

December 2, 2018

St. John – Hill U.C.C.

620 Hill Church Road, Boyertown, PA 19512

610-367-8114 · www.stjohnhillucc.org

1st Sunday of Advent

December 2, 2018

*(+) Those who are able please stand **Bold – congregation responds as able***

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “Come Let Us Meet Him” L. Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

+HYMN Blue Hymnal No. 89
 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

+CALL TO CONFESSION

+PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/prayer-of-confession-for-advent-christmas>

**Lord of Christmas Peace,
we have done wrong.
We have tarnished the gift you gave freely.**

**We have buried you so deeply in our hearts,
the world doesn't see you.
We have not followed Christ,
we have ignored your teachings,
we have lived lives of apathy against your love,
we have built fences and fortresses
to push people away,
and we have silenced the screams of those in need.**

**Forgive us, we pray.
Free us from our sin,
Free us from our captivity,
Free us to a life lived in Joy
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

+SILENT CONFESSION

+WORDS OF ASSURANCE

+RESPONSE OF PRAISE

“O Thou Joyful”

Blue Hymnal No. 117

“O Thou Joyful” words by Eden Publishing House, ©1921 CCLI License #11085161

*O thou joyful, O thou wonderful Grace revealing
Christmas-tide! Jesus came to win us From all sin
within us: Glorify, glorify the Holy Child!*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

O Lord our God,

**your Word is a lamp to our feet
and a light to our path.**

**Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love,
that we may be obedient to your will
and live always for your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

[OT page 485]

Psalm 25:1-10

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

[NT page 194]

1 Thessalonians 3:9-12

SERMON “Abounding in Love” Pastor Chuck Maxfield

+STATEMENT OF FAITH (unison)

Apostle’s Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of
heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, his only
begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the
Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and
buried; he descended into hades; 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.

CALL TO OFFERING

ANTHEM “Advent Hymn” D. Besig & N. Price

+OFFERING RESPONSE “In the Bleak Midwinter”

“In the Bleak Midwinter” words by C. Rossetti, Music by G. Holst ©1906 CCLI License #11085161

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him; my heart.

+OFFERING PRAYER

SHARING PRAYER JOYS & CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD’S PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN Blue Hymnal No. 336

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (responsive)

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord God!

It is good that we do!

We give you thanks, Lord God, creator and Father, for bringing the worlds into being, for forming all persons in your likeness, for recalling us when we rebel against you, and for keeping the world in your steadfast love.

We praise you especially for Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary and lived as one of us; Who knew

exactly the life we know, and yet was obedient to your purposes, even to his death on a cross.

We thank you that you stamped his death with victory by raising him in power and by making him head over all things.

We rejoice in the continuing presence of the Holy Spirit, in the church you have gathered, in its task of obedience, and in the promise of eternal life.

With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy your Holy name:

Holy, Holy, Holy. God of love and majesty, the whole world speaks of your glory, O God, most high!

Grant O Lord, by your Holy Spirit, that the bread we break and the cup we share may be for us a means of grace; that receiving them we may be made one with Christ and he with us, and remain members of His body, until we feast with Him anew in His kingdom.

In the strength Christ gives, we offer ourselves to you, giving thanks that you have called us to serve you. Amen.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

This morning we will receive the Communion Elements by coming to the Communion Table. The servers will escort worshippers to the front of the sanctuary. Note that the outer rings are filled with wine, while the inner rings have grape juice, and are a lighter color. Please partake of each element as you receive it.

+HYMN Blue Hymnal No. 93
"Arise, the Kingdom is at Hand"

+COMMISSION & BENEDECTION

+RESPONSE

God be with you till we meet again. By His counsels guide uphold you, With His sheep securely fold you. God be with you till we meet again.

+POSTLUDE “Finale from “Quartet in F”” arr. by R. Parks



- * Large print bulletins are available in the Narthex.
- * The weekly Communitas are available in the narthex.

