



Worship for the Lord's Day

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

9:30 am

Prelude

In the Bleak Midwinter

arr. Mark Hayes

Words of Welcome

Rev. Beth Freese Dammers

***Opening Words**

Gregg Morton

One: In God's house, we can be joyful.

All: We can be grateful. We can be hopeful.

One: In God's house, we can be weary.

All: We can be anxious. We can be grieving.

One: In God's house, we can be honest—

All: inspired or tired, delighted or doubtful, connected or curious, and everything in between.

One: This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

All: Let us worship our loving God.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

***Hymn 83**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

STUTTGART

Call to Confession

Gregg

One: Friends, in today's scripture passage, a man named Zechariah is given good news from God and his response is to ask, "How can this be?"

Have any of you ever felt that way when receiving good news? It can be hard to receive good news when we don't expect it. It can be hard to accept God's grace and God's love when we think we don't deserve it.

But friends, scripture tells us over and over again of a loving, generous and gracious God. So may we come to the prayer of confession today, not with fear, but with an awe so deep that we ask ourselves, "How can this be?" Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

One: Gracious God, we are weary. For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

All: Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard. Remind us that we deserve Sabbath rest.

One: For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:

All: Forgive us for creating so many distractions. Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.

One: For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

All: Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves. Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.

One: For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,

All: Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Family of faith, no matter how many times we wear ourselves thin, no matter how many times we lose ourselves to distractions, no matter how many times we ask ourselves, "How can this be?" God's love keeps showing up for us. So we say together:

All: We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Sung Response 583

Glory to God

GLORIA (Taize)

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Gregg

One: As a sign of our reconciliation with God and with one another, let us share the peace with one another. The Peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

***Sung Response**

God Incarnate, We Are Waiting

God In - car - nate, we are wait - ing for a Sav - ior to ap - pear. Meet us in our des - ert
 jour - ney; called to share that you are near. Help us to pro claim the gos - pel, 'til the world is
 rec - on - ciled. Help each one of us, your peo - ple, to re - ceive you like a child.

Growing with God

Kristin Duy

Following our time together, all children are invited to remain in worship either in Grace Space or in the pews.

Prayer for Inspiration

Gregg

Scripture Reading

Psalm 80:1-7,17-19

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word! This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:1-23

Susan

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word! This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

How Does A Weary World Rejoice?

Rev. Susan Tindall

***Hymn 88 v. 1, 2, 7**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

The Glory of the Father

Egil Hovland

Chancel Choir

***Doxology** words 607, tune 606 *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDRETH

***Prayer of Dedication**



QRCode for Giving

Holy Communion

Rev. Beth Freese Dammers & Rev. Susan Tindall

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: *(prayer continues)*

...Therefore with all creation we sing your praise:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord; God of pow-er and might. Heav-en and
 earth are full of your glo - - ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est! Ho -
 san - na in the high-est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Blest is the one who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high-est! Ho -
 san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

One: *(prayer continues)*

...Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est! Ho - san - na in the high-est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

(prayer continues)

Lord's Prayer (unison, using "sins")

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

*Communion of the People

*Ushers will invite you to come forward for the receiving of communion.
All are invited to come to the table using the center aisle and return via the outside aisles.
The center station offers allergen-free wafers and prepackaged communion elements.
Any with mobility challenges will be served in the pews.*

Prayer after Communion

All: God of all grace, may we live in expectation and hope, and may the gifts we have received at this table remind us not only of the gift of your Christ, but of your steady presence among us, that we may act faithfully in response to your love. Amen.

*Hymn 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL

*Charge and Blessing

Susan

*Postlude

Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella

arr. Marianne Kim

** Please rise in spirit or body*

All speak emboldened type

USHERS: Sam Dammers, Wendy Cook

LITURGIST: Gregg Morton

ONLINE WORSHIP HOST: Linda Cirillo

AV: Paul Abraham, Teagan Manning

Next Sunday in Worship, December 10

Second Sunday of Advent

Christmas Pageant

9:30 am



STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2024

“Our Future Is Now”

Stewardship Campaign 2024



Good news! Our very generous congregation has pledged \$564,603 (99% of our goal) for 2024. Only \$7,400 left to go!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We would like to thank the following people for their generous donation of poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary for the holiday season & donations for our *Share the Love* program.



