

The flowers in the chancel this morning are given by Karen Hickey, "In loving memory of my parents, Jane and Barry Stocker and my husband Martin Hickey."

Assisting in Worship Today

Liturgist Allan Robertson
Zoom Producer Dave Herman
Ushers Glen Engler, Bob Foltz, Lou Johnson, Rich Wamsley

Flower chair for the month of November is Ellen Manchester.

Welcome visitors! We are so glad that you are here and hope you will keep coming back. Here are some things you might want to know:

- On the back of the pew in front of you, you will find a green card that says "Welcome." Please fill one out and place it in the offering plate this morning. We would like to get better acquainted!
- If you would like to have your prayer request included on the church's weekly **Prayer Request** email, please fill out one of the Prayer Request forms and place it in the offering plate today.
- The nursery is open and staffed during this service for infants up to age 2.
- **JAM** (Jesus and Me) is a fun-filled time for children ages 3 to 6, who are invited to leave the sanctuary with this morning's JAM teacher after the Children's Time.
- **Roots**, a program for children ages 7- high school, is available after the Children's Time. During Roots, children enjoy a worship time with their peers along with adult leaders. The time may include crafts, conversation, and will include elements of the traditional worship service.
- During the **Postlude**, some in the congregation may choose to sit and listen to the music. But please feel free to get up and move if you need to do so!

COLLEGE HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

501 Brodhead Street, Easton, PA 18042

(610)253-4792 www.collegehillpc.org chpc@collegehillpc.org

Ministers Members of the Congregation
Pastor Rev. Dr. Matt Mardis-LeCroy
Director of Music Mr. Thomas Dressler



**COLLEGE HILL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Easton, Pennsylvania

25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 19, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Assemble in God's Name

Preservice Music

Greetings and Announcements

PRELUDE Prelude on "Morning Song"--Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

O Lord, you have been our dwelling place for all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
Or ever you had formed the earth and the world.
From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.
A thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past.
Come, let us worship God!

***HYMN #712** "As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought" (Forest Green)

***OPENING PRAYER**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy One, we have failed and fallen short. We focus on ourselves. We turn away from neighbors in need. We do not share what we have for the sake of your work. Forgive us and free us to live generous lives, that we might be part of your work in the world. Here us now as we confess...(silent prayer)

***KYRIE ELEISON** *Lord, have mercy upon us;
Christ, have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***GLORIA PATRI #581** *Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end, amen, amen.*

Proclaim God's Word

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-28 (OT. p.874)
Matthew 25:14-30 (NT, p.28)

SERMON *The Weirdest Thing of All*

***HYMN #711** "Lord of All Good" (Toulon)

Give Thanks to God

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (From the Belhar Confession)

We believe that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world...

To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY Prelude on "Detroit"--W. Held

***DOXOLOGY #606** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" (Old Hundredth)

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Great faithful God, we give you thanks for trusting us. May these gifts, invested in your work, do more good than we can imagine. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 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.

(continues on insert)

ABOUT THE MUSIC

This morning we will hear music by two beloved American composers: Wilbur Held (1914-2015) and Peter Lutkin (1858-1931.) The imaginative hymn settings by Wilbur Held are popular among church organists, and we will hear three of his more well-known ones this morning. Peter Lutkin was an influential organist and choral director who promoted a capella singing in the United States. His philosophies on choral music had a strong influence on John Finley Williamson (1887-1964) who founded Westminster Choir College in 1920. All students and graduates of the conservatory can sing Lutkin's choral benediction from memory, and they often bring their love of the piece to their own choirs; and it remains a perennial favorite among many choral groups and church choirs. My interpretation of the piece is strongly influenced by having sung it many times under the direction of Joseph Flummerfelt (1937-2019) at Westminster Choir College.

On November 26, Christ the King Sunday, the choir will be joined by operatic tenor Eric Fennell. Eric was raised in Allentown, and currently resides in Berlin, Germany, where he maintains an active career in opera. His list of accomplishments is long, and it includes singing for six seasons at the New York City Opera, as well as performances at opera houses throughout Europe and America. When with us, Eric will sing a movement from the Petite Messe Solenne by Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868), and the choir will join him in the "Sanctus" from St. Cecilia Mass by Charles Gounod (1818-1893.)

Go in God's Name

***HYMN #367** "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" (St. George's Windsor)

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE (Choir)** Peter Lutkin (1858-1931)

*The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord lift his countenance upon you
And give you peace;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you. Amen.*

POSTLUDE Prelude on "Ein' feste Burg"--W. Held

*Please rise, in body or spirit

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We are delighted to welcome Ryan & Katelyn Gerrity, Wendy Rotondo, Ann Minnich and Amy Stott into the membership of our church today!

