

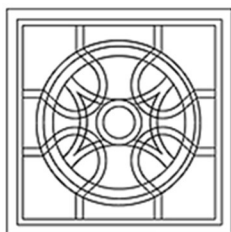
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHESTNUT HILL

An inclusive community of faith

Sunday, December 29, 2024

10 a.m.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS



8855 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

WELCOME!

Welcome to the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill!

Whether you're a first-time guest or a long-time member, we are grateful for your presence. There's a place for you here!

See an usher for hearing devices or large-print bulletins.

Nursery care for infants through age two is available in the Strouse building—ask an usher for assistance. Children who are three are encouraged to attend Godly Play but are welcome to remain in the nursery at parental discretion.

Children's *Praise Packs* to aid with worship participation are available in the narthex. Please return these after worship.



All children in attendance are invited to attend Sunday School, which takes place immediately after the Children's Message. Please use the QR code to fill out a brief safety waiver for your child.

We encourage you to fill out the black friendship pads in the pews, to help us to get to know all who've shared worship with us today.

Following the 10 a.m. service, all are invited for refreshments and fellowship in Widener Hall.

We send regular email updates about worship, church life, and other events. Please contact the church office if you'd like to receive them.

Please silence all electronic devices.

Find more information about PCCH on page 14.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Richard Purvis
(1913-1994)

INTROIT

arr. David Willcocks
(1919-2015)

Ding dong! Merrily on high,
In heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! Verily the sky
Is riv'n with angels singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And "Io, io, io!"
By priest and people sungen.

LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Leader: The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

People: Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: For a child has been born for us, a Son has been given to us.

People: Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

People: Glory to God in the highest!

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

People: Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

People: Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: Christ is born: give him glory!

Christ has come down from heaven: receive him!

Christ is now on earth: exalt him!

O earth, sing to the Lord;

O you nations, praise him in joy, for he has been glorified!

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace and truth,
in Jesus Christ you came among us
as light shining in darkness.
We confess that we have not welcomed the light,
or trusted good news to be good.
We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst,
expecting little, and hoping for less.
Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope,
so that we may receive the fullness of your grace,
and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

KYRIE ELEISON

Craig Phillips
(b. 1961)

Everyone sings the refrain:

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Choir: Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Everyone repeats the refrain.

PROMISE OF THE GOSPEL

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

*GLORIA PATRI

REGENT SQUARE
(Hymn 417)

Laud and honor to the Father,
laud and honor to the Son,
laud and honor to the Spirit,
ever three and ever one;
one in might and one in glory,
while unending ages run.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: As a forgiven people, let us share Christ's peace with one another.
The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN 53

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God,
Through the power of your Holy Spirit
illumine your word,
that we might see Christ,
the living word,
the light of the world. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALTER

Psalm 148

PLAINSONG

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
Praise him in the heights.

Praise him, all you angels of his;
Praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon;
Praise him, all you shining stars.

Praise him, heaven of heavens,
And you waters above the heavens.

GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Selfish Giant
by Oscar Wilde

Ellen Williams Hensle

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.*

John 1:1-14

*HYMN 38

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

CAROL

***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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

arr. Willcocks

Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil 'til the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you.
Christ the babe was born for you.

*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Good and gracious God, in this season during which we have given and received so many gifts, we thank you for the greatest gift of all, your Son Jesus Christ. In response to your love and mercy, we bring our tithes and offerings to you. Bless them and us, so our gifts may be multiplied and our hearts may be generous as we seek to do good and share what we have. Through Jesus Christ our Savior; Amen.**

***HYMN 40**

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Traditional

arr. Willcocks

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray:

O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

In Dulci Jubilo

Robert Pearsall
(1795-1856)

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

PREACHING

The Rev. Ellen Williams Hensle

LITURGIST

Greg Dickinson

MUSIC

Dr. Daniel Spratlan Conductor

Jeffrey DeVault Organist

Solo Quartet John Drake, Nick James, Lauren Kelly, and Julie Snyder

GREETERS

Ryan Mann and William Murphy Elders

Catherine Brozowski and Debby Evans Deacons

USHERS

Kevin Raphael Team #1 Leader

Carolyn Manwaring, Emily McCahery, and Sarah Wright

FLOWER GUILD

All team members

COVER ART

 curated by **Rebecca Thornburgh**

Charles Robinson, illustration from *The Selfish Giant* by Oscar Wilde, 1913, watercolor. Born in London, the prominent book illustrator (1870-1937) was the son of illustrator Thomas Robinson; brothers Thomas Heath Robinson and William Heath Robinson were also well-known illustrators. The prolific Robinson illustrated nearly 100 fairy tales and children's books. This illustration exemplifies Robinson's meticulous attention to detail and his ability to infuse a whimsical, otherworldly quality into his work.

