

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

First Sunday of Christmas
December 31, 2023



**"What Position
Do You Play?"**
**Carleton
Philbrick, Elder**

Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

First Sunday Of Christmas

December 31, 2023

3520 JFK Blvd. North Little Rock, AR 72116

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Visit our website at parkhillpres.org

We Gather At God's Invitation

Welcome & Announcements

Cindy Witherspoon Allen

Welcome from Carleton Philbrick, Elder

Prelude

*Call to Worship

Cindy Witherspoon Allen

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in 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.

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,

so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and prosper for us the work of our hands —

O prosper the work of our hands!

Let us worship God

*Opening Prayer (Unison)

Cindy Witherspoon Allen

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Opening Song of Praise

#93

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

Call to Confession

Cindy Witherspoon Allen

Prayer of Confession

Cindy Witherspoon Allen

Gracious and loving God, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, we look back and recognize the many ways we have fallen short of your glory: missed opportunities to share your love; times when we were silent when we could have spoken up for what was right; indifference to your claim on our whole lives through Jesus Christ; and a lack of gratitude for your amazing grace by which you save us and call us to be your people. Lord, forgive us. Hear us now as we silently confess the sins we would rather not say out loud...

Assurance of Pardon
Friends, Believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Gloria Patri #581

*Sharing the *Peace of Christ*

Prayer for Illumination (Unison) Cindy Witherspoon Allen
Almighty God, as we hear your Word read and proclaimed, may it not return to you empty. May it accomplish that which you purpose. May it succeed in the thing for which you sent it. Open our ears and hearts to your Word that we may live as your children and heirs. Amen.

First Scripture Reading Psalm 148 Cindy Witherspoon Allen

Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!
Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!
Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!
Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for he commanded and they were created.
He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.
Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!
Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!
Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike,
old and young together!
Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;

his glory is above earth and heaven.
He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the LORD!

Second Scripture Reading Galatians 4:4-7
Cindy Witherspoon Allen

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading Luke 2:22-40 (NIV) Carleton Philbrick

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.” The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.” There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.

Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

The Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon “What Position Do You Play?” Carleton Philbrick

*Affirmation of Faith *The Apostles’ Creed*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived of the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Song of Affirmation #104

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?”

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.

Stewardship Moment

Offering/Offertory

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

*Song of Joyful Dedication #546

“Lord Dismiss Us With Your Blessing”

Charge & Benediction

Postlude

Assisting in Worship:
Carlton Philbrick, Elder
Cindy Witherspoon-Allen, as Liturgist
Cindy Witherspoon-Allen, as Greeter
Karene Jones & Dale Hanson, Ushers
Jo Murry ~ Piano

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 31, 2023

First Sunday After Christmas

New Year's Eve

9:45am—Fellowship Sunday School—Parlor

11am—Worship Service—Carleton Philbrick, Elder

Monday, January 1, 2024

Church Closed

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

4:30pm—Handbell Choir

Friday, January 5, 2024

7pm—AR Country Dance Society

January 7, 2024

Second Sunday After Christmas

9:45am—Fellowship Sunday School—Parlor

11am—Worship Service—Rev. Carol Clark

12pm—Reception welcoming Rev. Clark

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.

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