Given by the Lorenz Family In Memory of Howard and Mary Kidd

Given by the Lorenz Family In Memory of Don and Ginny Lorenz

Given by Erin & Doug James in Honor of The Dedicated Staff of Kids' Academy

Given by Derek, Ruth, and Sarah White In Memory of Alvin and Nina Ohrenberg

Given by Derek, Ruth, and Sarah White In Memory of Harold and Lois White

Given by Derek, Ruth, and Sarah White In Memory of Martin Ohrenberg

Given by Wendy Winhelm in memory of my parents and grandparents

Given by Bill & Michele Vickery in Memory of Esther & Paul Manuel

Given by Bill & Michele Vickery in Memory of Florence and John Vickery

Given by Ann Hamman in Memory of Loved ones who have died

Given by Gloria Tatar in Memory of Jessie and Homero Vega

Given by Sarah Fenstermacher in Memory of Beverly Nagy





COOKIES, COCOA & CRAFTS ADVENT CELEBRATION
THIS SUNDAY - 10:30am Fellowship Hall

Join us in Fellowship Hall for our Advent holiday open house! We will have cookies to decorate...and eat, craft supplies to make Christmas crafts and hot cocoa to enjoy! Drop in for a couple of minutes or stay for the whole time. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this festive event!

This week at CPC:

Sunday, December 3
Communion

- 9:30 am — **Worship**
- 9:45 am — **NO** Faith Formation; remain in Worship
- 10:30 am — Cookies, Cocoa & Crafts Advent Celebration; Fellowship Hall
- 10:45 am — Adult Ed; Chapel / Hybrid
- 2:00 pm — Kevin Schranz Visitation: Union Church, Hinsdale
- 3:30 pm — Celebration of Life and Witness to the Resurrection for Kevin Schranz, Union Church, Hinsdale
- 5:00 pm — High School Cubes; Youth Lounge

Monday, December 4

- 7:00 pm — House & Grounds; Gathering Room
- 7:00 pm — Worship & Music; Chapel / Hybrid

Tuesday, December 5

- 10:30 am — Staff meeting; Chapel
- 12:00 pm — PW Christmas Tea; Gathering room
- 5:30 pm — Christmas Pageant rehearsal; Sanctuary
- 7:00 pm — Stewardship; Gathering Room
- 7:00 pm — Stephen Ministers; Chapel / Hybrid

Wednesday, December 6

- 7:00 pm — Chancel Choir rehearsal; Sanctuary

Thursday, December 7

- 9:00 am — Read • Pray • Share; Chapel / Zoom
- 5:30 pm — Christmas Pageant rehearsal; Sanctuary
- 7:00 pm — Clarion Bells rehearsal; LL rm 8
- 7:30 pm — Amos Group

Friday, December 8

Saturday, December 9

Sunday, December 10

- 9:30 am — **Worship - Christmas Pageant**
- 9:45 am — **NO** Faith Formation; remain in Worship
- 5:00 pm — Middle School; Christmas Shopping
- 5:00 pm — High School Cubes; Youth Lounge



NURSERY CARE

The Nursery will be staffed this Sunday. Families can drop off their little ones to

be cared for by our volunteers. We use a pager system in case a parent is needed. The Nursery is located across from the church office on the main floor and is always open and available for use, even when not staffed by our volunteers.

Live stream of the worship service in the Nursery is now available!

CPC KIDS ~ 3yrs thru 5th grade

It is communion Sunday so all children will participate in the full worship service. Join us in Grace Space where the children will have several activities available related to the service.

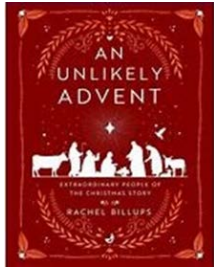


CPC Kids is **seeking donations of magazines** for various projects throughout the program year. If you would like to share, simply drop off magazines in Kristin's office or the main office. THANK YOU!

CPC High School Returns Today!
5-7:30pm

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the middle school Christmas shopping trip will be moved to next Sunday! Looking forward to seeing you next week! High School cubes will meet tonight and enjoy a meal made by Andrew's cube, start talking about all things Advent and play some retreat games! If you have any questions about youth ministry, please reach out to Pastor Susan.





ADULT ED – AN UNLIKELY ADVENT

Nov 26-Dec 17

10:45-11:45 am

Hybrid; Chapel or Zoom



This Sunday, December 3, we will continue our study of *An Unlikely Advent*, written by Rachel Billups. “This Advent study focuses on the experiences of often overlooked characters in the Nativity story. Rachel Billups guides readers through the themes of hope, love, joy, and peace by sharing the stories of Elizabeth and Zechariah, Herod, the Magi, and the shepherds. Each set of unexpected characters has something to teach about living faithfully on the journey to Christmas.”

For this week, Ann Hamman will be our leader. Together, we will explore Love and the character of King Herod. Rachel Billups talks about “the scandalous love of God.” Imagine linking love with King Herod! She does a good job of it.