Welcome Visitors – We warmly welcome you and ask that before you leave today, please make sure to sign the guestbook on the podium out in the Narthex.

Holy Communion – We invite you to join us in sharing Holy Communion. You do not need to be a member of this church to come to Christ’s Table. All mature believers are welcome to receive the bread and cup of the Lord.

The Communion Offering which assists needy members of our Hill Church Family is being received today. Please use brown pew envelopes for your donation.

Grocery Gift Cards to Support Missions: Giant, Redner’s, & Weis – See Connie Hile

Apple Dumpling Sale! Prebaked and individually wrapped - \$4.00 each. The scouts will take orders after church on Dec. 16th. Pick up will be after church on Dec 30th. Any questions call Bill Richmond at 484-624-9503. The boys will make \$1.25 per apple dumpling. Thank you in advance for all your support of Hill Church Troop 518.

Angel Tree – Our angel tree is up and ready for you to purchase gifts for 2 local families with kids ages 5-10. Please take an angel from the tree and return the new unwrapped item by December 9 to the box located in the Narthex.

Readers Needed - For the Advent season we are looking for 3 families to help with the advent wreath one Sunday. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Nikki.

Congregational Meeting - There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, 12/9 after church to review and hopefully approve the budget for 2019. Copies of the proposed budget will be available in the narthex for review prior to the meeting.

2019 Offering Envelopes - The envelopes are available for you to pick up in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please see Nikki Weller.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

Sunday - December 2

8:30 am Sunday School
9:30 am Worship Service
with Holy Communion

Monday - December 3

9 am Bible Study & Prayer
Group
7 pm Christian Ed Meeting

Wednesday - December 5

7 pm Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm Cantata Rehearsal

HAPPENING NEXT WEEK:

Sunday - December 9

8:30 am Sunday School
9:30 am Worship Service
2019 Budget Meeting after
worship
7 pm Cantata Rehearsal

Monday - December 10

9 am Bible Study & Prayer
Group

Tuesday - December 11

7 pm Consistory Meeting

Wednesday - December 12

7 pm Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm Cantata Rehearsal

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" ~1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



Prayer Concerns:

Please pray for the men and women in the military, your neighbors and community, and our church. Pray for all those celebrating miracles. Prayers for all those who are suffering from violence, fear for their lives, those who have been affected by violent acts, those suffering from wounds and most importantly those who have lost a loved one.

Help us keep our prayer list up to date. To add, remove, or update a prayer request, please contact the church office or place a colored prayer request slip from your pew in the offering plate. Prayer requests are kept on the list for a 4 week period, if you would like the person to remain on the list for an additional 4 weeks, please contact Nikki with an update.

Brad Kolb (Geneva Kolb's Son) ----- disabled

Serving Today

Consistory Helpers for December: Clarence Weller & Matt Weller

Worship Assistant: Linda Mauger

Nursery Caregivers: Joel & Nikki Weller

This week's flowers and bulletins are sponsored by Wendy & Tyler Shane.

Next week's sponsors:

Bulletins:

Flowers: Teresa Skoog

2018 Flower & Bulletin Sign-up sheets are posted on the Narthex bulletin board. If you sponsor flowers for the week, please remember to take them with you after the service; if you do not want to take your flowers home, please let Nikki know and she will make sure they get to a shut-in to enjoy.

Last Week

Last Week's Attendance:

Church: 66

Last Week's Offering: \$1,715.00

2018 Weekly Budgeted Expenses: \$3,099.11

†

Rev. Charles Maxfield, Interim Pastor

215-896-0196 e-mail: chuckmaxfield@gmail.com

Elmer Miller, Organist

610-367-5613 e-mail: elmerhm@dejazzd.com

Nikki Weller, Secretary

610-367-8114 e-mail: nikki@stjohnhillucc.org

Nikki's Office Hours:

Mon. 11 am – 3 pm; Thurs. 9 am – 3 pm

Wendy Shane, Treasurer

610-468-9772 e-mail: niah4444@dejazzd.com