WHAT IS THE FRONT PORCH?



The Front Porch is a new worship experience for College Hill Presbyterian Church, open to all people! Join us at 9 AM in the sanctuary on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month for simple music, shared prayer and conversation about our faith. The Front Porch will meet again on December 3.

No matter who you are, no matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome on The Front Porch!

ADULT LUNCH GROUP RESUMES JANUARY 21, 2024

The Adult Lunch Group will NOT meet today. Rather, it will resume on January 21, 2024, and Jean Anne will begin January registrations after worship on January 7.

Jean Anne is still recovering from her stroke and is unable to drive. Our two November omelet makers were Wayne B. and Tom R.; however, Wayne will be attending his brother's memorial service in Canada on Nov. 18, and Tom's wife Becky had successful retina surgery on Nov. 9! Thank you for your understanding.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS



Fish N' Chyps, our middle and high school youth group, will meet today at 6pm. The Youth Group will have a pumpkin bake off! Please reach out to Lauren Joujan (kids@collegehillpc.org) with questions or for more information.



Parents Afternoon Out!

December 2nd from 4-7pm

Drop your children off and get some Christmas shopping done! Kids will make holiday themed crafts, play games, eat dinner and watch a holiday themed movie! This is free of charge and is open to CHPC families only.

Please fill out the Google form found in the Enews to RSVP. Please contact Emily Swank (faithformers@collegehillpc.org) if you have any questions.



Advent Wreath Kits

It's that time of the year again! If you need an advent wreath, can, candles, wire or ribbon please email Emily Swank at faithformers@collegehillpc.org. No greens will be provided. Advent wreath kits will be available for pickup on Sunday, November 26th.



Gifts of Peace

CHPC is partnering with March Elementary school again this year to provide gifts for children and families in need. The gift tags hanging on the tree outside the sanctuary have a gift wish from a child. If you purchase a gift, please leave it **unwrapped**. If you want to include wrapping paper or a gift bag for the gift to be wrapped later, that is most appreciated! Please also tape or tie the gift tag on the gift.

The school is also looking for underwear, socks and leggings in sizes 3/4, 5/6 and 7/8.

Gifts must be returned by Sunday, December 10th.

Thank you so much for your generosity! Please email Emily Swank (faithformers@collegehillpc.org) or call 724.494.4177 with questions.

PROJECT FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for your support of the ProJeCt food pantry! Here's a list of items in high demand this time of year.

FOOD PANTRY WISH LIST - HIGH NEED ITEMS

Jelly - squeeze bottles
Peanut Butter - regular size jars
Spaghetti
Any type of dry macaroni/pasta
Canned spaghetti sauce (no glass jars)

Ketchup - small squeeze jars
Mustard - small squeeze jars
Boost or Ensure drinks
Shelf-stable milk

If you're feeling like shopping for something other than food this November, diapers in sizes 4, 5 and 6 and personal hygiene items such as toothpaste and Depends (L) are also greatly needed.

GIFTING

At this time of the year our thoughts are on gifting — for family, friends, co-workers, etc. It's a busy time.

But many local families cannot afford gifts for their children and they turn to The Salvation Army for help.

Last year over 700 children were given gifts for Christmas. Each child received 2-3 toys and, often, some clothing. As you can imagine, it is a monumental challenge to provide for so many.

If you'd like to help these truly needy families have a merry Christmas, there are several possibilities

- Donate 2 hours to ring bells for the Red Kettle Campaign. CHPC has done this for 20 years. It's a wonderful way to introduce children to the joy of helping others.
- Adopt a child or family for Christmas gifts.
- Contribute a toy or toys for children 0-14

For more information or to sign up for any of the above, please email Ilene Baumann at: ilenebaumann@gmail.com

I thank you and, I know, the families that are helped thank you too.



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Christmas Poinsettias



If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary to help decorate and beautify our church for Christmas, please complete this form and return it with payment to the church office **by Sunday, December 10. The cost is \$10 per plant.** Please make checks payable to College Hill Presbyterian Church and write "Poinsettias" on the memo line. Flowers may be taken home after worship on Christmas Eve (second service), or on December 31. Thank you.

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Number of plants: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

1. In memory of / In honor of (circle one): _____

From: _____

2. In memory of / In honor of (circle one): _____

From: _____

3. In memory of / In honor of (circle one): _____

From: _____

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