

**December 23, 2018**

# St. John – Hill U.C.C.

620 Hill Church Road, Boyertown, PA 19512

610-367-8114 · [www.stjohnhillucc.org](http://www.stjohnhillucc.org)

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**December 23, 2018**

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

arr. by E. Broughton

*“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

CALL TO WORSHIP

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

+HYMN

Blue Hymnal No. 107

*“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”*

+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

"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)

**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 820]

Micah 5:2-5a

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:46-55

[NT page 54]

SERMON "Revolutionary 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 "The Gathering" R. Aspinall & M. McDonald

+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

PRAYER HYMN See Insert

"My Soul Gives Glory to My God"

SHARING PRAYER JOYS & CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

+HYMN "In the Bleak Midwinter" See Insert

+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 arr. by T. Birchwood

"Angels We Have Heard on High"



\* Large print bulletins are available in the Narthex.

\* The weekly Communitas are available in the narthex.

# Christmas Eve Worship

**Monday, December 24, 2018**

**7 pm & 9 pm**

*Traditional candlelight service with  
Carols, Scriptures & Holy Communion*



**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.

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

**2019 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 **2019** 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. 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!

**Christmas Fund Offering** – For over a century, the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a tangible expression of God’s love and light in the world. Year after year, UCC members and congregations have reached out in kindness, compassion, and gratitude to those who have faithfully shepherded our Church in the past and who now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs. The theme of this year’s Christmas Fund Offering is The Light Is Surely Coming. Our goal is to raise \$1.7 million to help support these ministries of light and love. The recipients of your gifts are persons who have faithfully served the church for many years. And now, in their time of need, you can be the church to them. We invite and encourage you to join thousands of UCC members and congregations who will support this year’s appeal and trust the light is surely coming. If you wish to donate, you can use the enclosed envelope and place it in the offering plate.

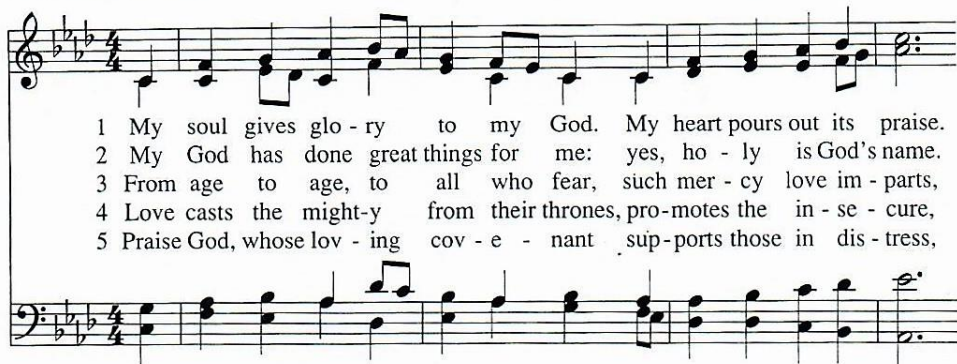
**De-Decorating** – We will be de-decorating the church and Sunday School after worship January 6<sup>th</sup>. Please stay if you are able to lend a helping hand!

# My Soul Gives Glory to My God

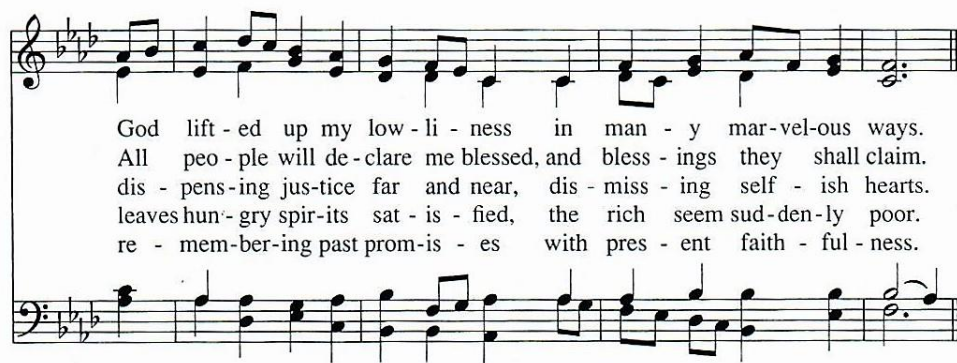
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Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Sam. 2:1-10



1 My soul gives glo - ry to my God. My heart pours out its praise.  
2 My God has done great things for me: yes, ho - ly is God's name.  
3 From age to age, to all who fear, such mer - cy love im - parts,  
4 Love casts the might-y from their thrones, pro-motes the in - se - cure,  
5 Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup-ports those in dis - tress,



God lift - ed up my low - li - ness in man - y mar-vel-ous ways.  
All peo - ple will de - clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.  
dis - pens - ing jus - tice far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.  
leaves hun - gry spir - its sat - is - fied, the rich seem sud - den - ly poor.  
re - mem - ber - ing past prom - is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

*This New Testament canticle, with its mosaic of liberation motifs that proclaim the justice of God, is known as the "Magnificat," the opening word of its Latin translation.*

CCLI# 11085131

Tune: MORNING SONG C.M.  
Melody from Kentucky Harmony, 1816  
Harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940

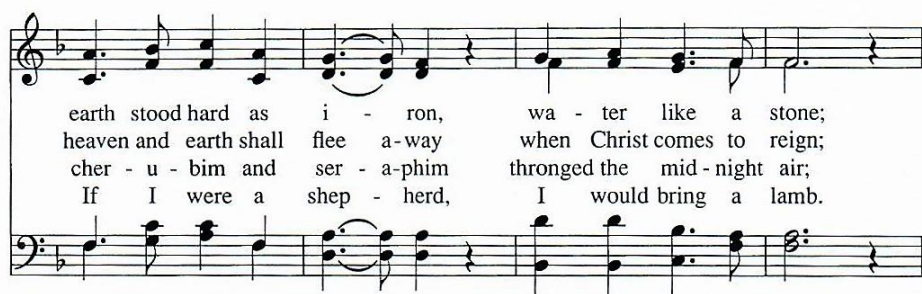
# In the Bleak Midwinter

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*Christina G. Rossetti, 1872; alt.*



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Our God tran-scends all heav - en, earth, and its do - main;  
3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath-ered there,  
4 What can I of - fer, poor as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heaven and earth shall flee a-way when Christ comes to reign;  
cher - u - bim and ser - a-phim thronged the mid - night air;  
If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb.



Snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed the  
But his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,  
If I were a wise one, I would do my part; but



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
sov - ereign God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.  
what can I of - fer: all my heart.

*Christina Rossetti has portrayed the Christmas story, not in warm Bethlehem, but in the winter of her native England. Rossetti was an accomplished writer of poetry and prose, noted for her deep spirituality.*

Tune: CRANHAM Irr.  
Gustav Holst, 1906

CCLI# 11085131



***HAPPENING THIS WEEK:***

**Sunday - December 23**

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

**Monday - December 24**

7 & 9 pm Christmas Eve  
Worship

**Wednesday - December 26**

No Choir Rehearsal

***HAPPENING NEXT WEEK:***

**Sunday - December 30**

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

**Wednesday - January 2**

7 pm 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.*

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

## Serving Today

Consistory Helpers for December: Clarence Weller & Matt Weller

Worship Assistant: Matt Weller

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

Next week's sponsors:

Bulletins: Barb Helbig

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: 111

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Last Week's Offering: \$3,383.00

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:*

*Thurs. 9 am - 3 pm; Wed. & Fri. by chance*

**Wendy Shane, Treasurer**

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