Andrea Tukin

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 noon Lunch Bunch Brunch @ Golden Oak Pancka House	11 5:00-6:00 Scouts GS	12	13
14 9:30 Worship in-person, Facebook 9:45 Sunday School	15	16	17 5:30-7:00 LOGOS	18	19	20 11:00-4:00 Building Rental
21 9:30 Worship in-person, Facebook 9:45 Sunday School	22	23	24	25	26	27 8:30-3:00 Building Rental

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
Lou Cherry
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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