

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



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Park Hill Presbyterian Church (USA)

December 24, 2023, 5pm

3520 JFK Blvd. North Little Rock AR

501-753-9533 * parkhillpres@gmail.com * parkhillpres.org

Candles and Carols—Christmas Eve Service—5:00 p.m.
December 24, 2023

Seasonal Music

Matt Butler

Words of Welcome Pastor McCormack

Lighting the Advent Candles

The Blankenbeker Family

Opening Prayer (In Unison)

Gracious God, on this holy night you came into our world; the Lord of the Universe, wrapped in swaddling cloths; the Savior of all, lying in a manger. On this holy night draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host that we may sing of your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds that we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, the Messiah, our Lord. Amen.

Opening Song “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” Hymn #119

Matt Butler

Lessons & Carols

Please, Remain Seated during all but the last song

First Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Carleton Philbrick

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. 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.

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Hymn #123, Vs. 1 & 5 only

Jo Murry

Second Reading Micah 5:2-5a Rev. Carl McCormack

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth, and he shall be the one of peace.

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” Hymn #121, Vs. 1 & 2 Only Matt Butler

Third Reading Luke 2:1-7 Carleton Philbrick

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 in the guest room.

“The Star Carol” Solo ~ Amanda Blankenbeker

Fourth Reading Luke 2:8-20 Rev. Carl McCormack

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain” Hymn #136, Vs. 1& 2 Only Jo Murry

Fifth Reading John 1:1-14 Rev. Carl McCormack

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

Reflections on the Eve of Christmas Rev. Carl McCormack

Holy Communion ~ The Lord’s Supper

This is the Lord’s Table. Our Savior invites those who trust him, to share the feast that he has prepared. The invitation to the Lord’s Supper is open and extended to all, remembering that access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. All are invited to come forward to receive the elements of communion. We ask that as you come forward prayerfully, that you take a piece of the communion bread from the server, dip it in the communion cup, and then, in remembrance of our Lord Jesus Christ, eat the bread.

You are then asked to quietly and prayerfully return to your seat using the outer aisles. If you are unable to come forward, or if you feel uncomfortable doing so, the elders will gladly serve you at your seat.

Communion Music “The First Noel” Duet ~ Tamara Boggs & Jo Murry

Sharing the Light

After communion someone will come down the aisle and your candle will be lit, and we ask that you let the person sitting next to you light their candle from yours, then we will sing Silent Night by candlelight. After the benediction, we will all extinguish the candles before we depart.

The Carol of Light “Silent Night” Matt Butler

Stand if you are able

Assisting in Worship:
Carl McCormack, Pastor
Carlton Philbrick ~ Liturgist
Ron Barrick, John & Bobbi Lierly,
Rev. Carl McCormick, Communion Servers
Amanda Blankenbeker, Soloist
Tamara Boggs & Jo Murry, Duet
Matt Butler ~ Organ
Jo Murry ~ Piano

We ask you to extinguish your candle before you depart.

REMEMBER TO TAKE YOUR PURSE AND YOUR COAT.



The Poinsettias are sponsored by

Cindy Witherspoon-Allen in memory, of their daughter, Sara Megan Allen and John Knox Witherspoon.

Buddy Boyson in memory of Dr. Bob and Gwen Boyson.

Margie & Darrell Burton in honor of Kristi Vargas, Josh Riley, Kendall and Kenzie, Elizabeth & Craig Moe, David, Luke, Charlie & Roxanne.

Shirley Garlington & Family, in memory of Rev. Gordon F. Garlington, III

Karene Jones in honor of Rev. Carl & Terry McCormack; and in memory of LeMoyne Jones

Kaye & Bill Lowe in memory of Sue Rennie and Judy Steen.

Carmon & Michael Snider in honor of Rochelle Greenwood.

Liz & Phil Terrell in honor of Church Family at PHPC and Faithful Fun Foodies.

**If your donation is not listed here, please contact the church office for inclusion in the January Newsletter.
Thank you for supporting our local seasonal benevolences in this way.*

PRAYER NOTES—

Recent Members: Diana McCray, Robert (Bob) Miller, Dianne Taylor

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

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, Constance Hughes, Candy Jackson (Karene Jones daughter), Travis Kasper, Courtney Phaup (Becky Webster's daughter), 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.

Elizabeth Pollard—New Address

5538 N. Rothmans Ave., Boise, ID 83713

Erin—Granddaughter—208-401-6865 (ID)

Emily—Granddaughter—814-882-1043 (PA)

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