

St. Philip's United Church of Christ

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

www.stphilipsucc.com

December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent



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)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS and PRAYER CONCERNS

* CALL TO WORSHIP - Worship Ways

We will sing of your steadfast love, O God; forever, with our mouths we proclaim your faithfulness.

We declare your love, unending, unending; we will sing. We will sing.

Our never-ceasing songs shall show the mercies of God for the ages to know.

We declare your love, eternal, enduring; we will sing. We will sing.

Our song forever shall record the tender mercies of the Lord;

We declare your love, immortal, sustaining; we will sing. We will sing.

* OPENING HYMN: “Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates” # 129 1-3

Lift up your heads, O mighty gates; behold the glorious Ruler waits!

The Sovereign One is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven’s employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! We open wide our hearts to you; here, Christ abide!

Let us your inner presence feel, your grace and love in us reveal.

* PRAYER OF INVOCATION - Worship Ways (Together)

God with us—the one who takes us from the tent to the throne—the one who prepares places for us and promises rest from our enemies—we open our hearts and souls to the beauty of your kingdom. We seek to hear the precious news once again that we might be continually renewed, transformed, and awed by your abundant love, everlasting peace, miraculous hope, and quenchless joy. May our praise and

prayers be pleasing to you. May our lives reflect the beauty you have birthed in us. AMEN!

* LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE: LOVE (PBUCC)

O God of Garlands and Light, we've arrived at this final Advent candle.

We've kindled ourselves in this tradition and wrapped our nights in your light.

We close this circle where it all began, in love—in fierce abiding love—as familiar words arise in our minds:

Did our hearts not burn within us, while he talked with us on the way?

Let us remember how we do not journey alone.

And receive a blessing from the evergreen trees, who give us permission to grow—and let go—at our own pace, season by season, here in this place. AMEN.

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.

...Let us pray. (UCC BOW)

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: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when the king was settled in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind, for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.

Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel, and I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.

And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place and be disturbed no more, and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel, and I will give you a rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever."

SCRIPTURE: 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.

HYMN: “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” # 153 Verses 1, 2, 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.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world,
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed 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.

SERMON VIDEO: “The Mother of Jesus”
Rev. Laura Mignerone

ANTHEM: “Joy to the World”
St. Louis Community Gospel Choir

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)

Generous God, we give thanks for all the beautiful resources you have given to us. Let these gifts bring glory and honor to you and beauty and peace to your creation. AMEN.

* CLOSING HYMN: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" # 164

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!

Listen now to what we say: News! News! Jesus Christ is born today.

Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now,

Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!

Now you hear of endless bliss; Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this!

He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest for evermore.

Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
Now you need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to
save!
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

* 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.

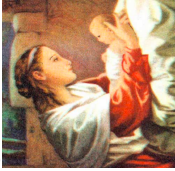
Need ideas on feeding 30 people?

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 Pancake 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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