



Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church

900 Country Club Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
www.shupchurch.org

10:15 am WORSHIP
December 22, 2024

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

The courageous love of Mary – a love that emboldens, that lifts up the lowly, fills the hungry with good things, trust the impossible, and protects the vulnerable- is a love at the heart of Christmas.

- The Salt Project

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

Announcements

Campanile Bells: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

arr. L. Larson

Call to Worship (based on Luke 2)

Leader: Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy.

People: To us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

Leader: This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Debbie Dunlevy-Bielawski & Savy Dunlevy

Advent Prayer

*Hymn: *Prepare the Way*

No. 13

*Call to Confession (based on Titus 2)

Leader: In Jesus Christ our Lord the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. With confidence and joy, let us confess our sins.

*Unison Prayer of Confession (based on Titus 2)

Loving God, through Jesus Christ our Savior you have shown us that the blessed age of grace has appeared and the hoped-for time of salvation has come. Yet we cling to the glories of the present age – worldly passions and impious pursuits, self-indulgent and ungodly ways. Redeem us from evil and cleanse us from our brokenness through Christ, who gave himself for love of us, so that we might be your people, holy and whole. Amen.

(Silent Confession)

*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news of great joy, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Leader: Glory to God in the highest!

People: And peace to God's people on earth!

*Response: *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

**All Creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the Eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the coming King!**

*The Passing of the Peace, American Sign Language

Speaker: Peace be with you.

Respond: And also with you.

Anthem: *His Name Shall Be Called Wonderful*

M & D Tunney

From the depths of God's own heart, from heaven to a world so dark
Came the Messiah, Jesus, the Lord, worthy for all to adore.
Tiny babe, chosen Son, in a manger lay the holy One.
The promise of ages is born this day. Let us worship and give Him all praise.

Chorus

**For unto us a child is born to set us free.
A Savior has been given; let the angels sing.
And He will reign forevermore as King of kings,
And His name shall be called wonderful;
And His name shall be called wonderful;**

Prophets had foretold this King, the gift of God, His offering.
Let us join all of heaven to praise His name. To the ends of the earth we proclaim.

**For unto us a child is born to set us free.
A Savior has been given; let the angels sing.
And He will reign forevermore as King of kings,
And His name shall be called wonderful, counselor, almighty God,
Wonderful, counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of peace.**
Chorus

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Hymn: *Jesus Loves Me!*

No. 304

Children's Story Time

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-21

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah^[a] took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Leader: The Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *The Hens of Love*

Rev. Dr. Laura Strauss

Duet: *The First Noel*

J. Stainer

(Michelle Escobar & Keith Yanda)

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only 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 hell; 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.

Campanile Bells: *What Child Is This?*

arr. C. Dobrinski

Minute for Mission: *Christmas Joy*

Karen Heim

Joys, Concerns, & Testimonies

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Presenting Gifts, Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Dedication

*Response: *What Child is This?*

**So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, come Peasant, King to own Him
The King of Kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and Angels sing
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

DEPARTING TO SERVE

Hymn: *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*

No. 31

*Benediction:

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you: wherever he may send you:
may he guide you through the wilderness: protect you through the storm: may
he bring you home rejoicing: at the wonders he has shown you: may he bring
you home rejoicing: once again into our doors.

*Postlude

**If you are able to do so, please stand.*

Happy Birthday to Carol McCallum (24th) & David Hinkelman (27th)!

The Chancel Flowers were given today by Ray and Ginny Bowman in appreciation of their church family.

Deacon Greeter(s)/Flower Deliveries Made By: Leslie Ney and Harriet Rickard

Most Needed Items for SHIM: Dried beans, lentils, pasta sauce in jars, cereal & oatmeal, soup, condiments, spices, adult diapers, baby diapers (size 4-6), dog and cat food, and personal care items.

SHIM Clothing Closet: Accepting donations of clothes (in season), shoes, and linens (no large household items). Located at the Church of Nazarene (5601 Library Road). Drop-off hours: Monday – 10:00 am until 1:00 pm. *If you are not able to deliver your donations during their hours, you can leave them in the closet outside of Findley Hall and a Mission Commission member will deliver them for you.*

Hospital visits by Pastor Laura can be scheduled through the church office. If you or someone you know is having surgery or is in the hospital, please let us know so that Pastor Laura can be there to visit and pray with you and your loved ones.

