

December 22, 2019

St. John – Hill U.C.C.

620 Hill Church Road, Boyertown, PA 19512

610-367-8114 · www.stjohnhillucc.org

4th Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “Still, Still, Still” D. Burton
Violin & Organ Duet – Samantha Anderson & Elmer Miller

CALL TO WORSHIP

+HYMN Blue Hymnal No. 88
 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

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.

Boundless Joy: Emmanuel.

Boundless Joy: 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 joy

And reign forever more.

(Narration – read by Dennis & Nancy Weller)

(Sung Responsively – Lead by the Choir)

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Emmanuel: God with us,
King of kings and Lord of lords!
Come fill our hearts with Your joy
And reign forever more.

+CALL TO CONFESSION

+PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

(<https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession/>)

**Holy God, we open our hearts to you this day, and
offer the truth of our lives:**

**The fear that stifles us,
The prejudice that blinds us,
The ignorance that hobbles us,
The doubt that plagues us.**

**Help us, we pray, that we will
Find courage in unlikely place,
See the world with new and gracious eyes,
Move to those places where love is needed,
Have faith that you are with us.**

This we pray in Jesus' name. 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)

Holy God, Word made flesh,

let us come to this word open to being surprised.

Silence our agendas;

banish our assumptions;

cast out our casual detachment.

Confound our expectations;

clear the cobwebs from our ears;

penetrate the corners of our hearts with this word.

We know that you can,

we pray that you will,

and will wait with great anticipation.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON [OT page 605] Isaiah 7:10-16

GOSPEL LESSON [NT page 1] Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON "God Is with Us" 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.**

+HYMN

See Bulletin

"Who Would Think That What Was Needed"

CALL TO OFFERING

ANTHEM

"Advent Noel"

P.M. Liebergen

+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.*

+OFFERING PRAYER

+PRAYER HYMN (sing 3 times) Faith & Praise No. 164
"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

SHARING PRAYER JOYS & CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Blue Hymnal pg. 37

+HYMN

Blue Hymnal No. 107

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

+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 "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" H. Balcombe



* Large print bulletins are available in the Narthex.

* Weekly Communitas are available on our website.

Who Would Think That What Was Needed

Isa. 11:1-6; Matt. 2:1-11; Luke 2:8-14

John Bell and Graham Maule, 1990; alt.

1 Who would think that what was need-ed to trans-form and save the earth
 2 Shep-herds watch and sag - es won-der, mon-archs scorn and an - gels sing;
 3 Cen - tu - ries of skill and sci-ence span the past from which we move,

might not be a plan or ar - my proud in pur-pose, proved in worth?
 such a place as none would reck - on hosts a ho - ly, help - less thing;
 yet ex - per-ience ques-tions wheth-er with such prog-ress we im - prove.

Who would think, de - spite de - ri - sion, that a child should lead the way?
 Sta - bled beasts and pass - ing strang-ers watch a ba - by laid in hay:
 In our search for sense and mean-ing, lest our hopes and hu-mor fray,

God sur - pris - es earth with heav-en, com - ing here on Christ-mas Day.
 God sur - pris - es earth with heav-en, com - ing here on Christ-mas Day.
 God sur - pris - es earth with heav-en, com - ing here on Christ-mas Day.

This song was written by The Iona Community in Scotland, which frequently develops hymn texts through a collaborative process, often employing traditional tunes from the British Isles such as "Scarlet Ribbons."

Tune: SCARLET RIBBONS 8.7.8.7.D.

English traditional melody

CCLI#11085161

Arr. John Bell and others, 1990

2020 Sponsorship Opportunities

Sign-up for flowers or bulletins in the Narthex.

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

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

Community Outreach Collection - During the month of December we will be collecting personal care items for Boyertown Multi-Service. They are in need of: Toothpaste (kids & adults), Toothbrushes (kids & adults), Tissues, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Deodorant, Hand Soap (liquid), Body Soap (liquid or bar), Laundry Detergent, Dish Soap.

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!

Thank You - Thank you to the Wagner Family for donating the beautiful Christmas Tree in the sanctuary.

2020 Offering Envelopes - The envelopes are available for you to pick up in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please see Nikki Weller.

Altar Flowers & Bulletins - The **2020** sign up charts for "Flower & Bulletin Sponsorship" are posted on the Narthex bulletin board. The cost is \$35 for flowers and \$15 for bulletins. As always, we greatly appreciate and need your stewardship. When signing up, please include with your name, how you would like the "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of" to appear in the bulletin. Thank you!

Upcoming Christmas Worship, Fellowship & Events

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 22

8:30 am Sunday School
9:30 am Worship Service

Tuesday - December 24

7 & 9 pm Christmas Eve
Worship

Wednesday - December 25

Merry Christmas!!

HAPPENING NEXT WEEK:

Sunday - December 29

8:30 am Sunday School
9:30 am Worship Service

Wednesday - January 1

Happy New Year

"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: Matt Weller

Nursery Caregivers: Terry & Mayetta Shane

This week's flowers and bulletins are sponsored in honor of Drew Fronheiser's 23rd birthday.

Next week's sponsors:

Bulletins: Bob & Clara Shakespeare

Flowers: Bob & Clara Shakespeare

2020 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: 116

Last Week's Offering: \$3,525.00

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:

By Appointment

Wendy Shane, Treasurer

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