

December 1, 2019

St. John – Hill U.C.C.

620 Hill Church Road, Boyertown, PA 19512

610-367-8114 · www.stjohnhillucc.org

1st Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2019

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “Be Comforted My People” L. Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

(Sung Responsively – Lead by the Choir)

Light a candle for all to see,

Light a candle for all to see.

The king shall come for you and me.

The king shall come for you and me.

Endless hope: Emmanuel.

Endless hope: Emmanuel.

And with us He shall ever dwell.

And with us He shall ever dwell.

Emmanuel: God with us,

King of kings and Lord of lords!

Come fill our hearts with Your hope

And reign forever more.

(Narration – read by Matt & Kira Weller)

(Sung Responsively – Lead by the Choir)

Light a candle for all to see,

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Endless hope: Emmanuel.

Endless hope: Emmanuel.

And with us He shall ever dwell.

And with us He shall ever dwell.

Emmanuel: God with us,

**King of kings and Lord of lords!
Come fill our hearts with Your hope
And reign forever more.**

+HYMN

Blue Hymnal No. 88

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

+CALL TO CONFESSION

+PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsive)

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/11/advent-prayer-of-confession.html>

God of love,
all year long we pursue power and money,
yet you came in weakness, as a child.
All season long we want more stuff, more for us,
but you alone offer what is lasting.
Through the work of our Lord Jesus,
who comes among us full of grace and truth,
forgive us, heal us, correct us.
Then open our lips,
that we may sing your praise with the angels,

When we allow darkness to overcome the light,
forgive us, Lord.
When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel,
have mercy on us, Father.

When hardness of heart keeps us
from seeing and believing in Your Song,
let your grace fill us, O God.

**Forgive our doubt
and renew our hopes in Christ alone,
that we may watch and wait
and once more hear the glad story of our Savior,
Jesus Christ, the Lord.
In His name we ask, Amen.**

+SILENT CONFESSION

+WORDS OF ASSURANCE

+RESPONSE OF PRAISE

“My Tribute”

Faith & Praise No. 36

“My Tribute” words & music by Andraé Crouch ©1971 Communiqué Music CCLI License #11085161

To God be the glory, to God be the glory, To God be the glory for the things He has done. With His blood He has saved me; with His pow’r He has raised me; To God be the glory for the things He has done.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/11/advent-prayer-of-illumination.html>

Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON [OT page 600] Isaiah 2:1-5

GOSPEL LESSON [NT page 188] Matthew 24:36-44

SERMON “Be Prepared” Rev. Charles 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

S. Albrecht & J. Althouse

“When Will We See the Little One”

+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

Blue Hymnal pg. 37

COMMUNION HYMN

Blue Hymnal No. 335

“Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts”

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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:

SERAPHIC HYMN (sung)

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; 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!

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" See Insert

+COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

+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

J. Freylinghausen

"Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates"



- * Large print bulletins are available in the Narthex.
- * Weekly Communitas are available on our website.

December Sponsorship Opportunities

Bulletins: 8

If you would like to sponsor an upcoming Sunday, please sign up in the Narthex or contact Nikki in the church office.

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

Angel Tree Community Outreach Collection – Thank you to everyone who took an angel and brought back a gift for a child in need. If your gift was shipped and didn't arrive yet – no problem, please let Nikki know so she can plan accordingly with the delivery of the items.

Soda Tab Collection – Thank you to everyone who collected soda tabs...they were mailed last week and are on their way to Ronald McDonald House.

Christmas Decorating - Many hands are needed to decorate the Sanctuary, Sunday School and Hallways. Mark your calendars for December 7th at 1 pm.

Christmas Concert - The Reading Choral Society will be presenting Handel's Messiah under the direction of Dr. Graham Bier TODAY at 4 P.M. in the Muhlenberg High School Auditorium, 400 Sharp Avenue, Reading, PA 19605. Tickets are \$20 at the door. Student tickets are \$10. Start your holiday season with an afternoon of joyous music!

Congregational Meeting - There will be a congregational meeting on December 8 following the worship service to discuss and vote on the following items: 2020 Budget; Discussion about amendment to reduce the number of consistory members; Discussion to join the Evangelical Association.

Upcoming Events - Are you following St John Hill UCC on Facebook? Lots of upcoming events are listed on the page. Hint: If you click interested or going, Facebook will remind you of the event!

Boyertown Salvation Army - They are looking for volunteers a few hours at one of the Kettle stands. Two-hour shifts start at 9 am and end at 9 pm, Monday thru Saturday. The bells start ringing Monday, November 25th till December 24th. Contact Brenda Meitzler at 610-367-4091 if you are interested in helping out.

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

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1. Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da-vid's great-er Son!
 2. He comes with suc - cor speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong;
 3. He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
 4. To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend;

Hail in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
 love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth.
 his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.

He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light,
 Be - fore him, on the moun - tains, shall peace, the her - ald, go,
 The tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;

to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
 whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are pre - cious in his sight.
 and righ - teous - ness, in foun - tains, from hill to val - ley flow.
 his name shall stand for - ev - er; that name to us is love.

Upcoming Christmas Worship, Fellowship & Events

December 1

1st Sunday in Advent

9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion

December 7

1 pm Decorating the Sanctuary & Sunday School

December 8

2nd Sunday in Advent

Women's Guild Christmas Lunch at Giannotti's

December 15

3rd Sunday in Advent

No Adult Sunday School

9:30 am Worship with Cantata & Children's Program

Special Guest Visit following worship

Luncheon (all are welcome) following worship

1 pm Christmas Caroling to our Shut-Ins

December 22

4th Sunday in Advent

December 24

7 pm & 9 pm Christmas Eve Worship

Candlelight Service & Holy Communion

December 29

Pastor Chuck will be Away

9:30 am Special Worship Service of Carols

Lead by Eileen Fisher



HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

Sunday - December 1

8:30 am Sunday School
9:30 am Worship Service
Poinsettia Orders Due
10:30 am Consistory Meeting
7 pm Cantata Rehearsal

Monday - December 2

9 am Bible Study
7 pm Christian Ed Meeting

Wednesday - December 4

7 pm Sr. Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm Cantata Rehearsal

HAPPENING NEXT WEEK:

Sunday - December 8

8:30 am Sunday School
9:30 am Worship Service
Women's Guild Christmas Luncheon at Giannotti's

Monday - December 9

9 am Bible Study

Wednesday - December 11

7 pm Sr. 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: Rick Furches & Matt Weller

Worship Assistant: Rick Furches

Nursery Caregivers: Dennis & Nancy Weller

This week's bulletins are sponsored in honor of Terry Shane's birthday.

This week's flowers are sponsored by Ray & Tracy Kochey in memory of loved ones.

Next week's sponsors:

Bulletins:

Flowers: Teresa Skoog

2019 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: 56

Last Week's Offering: \$2,745.00

2019 Weekly Budgeted Expenses: \$2,744.29

+

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; Tues. & Thurs. 9 am – 3 pm

Wendy Shane, Treasurer

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