MUSIC AND TEXTS reprinted and performed with permission. CCLI copyright license #3140916; streaming license #4387474. Prayers in the bulletin are from the *Book of Common Worship*, copyright 2018, Westminster John Knox press, *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C*, copyright 2012, Westminster John Knox press and *Presbyterian Outlook Order of Worship*, by Phillip Gladden.

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

<i>In Loving Memory of</i>	<i>Given by</i>
Our parents	Martha and Will Agate
Our loved ones	Sandy and George Connelly
Our fathers	Graeme and Becky Frazier
Armstrong family loved ones, Lucey family loved ones	John and Pat Armstrong
Jack and Martha Loughridge	Jeffrey J. Loughridge
Jane Beatrice Finbow and Nancy and Bob Innes	Their family
Margaret A. Friel	Mark, Rebecca, Frances and Taylor Bernstein
Our loved ones	Susan and David Shuchat
Loved ones	Ann O. Carr
Mildred S. Owen, Harris A. Carr, Timothy A. Carr	Emilie H. Carr
John Armbruster	Barbara Armbruster
Barbara A. Spaeth	Harry M. Spaeth
Jon Baughman and David and Margaret Lawson	Michael, Kelly, Charlotte, Caroline, Lilly and William Baughman
Stanley Elwell	The Elwell family
Francie, Bill and Rickie Jones, Susan and Ed Bean, Nanny D'Oly-Hughes	The DeCaro family
Thomas N. Lawton, Beverly and Fritz Dorer	The Lawton family
Bob Innes	Sandi L. Innes

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

In Honor of

Our new baby cousin Lucia

Barbara and George Butler,
Peter and Jim Van Blarcom

Peter and Jim Van Blarcom

Given by

Louisa, Susie and
Julia Rodgers-Genuardi

Lisa and Tom Butler, and family

Mary Anne Van Blarcom

In Thanksgiving for

This church, its message, its music and
its members

Our granddaughters Libby and Sloane

The work of the Pastor Nominating
Committee

Our grandchildren Blake Brown, Harper
and Flynn Herliny

Our loved ones

Friends and loved ones, past and present

Our loved ones

Our children and grandchildren

The staff and members of PCCH

Our family

Given by

anonymous

Martha and Will Agate

The Hensle family

Ed and Diane Cornely

Jane and Russ Kaufman

Elsbeth Wrigley

Susan and Bill Cobb

Frank and Taylor Slaughter

Russell and Myriam Sullivan

Liz and Jeff Podraza

GOOD TO KNOW

If you are interested in exploring membership at PCCH, please contact Ellen Williams Hensle at the church office or at ewhensle@chestnuthillpres.org.

Sunday worship is live-streamed at chestnuthillpres.org/live and is recorded for later viewing. This offering extends our reach across the country and beyond. Visit us when you're away and tell your friends about this new opportunity to join us.

Please share any pastoral care needs or concerns with Ellen Williams Hensle at the church office or at ewhensle@chestnuthillpres.org.

Please see the back cover for information about our church staff and how to contact and connect with us. You also can access today's Bulletin online.



The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill has committed itself to be a Matthew 25 congregation, joining an initiative of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) focused on three areas:

Building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, eradicating systemic poverty.

Visit our Matthew 25 page: chestnuthillpres.org/matthew-25 for more information about Matthew 25 news and events.

Sunday mornings before worship—a gentle reminder

The Gallery Choir rehearses in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings from 9 to 9:45 a.m. All are welcome to enter the sanctuary during this time, but please remember to keep conversations low so that the choir is able to focus on their rehearsal.

Nametags during worship

The Rev. Ellen Williams Hensle is thrilled to be here and looking forward to getting to know all of you. To assist her and her family, we are requesting that you wear a nametag during worship for the next few weeks. Nametags will be available for you to fill out in the Narthex prior to worship on Sundays.

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

HAPPENING AT PCCH

FELLOWSHIP

Join us in Widener Hall immediately following worship today for coffee and sweet treats. All are welcome.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's Fellowship will meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month. The next meeting of the new Men's Fellowship will be Thursday, January 2, 2025 from 2-3:30 p.m. in the reception room. Please call Ron Rising at 203.206.7299 with any questions or concerns.