Scheduling a Meeting with Pastor Laura: if you would like to meet with Pastor Laura to discuss a matter that is **not** a medical or pastoral care emergency, please reach out to her. You can contact her via email at revlaurastrauss@gmail.com or by calling the church office at (412)561-6261 to schedule a meeting. Dropping in to say “hi” is always appreciated, but scheduling a meeting ensures that Pastor Laura can dedicate the necessary time to your discussion if needed.

PRAYER LIST

Prayer Circle – James & Linda McKean and James McKeen

December - John Edward Hnath (prayers of joy), Marge Petty

November – The family of Patience Bergfelt

Ongoing - Nancy Brumfield; Ben McCoy; Mya Kelly; Joanna; Becca; our mission co-workers at the U.S.-Mexico border, the Rev. Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado Escobar and their children, Cindy, Anna Flor, and Nathan; our sister church in Malawi, Africa, Litchenza CCAP; our WorldVision child, Pabatso Makhalanyane; and all those who are affected by natural disasters.



WELCOME TO SUNSET HILLS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

CONNECT with us!

Phone: 412-561-6261

Office hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Address: 900 Country Club Dr. Pgh, PA 15228

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Laura E. Strauss

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. William Gracey

Website: www.shupchurch.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/shupchurch/>

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sun, Dec 22

9:00 am Adult Sunday School – Findley Hall
9:00 am Children’s Sunday School - Library
10:15 am Worship – Sanctuary
4:00 pm Troop #57074 – Crystal Hall
5:00 pm AA – Findley Hall
7:00 pm Caroling & Cocoa

Mon, Dec 23 – Office/Nursery School Closed

6:30 pm Troop #46920 – Rm. 110

Tues, Dec 24 – Office/Nursery School Closed

7:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship Service

Wed, Dec 25 – Office/Nursery School Closed

Thurs, Dec 26 – Office/Nursery School Closed

Fri, Dec 27 – Office/Nursery School Closed

5:00 pm AA – Crystal Hall

Sun, Dec 29

9:00 am Adult Sunday School – Findley Hall
9:00 am Children’s Sunday School - Library
10:15 am Worship – Sanctuary
10:45 am Children’s Church
4:00 pm Troop #57074 – Crystal Hall
5:00 pm AA – Findley Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **Christmas Joy Presbyterian Giving:** During the Advent Season, please consider making a donation to the Presbyterian Special offering, Christmas Joy. You can use an envelope that will be located in the pews, mail the check to the church office or use the tithely.com app (just remember to put Christmas Joy on the memo line).
- ❖ **Stocking Mission:** During the Advent Season, the Mission Commission will have stockings hanging from the pews. They ask that you help them fill these stockings with small, travel-sized toiletry items (deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, etc.) All donations will then be taken to Familylinks. Familylinks is an organization in the South Hills that services youth, adults, and seniors. Their mission is to positively impact lives through integrated community, behavioral, and social programs.
- ❖ **Caroling & Cocoa:** Everyone is invited to go caroling in the Sunset Hills neighborhood this evening at 7:00 pm. We will meet in Findley Hall for some cocoa and head out. Be sure to bring a flashlight and dress for the weather.
- ❖ **2025 Per Capita:** Our 2025 Per Capita has been assessed at \$38.11. Please consider making a separate donation to cover the cost of each church member in your family. Thank you.
- ❖ **Epiphany of the Lord Stargazing Event:** Join us in the church parking lot on Monday, January 6th at 6:30 pm to gaze at the stars. Be sure to dress warm, bring a blanket, chair, and your telescope if you have one. Warm beverages will be provided.
- ❖ **Lessons for Seniors:** A session of information sharing and discussion will be held on Sunday, January 12, 2025 in Findley Hall after the worship service. The event is sponsored by the SHUP Library and the Christian Education Commission.
- ❖ **Flower Date Available:** The flowers for our worship service on Sunday, January 19th 2025 need a sponsor. If you would like to support this ministry, please contact Karin in the church office at sunsethillschurch@gmail.com.