

7:00 pm

December 24, 2018

# St. John – Hill U.C.C.

620 Hill Church Road, Boyertown, PA 19512

610-367-8114 · www.stjohnhillucc.org

**Christmas Eve 7:00 pm December 24, 2018**

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

## SPECIAL MUSIC

“Christmas Joy”

arr. by L. Smith

“Carols of the Angels”

arr. by L. Smith

“Can this be God’s Son”

L. Larson

*Piano Solo by Charles Anhalt*

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

C. Rice

*Piano Solo by Katrina Prutzman*

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

C. Rice

*Piano Solo by Katrina Prutzman*

“Beautiful Star of Bethlehem”

A. Pace & R.F. Boyce

*Trio by Eileen Fisher, Rick Furches & Elmer Miller*

## WELCOME

## +CALL TO WORSHIP

## +CAROL

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

## SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25

## CAROL

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

## PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

Pastor Chuck Maxfield

## CALL TO OFFERING

## ANTHEM

R. Aspinall; M. McDonald

“God with Us to Dwell”

*Solo by Kristen Bender*

+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;  
give my heart.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CAROL “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent”

THE LORD’S SUPPER

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

*The outer rings are filled with wine, while the inner rings have grape juice,  
and are a lighter color – please eat the bread and drink from the cup as you  
receive them.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**How amazing is your love, great God!  
You are not distant from us  
in some faraway heaven;  
You have come close to us in a child born of simple  
parents  
and cradled in a borrowed bed of straw.  
We confess we abuse this created world.  
When we stand by while the earth is despoiled  
and its destruction threatened,  
God, forgive.  
When we abuse or neglect our own bodies,  
God, forgive.  
By your great love, God,  
Draw us into new ways of living.  
Teach us to cherish and nurture life in this fragile  
world,  
in the manner of Jesus the Christ,  
whose birth we celebrate tonight. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RESPONSE

**“I Sing the Praise of Love Unbounded”**

“I Sing the Praise of Love Unbounded” G. Tersteegen, R.A. John ©1941 Eden Publishing CCLI License #11085161

*I sing the praise of love unbounded, Which God in  
Christ has shown to man; I sing of love that hath  
been founded, Ere yet the stars their courses ran; The  
love that offers free salvation, To sinful man of  
every nation.*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER (responsive)

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks unto the Lord.

**For He is good and His mercy endures forever.**

Holy God, our Source and Ending, Alpha and Omega,

We give thanks to you! You have called all creation

into being, Setting the earth on its foundations. You

have spread out the heavens like a tent, and set a

boundary to the seas, You have filled the world with

your creatures and called all things good. The

heavenly beings are your messengers night and day,

and with them we sing and give glory to you:

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabbath;**

**Heaven and earth are full,**

**are full of the majesty of thy glory;**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord;**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest**

In these latter days, God leaned toward the earth and

spoke to us by a Son, Jesus the Beloved. Born of our

sister Mary and the Holy Spirit, Guarded by our brother Joseph with fatherly care, Jesus came among us as a baby, humbly born, cradled beside the beasts and warmed by their breath, humans as we are, in need of human love.

**Yet kings bowed down before him, bringing gifts and emperors were troubled by his reign - this Child in whom all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.**

This Word of God made flesh and full of grace was sent to deliver us from our sin, from the power of evil and the fear of death.

**As a servant, Jesus emptied himself of might upon the cross, And as the risen Anointed One is enthroned at God's right hand to bring mercy and justice to all the earth at the end of days.**

And so, rejoicing in all God has done for us, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again!**

Holy God, as you visited us in the birth of Jesus, visit us now by the power of your Spirit in these creatures of bread and wine, making them for us the Body and Blood of Christ, the banquet of heaven here on earth.

**Blessed God, shed your grace brighter than starlight on us That we may bear your good tidings to all And renew the weary world in your name: The name of Emmanuel - God - With - Us, To whom we give honor and glory in joy, now and forever. Amen.**

## RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS

*The congregation sings carols while persons sitting in the sanctuary, on the organ side, beginning with the choir, come forward to receive Holy Communion.*

## CAROLS

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

“Away In A Manger”

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-7

RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS

*The congregation sings carols while persons sitting in the balcony come forward to receive Holy Communion.*

CAROLS

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”  
“Angels We Have Heard on High”

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-20

RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS

*The congregation sings carols while persons sitting in the sanctuary, on the pulpit side, come forward to receive Holy Communion.*

CAROL

“The First Noel”

LITANY OF DEDICATION (responsive)

“I am the Light of the World.”

**The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

Jesus said: “I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.”

**In His name, I will light my candle and pray that the Lord, our God, will enlighten my darkness.**

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*Caution...tip only unlit candles...hold burning candles straight to avoid dripping wax. When all candles are lit we will sing the carol.*

SOLO

“O Holy Night”

*Sung by Kristen Bender*

+CAROL

“Silent Night”

+BENEICTION

+CAROL

“Joy to the World”

+POSTLUDE

“Christmas Joy”

F. Ritter



# Christmas Eve Carols



## O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!  
O come, let us adore Him. O come let us adore Him.  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, in the highest!  
O come, let us adore Him. O come let us adore Him.  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore Him. O come let us adore Him.  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

## IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR



It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold;  
“Peace on the earth, good will to men  
From heaven’s all gracious King.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

Still thro’ the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled;  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O’er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o’er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

O ye beneath life’s crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow;  
Look now, for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing;  
Oh, rest beside the weary road  
And hear the angels sing.

For lo! The days are hastening on,  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever circling years  
Comes round the age of gold,  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.



## LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded,  
For with blessing in His hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
Our full homage to demand.

Kings of kings, yet born of Mary,  
As of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture  
In the body and the blood,  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven  
spreads its vanguard on the way,  
As the Light of Light descendeth  
from the realms of endless day,  
That the powers of hell may vanish  
as the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph;  
Cherubim, with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence,  
As with ceaseless voice they cry,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High.

## O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM



O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; And gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth;  
And praises sing to God, the King,  
And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive  
Him still The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.



## AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.



## HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful all ye nations mild, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."  
Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time behold Him come  
Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail th' Incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with man to dwell  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.  
Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

## ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH



Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains;  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous songs prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem, and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, our newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

## THE FIRST NOEL



The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same Star,  
Three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a King was their intent,  
And to follow the Star wherever it went.

This Star drew nigh to the northwest,  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay,  
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Then entered in those wise men three,  
Full reverently upon their knee,  
And offered there in His presence  
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

## SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT



Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child!  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia!"  
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light!  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth; Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

## JOY TO THE WORLD



Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing.  
And heaven and nature sing;  
and heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the World! the Savior reigns;  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, Rocks, hills and plains,  
Repeat the sounding joy. Repeat the sounding joy.  
Repeat, Repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love. And wonders of His love.  
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

## *Poinsettias Have Been Sponsored By:*

*Mr. & Mrs. Jan J. Fisher in memory of both their  
parents: Wilmer & Laura Fisher and Earnest &  
Amy Bechtel*

*Ray & Tracy Kochey in memory of our grandparents*

*Linda Mauger in memory loved ones*

*Elmer & Kathy Miller in memory of our parents*

*David S. Mutter in memory of his parents: George &  
Ruth Mutter; Mutter grandparents; Endy  
grandparents*

*Robert & Clara Shakespeare in memory of loved ones*

*Terry & Mayetta Shane in honor of their  
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*Wagner Family in memory of loved ones*

*Dennis & Nancy Weller in memory of loved ones*

*Matt, Kira, Jacob & Juliana Weller in memory of  
loved ones*

