

# St. John – Hill U.C.C.

620 Hill Church Road, Boyertown, PA 19512

610-367-8114 · www.stjohnhillucc.org

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**December 10, 2017**

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “Come O Savior of the World” Arr. by T. Chesterton

+CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my  
God as long as I live.

**May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the  
Lord.**

+HYMN “Arise, The Kingdom is at Hand” Blue Hymnal No. 93

CONFESSION OF SIN

~ *Silent Prayers* ~

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsive)

Hear the Good News in Jesus Christ. We are forgiven;

**Thanks be to God.**

+GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to The Holy  
Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall  
be; world without end. Amen*

+STATEMENT OF FAITH (unison)

Psalm 23

**The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; he makes  
me lie down in green pastures. He leads me  
beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads  
me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.  
Even though I walk through the valley of the  
shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with  
me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou  
preparest a table before me in the presence of my  
enemies; thou anointest my head with oil, my cup  
overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall**

**follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell  
in the house of the Lord forever.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare ye a way for  
the Lord."

**Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and  
hill be made low;**

The uneven ground shall become level,

**And the rough places a plain.**

Arise and Ascend! Let us go to the highest and most visible  
places, and let us proclaim good tidings of peace:

**Christ is coming!**

Do not be afraid, lift up your voices so that all may hear and  
find peace!

**Christ is coming!**

Here is our Peace! Although as sheep, we have often gone  
astray, God has gathered us with arms of compassion.

We are protected in God's bosom and led to quiet

waters. Let us light this candle as we proclaim peace to  
all.

**We have been gathered; let us share our song of peace with  
one another.**

Today we light the second candle on our Advent wreath, the  
candle of Peace. We celebrate and remember that our  
God offers each and all of us a peace that passes all  
understanding, a peace that shines most fully in the One  
who is coming into the world once more.

*(light the first & second candle)*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Almighty God, inspire our hearts and minds that we may  
hear anew your message for us today. Amen**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON [OT page 633] Isaiah 40:1-11

HYMN Blue Hymnal No. 95

*"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist Cry"*

GOSPEL LESSON [NT page 33] Mark 1:1-8

SERMON Pastor Mary

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

ANTHEM "Prepare The Way" L. Larson

+OFFERING RESPONSE

*We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be; All  
that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
Amen.*

OFFERING PRAYER

PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE (prayers for local and worldwide concerns)  
PRAYER JOYS & CONCERNS

LORD'S PRAYER (debts & debtors) Blue Hymnal page 37

+HYMN "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" Blue Hymnal No. 90

+BENEDICTION

+CONGREGATIONAL 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 "Lift Up Your Heads" arr. by J. Denton



**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.

**Communitas** – The weekly Communitas are available for you in the narthex.

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

**Angel Tree** – Thank you to everyone who took an angel from the tree. Remember to return the new unwrapped item by NEXT SUNDAY to the box located in the Narthex.

**Congregational Meeting** – There will be a congregational meeting TODAY after church to review and hopefully approve the budget for 2018. Copies of the proposed budget are available in the narthex for review.

**2018 Offering Envelopes** – The 2018 offering envelopes are available for pick up in the primary floor Sunday School rooms.

**Christmas Cantata at Hill Church** - The Cantata Choir will present "Sing Joy to all the World" on Sunday Dec. 17 at the 9:30 AM Worship Service. Hope to see you there. The Children of the Sunday School will also present a Christmas program and song. A luncheon buffet will follow. Please plan to join us on this "Celebration Day."

**Community Cantata** – Some members of our choir along with other local choirs will be presenting a community Advent Cantata on today at 3 pm at Salem UCC in Oley.

**Thank you** – We would like to thank the Wagner family for their donation of the beautiful Christmas tree for the Sanctuary.

**Altar Flowers & Bulletins** – The **2018** sign up charts for “Flower & Bulletin Sponsorship” are posted on the Narthex bulletin board. The cost is \$30 for flowers and \$15 for bulletins. As always, we greatly appreciate and need your stewardship. (note the price increase for flowers) 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!

**Cutlery for Sale** – The Women’s Guild has Rada Cutlery for sale. Tomato knives and paring knives are just some of the items. If you are interested see guild member, Teresa Skoog.

**Christmas Caroling** – We are planning to go Christmas Caroling to our shut-ins on December 17<sup>th</sup> following the luncheon. Please be sure to join us to share the Christmas Spirit with those who are not able to come to church. After caroling, we are invited to Terry & Mayetta Shane’s home for some refreshments.

***HAPPENING THIS WEEK:***

**Sunday - December 10**

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

**Monday - December 11**

9 am Prayer Group  
9:30 am Bible Study

**Tuesday - December 12**

7 pm Consistory Meeting

**Wednesday - December 13**

7 pm Sr. Choir Rehearsal  
7:45 pm Cantata Dress  
Rehearsal

***HAPPENING NEXT WEEK:***

**Sunday - December 17**

8:30 am Sunday School  
8:30 am Confirmation Class  
9:30 am Worship Service with  
Cantata & Children's Program  
Joyful Noise Offering Collected

**Monday - December 18**

9 am Prayer Group  
9:30 am Bible Study

**Wednesday - December 20**

7 pm Sr. Choir 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.*

- Kris Endy (Bill & Dawn Endy's Daughter in Law) ----- Battling Cancer
- John Mauger ----- recovering from surgery
- Royce Stauffer ----- recovering from a stroke
- Brad Kolb (Geneva Kolb's Son) -----disabled

## **Serving Today**

Consistory Helpers for December: Matt Weller & Bob Fleming

Worship Assistant: Arlan Schaeffer

Nursery Caregivers: Matt & Kira Weller

This week's flowers and bulletins are sponsored by Matt & Kira Weller in honor of Jake's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Next week's sponsors:

Bulletins: Lisa Wagner

Flowers: Tyler & Wendy Shane

*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.*



**Rev. Mary Lake-Dillensnyder, Pastor**

484-926-1199 e-mail: [pastormary@stjohnhillucc.org](mailto:pastormary@stjohnhillucc.org)

*Pastor's Church Office Hours: Tues., Wed & Thurs. 10 am - 12 pm*

**Elmer Miller, Organist**

610-367-5613 e-mail: [elmerhm@dejazzd.com](mailto:elmerhm@dejazzd.com)

**Nikki Weller, Secretary**

610-367-8114 e-mail: [nikki@stjohnhillucc.org](mailto:nikki@stjohnhillucc.org)

*Nikki's Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 12:30 - 4 pm*

**Wendy Shane, Treasurer**

610-468-9772 e-mail: [niah4444@dejazzd.com](mailto:niah4444@dejazzd.com)