

PARK HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)



Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023

3520 JFK Blvd. North Little Rock, AR 72116

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Visit our website at parkhillpres.org

WORSHIP NOTES

Order of Worship

Our order of worship is Reformed and follows centuries of tradition. These are some brief explanations of the various parts of Reformed Worship.

The Advent Candle

Lighting the Advent Candle is a tradition that helps the worshiping community focus on the promise of God while together we wait for the coming of the Messiah.

Song of Praise

Together we express vocally our praise and thanksgiving to the God of Glory.

Prayer of Confession

Having praised the holiness of God, we must also face the sinful state of the world and of our lives, confessing our unworthiness to enter into God's presence. Nevertheless we approach God with confidence, trusting in the mercy of Jesus Christ. This is one of the hallmarks of the Reformed tradition.

Assurance of Pardon

A declaration of forgiveness proclaims the good news of God's mercy and offers the assurance of pardon in Jesus' name. Hearing the words of assurance spoken from the font connects our confession with the grace and cleansing of Baptism, and God's call to a new way of life in Christ.

Gloria Patri

"Glory to the Father!" This is our response of praise for being forgiven.

We Gather At God's Invitation

Welcome & Announcements

Carleton Philbrick

Welcome from the Pastor

Prelude *"Angels from the Realms of Glory"*

The Bell Choir

Lighting the Advent Candle (Tamara & Graham Boggs, and Jo Murry)

*Opening Prayer

God of promise, it feels as if we live in a world of constant turmoil. Stir up your power within us, that we may await with abundant expectation, the fulfillment of your eternal promise to bring peace to all your creation. Grant us that peace through Jesus Christ our Shepherd King. Amen.

*Opening Song of Advent

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

#93

Matt Butler

Call to Confession

Carleton Philbrick

Prayer Of Confession (Unison)

Carleton Philbrick

Holy God, we confess that we do not walk in your light. We hurt and destroy one another and neglect the poor and the hungry. We let evil grow among us and fail to bear good fruit. Forgive us, God of grace. Awaken us to your Word, so that we may be ready to welcome you with joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Hear us now as we silently confess the sins of our daily lives...

Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Carl McCormack

Friends, believe and proclaim the good news of the gospel...

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Gloria Patri

#581

Matt Butler

Passing the Peace

Our sharing the peace with one another is a sign of reconciliation in Christ.

Prayer for Illumination

A prayer for illumination calls on the Holy Spirit to empower our reading, understanding, proclaiming, and living of God’s Word.

Scripture & Sermon

The Scriptures bear witness to the Word of God, revealed most fully in Jesus Christ, the Word of God, who “... *became flesh and lived among us...*” The role of the worshiper is to listen *prayerfully*, actively, and attentively to the Word that is read and proclaimed.

**Sharing the Peace of Christ*

Prayer for Illumination (Unison) Carleton Philbrick

O God of all people, and Lord of every nation, let your Word ring out from the mountains and your Spirit shine forth in the earth, so that all may hear your teaching, and all may do your will; through Jesus Christ our peace. Amen.

First Scripture Reading Isaiah 40:1-11 Carleton Philbrick

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Second Scripture Reading Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 Carleton Philbrick

LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. *Selah*

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

Affirmation of Faith

Responding to the Word proclaimed, we affirm *our* faith in the holy, triune God..

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Special Music “Rejoice, Rejoice” The Bell Choir

Gospel Reading Mark 1:1-8 Rev. Carl McCormack

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon “*Voices In Harmony*” Pastor Carl McCormack

**Affirmation of Faith*

We believe in God, who bends and kneels toward our world, drenching it in love, making it new with every breath. We believe in Jesus, God become human, who brought every person a spark of the divine. We believe in the Spirit, hovering God, present among us, abiding, upholding, awaking all things to God's grace. We believe we are called to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God and each other, ready for God's reign, awake and alert, as we work to bring it near. We believe we are called as Christmas comes close, to lift up our hearts in hope and in love, seeking God's advent in each moment and person, each challenge and heartache, each blessing and joy. This we promise to do. Keep us faithful, Lord Jesus, and come soon! Amen.

<div>Offering & Doxology</div> <div>Christian life is an offering of one’s self to God. As those who have been claimed and set free by his grace, we respond with gratitude, offering him our lives, our spiritual gifts, and our material goods, followed with a song of praise.</div>	<div>*Advent Song<div>#378</div>“We Wait The Peaceful Kingdom”<div>Jo Murry</div></div> <div>*Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer</div> <div><div>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.</div></div> <div>Stewardship Moment</div> <div>Offering/Offertory<div>“O Come All Ye Faithful”</div><div>The Bell Choir</div></div> <div>*Doxology<div>#606</div><div>Matt Butler</div></div> <div>*Closing Prayer of Dedication<div>#372</div>“O For A World”<div>Matt Butler</div></div> <div>Charge & Benediction</div> <div>Postlude<div>Matt Butler</div></div>			<div>Assisting in Worship: Pastor Carl McCormick Carleton Philbrick, as Liturgist Cindy Witherspoon-Allen, as Greeter Karene Jones & Dale , Ushers Jo Murry, as Pianist Matt Butler, Organist</div>
<div>Charge & Benediction</div> <div>We are blessed in order to be a blessing to others. The charge calls the church to go forth as agents of God’s mission in the world</div>				

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Second Sunday of Advent—Communion Sunday December 10, 2023

Vera Lloyd Christmas Gifts Due

9:45am—Pastor Carl—the Bible in 90 Days—Parlor

11am—Worship Service—Pastor Carl McCormack

Monday, December 11, 2023

10:30am—Monday Morning Prayer Group—Conference Room

6:30pm—AR Scottish Dance Society

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

11:30am PW Christmas Luncheon—Steen Hall

(with guest representative from Vera Lloyd)

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

4:30—Handbell Choir

5:30pm—PW Evening Bible Study—Bar Louie's

All PW are invited!

Friday, December 15, 2023

6pm—50 Plus Christmas at Timber Creek Club House

Third Sunday of Advent—December 17, 2023

“Commitment Sunday” Cards Due

Deadline for the Poinsettia Orders

9:45am—Pastor Carl—the Bible in 90 Days—Parlor

11am—Worship Service—Pastor Carl McCormack

Church Family Dinner (With Special Guest)

Session Meeting after Church Family Dinner

PRAYER NOTES—

Recent Members: Martha Gresham, Diana McCray, Robert (Bob) Miller, Elizabeth Pollard, Dianne Taylor

Continued Prayers: Patt Bond, Pat Clark, Donna Ellis, Bill Jones, Ginny Jones, Jesse Macom-Teague, Grady Nixon, Wendell Phillips,

Prayers For Friends Of The Church: Judy Barfield, Air Force SMSGT Scott Burris (Phil & Liz Terrell's son, while he is deployed to Kuwait for 6 months), Dana Chadwick, Lynn Chadwick, Charles Clark, Darnell Clark, Jeff Connor, Maisie Frisby (Howdy & Debbie Frisby's granddaughter), Susan Gibbes; Constance Hughes, Travis Kasper, Stephanie Phillips, Dee Pizzalato (Bill Bond's niece), Ralph Pollard (Barbara Biedenharn's brother), Jennifer Willen,

Prayers For Those In Home Confinement: John Atterbury, Ann Cother, Bunn Falls (Johnson County Health & Rehab), Clarksville, Ann McCollum, Jack McCollum, Steve Pollard (AR State VA Home), David Rennie, Ann Woods.

Prayers For Those In Grief: For those who are still mourning the loss of a loved one.

***Please contact the church office if you need someone placed on or taken off the prayer notes. Thank you.**