Rachel will join us via video, providing an excellent overview and a stimulus for the discussion that we will have. The class will be presented live in the Chapel and simulcast on Zoom, 10:45-11:45, and will be recorded.



CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

December 10

Fellowship Hall Following Worship

Following worship on December 10, **everyone** is invited to brunch in Fellowship Hall! We will continue celebrating our faith formation Christmas Pageant around the tables together eating a delicious spread. A sign up sheet is available in the Narthex to RSVP but that should not hinder you from attending last minute! Thank you to the Deacons and Older Adult Ministries for organizing this special meal!



DECEMBER COMMUNITY OUTREACH - TOY DRIVE

Nov. 30 - Dec. 17

Once again we are collecting toys to be donated to the children who live at Mooseheart in Batavia. They are so appreciative of this wonderful gesture. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for kids birth to age 10 and drop in the donation box in the narthex.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CHRISTMAS TEA

TUES DECEMBER 5, 12:30

Gathering Room

Please join us for fellowship and treats. Meet friends old and new and have a nice time welcoming in the Christmas season. You may bring a small plate of snacks if you would like.

News of THE AMOS GROUP

Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amos 5:24



Help Connect Gifts and Children in Struggling Families

Our own Becky Bewley Rush, Executive Director of Love Christian Clearinghouse, has reached out to us on behalf of a wonderful charity. Toy Express gathers gifts for kids to brighten their holidays. They are seeking volunteers to make phone calls to registered families, to schedule an appointment for them to pick out toys for their kids. The calls are made out of Love's Clearinghouse office in Westmont. Toy Express has everything organized for each family, making the calls quite easy. Dates and hours are very flexible. Volunteers can help essentially any time in the next few weeks for a couple of hours - ideally Tuesday afternoons, Thursday morning or afternoons, or Friday afternoons (or any day after 4pm).

If you can help, please contact Becky by email at executivedirector@love-cc.org or becky@love-cc.org -- or by phone at 630.512.8673. Recruit a couple of friends to go with you!

Please send your questions, ideas or comments to Gregg Morton.

MEAL A MONTH COLLECTION

Food Pantries are in desperate need. Fill a bag with grocery items to be donated to Hinsdale Community Services. Any non-perishable items will be most welcome! Pick up a bag in the narthex or use your own and return to CPC. Thank you for your generous donations.



The suggested menu is:

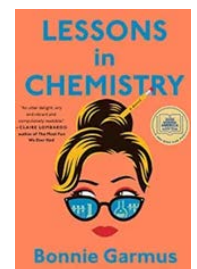
- Cereal
- Mac & Cheese
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Pasta & Pasta Sauce
- Canned Tuna or chicken
- Fruit Cups or Applesauce
- Canned Vegetables

Any non-perishable items will be most welcome! Pick up a bag in the narthex or use your own and return to CPC. Thank you for your generous donations.

CIRCLE OF VOICES

December 13 9:30 am
Gathering room

Circle of Voices will meet this month only on the 2nd Wednesday, December 13th at 9:30am in the Gathering Room at CPC. Our book is *Lessons in Chemistry*, by Bonnie Garmus. You will need to get the book on your own as it is available at the Clarendon Hills Library only per person, not as a group. We will enjoy lunch together at Ruth Lake Country Club. If you would like to join us, please contact Barb Coop.



PC(USA) Christmas Joy Offering
December 10

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need. Your gift will help church leaders from our past, our present and into our future. Thank you for donating online by scanning QR code or using the envelopes in the pews by December 10th!



Join us for Holiday Worship!

**Advent
Sundays
9:30 am**

Dec. 3 Communion
10:30 am Cookies, Cocoa & Crafts
Dec. 10 Christmas Pageant
10:30 am Christmas Brunch
Dec. 17 Led by Advent Choir & Harp
Dec. 24 Communion, Carols & Bells

**Christmas
Eve**

7:00 and 9:00 pm - Communion, Carols
and Candlelight



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The Ministers: All the Members

Beth Freese Dammers
Susan Tindall
Kristin Duy
Jane Hudgins
Sintia Arambula
Christopher Cock
Jason Hill
Stephanie Rens-Domiano
Paula Cyphers
Kris Veenbaas
Laurie Scola
Shannon Nyhart
Stephen Ministers

Pastor / Head of Staff
Transitional Associate Pastor
Director of Children & Family Ministries
Director of Kids' Academy
Assistant Director of Kids' Academy
Director of Music Ministries
Church Musician
Director of Digital Platforms
Co-Director of Older Adult Ministries
Co-Director of Older Adult Ministries
Financial Administrator
Church Administrator
Confidential caregivers

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