YOUTH SERVICE SUNDAY

On the first Sunday of every month, middle and high school youth will engage in a service project immediately after worship. The next *Youth Service Sunday* will be Sunday, January 5.

GERMANTOWN AVENUE CRISIS MINISTRY FOOD DONATIONS

First Sunday of the month food collection is next Sunday, January 5, 2025.

GACM provides food, fuel, clothing, housing and other emergency assistance to those who live in the Northwest section of Philadelphia. Please help with your donation of cash or food items—canned tuna and chicken, rice, pasta, peanut butter, canned vegetables and beans, hearty soups and stews, and breakfast cereals. Regular sized products, not family size, and packaged in non-glass containers are appreciated.

PCCH WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

We meet on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Harris room. We will not meet for the next two weeks. Our next Bible Study will be on January 8, 2025. Ellen Williams Hensle will be leading the discussion which will focus on the biblical text used for the upcoming Sunday's sermon. All are welcome.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Tuesday, January 21, 7:30 p.m. in the upper room of Campbell's Place, 8337 Germantown Avenue. Mark Bernstein will be the presenter. All are welcome. Any questions, please contact the church office.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Date	PreK-2nd Grade	Grades 3-5	Grades 6-8
12/29	stay in worship	stay in worship	stay in worship

Classes will be offered for three different age groups:

- Children ages three to second grade will engage in faith formation through Godly Play curriculum.
- Children in grades three to five will increase their Bible literacy while learning about the richness of our Christian history and faith in a fun, structured setting. We will be using the Memoria Press Christian Studies curriculum.
- Middle school youth in grades six to eight will study *Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living*. Youth will explore how they can live out their faith, as Jesus taught, in our modern world. The middle school youth will meet during worship two to three times per month. On the remaining Sundays, youth should participate in the full worship service.

Most Sundays, we will begin Sunday School with a brief opening in the chapel.

On Sundays when Communion is served in worship, the children will return to sit with their families so that they can participate.

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

Middle and high school youth will not meet after worship today. Youth Group will not meet on the first Sunday of the month but will instead engage in Service Sunday after worship.

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MUSIC UPDATE

Joyful Noise, our children's choir for ages three through grade five, will not rehearse today.

Youth Choir, for grades six to twelve, will not rehearse today. Youth Choir will not meet on the first Sunday of each month in order to engage in community service with the Youth Group. New singers are always welcome.

CENTER ON THE HILL

Open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. New online content is posted Monday-Thursday at 12 p.m. on our programs page here: chestnuthillpres.org/center-on-the-hill/programs. Call 215.247.4654 or email msaavedra@chestnuthillpres.org to register. The Center will be closed Monday, December 23 through Friday, January 3 for the holiday break.

Upcoming classes and events

The Center on the Hill is closed Monday, December 23-Friday, January 3 for the holiday break! We will reopen on Monday, January 6th when registration will begin for winter classes and activities.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

HAPPENING HERE THIS WEEK

<p>SUNDAY, December 22 Worship Fellowship</p>	<p>COTH and offices closed sanctuary, 10 a.m. Widener Hall, 11 a.m.</p>
<p>MONDAY, December 30</p>	<p>COTH and offices closed</p>
<p>TUESDAY, December 31</p>	<p>New Years Eve COTH and offices closed</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY, January 1, 2025 Rotary Club Weight Watchers</p>	<p>New Years Day COTH and offices closed Widener, 7:30 a.m. Harris, 5:15 p.m.</p>
<p>THURSDAY, January 2 Outdoor Gardeners club Gallery Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>COTH closed Widener, 10:30 a.m. Choir room 8 p.m.</p>
<p>FRIDAY, January 3 PCCH Sober & Out</p>	<p>COTH closed Harris, 7 p.m.</p>
<p>SATURDAY, January 4 Building cleaning</p>	<p>COTH closed</p>
<p>SUNDAY, January 5 Worship Church School Fellowship Youth Group Joyful Noise Youth Choir</p>	<p>sanctuary, 10 a.m. Strouse, 10:20 a.m. Widener Hall, 11 a.m. Strouse, 11:10 a.m. Strouse or sanctuary, 11:10 a.m. Strouse, 12 pm</p>

Dear Saints of PCCH,

Below is a summary of our congregation's financial position as we reach the end of the year. PCCH relies on three main sources for the funds we need to provide programming, operate our building, and pay our employees. The largest of these sources is money given by the congregation. As you can see, we need to make up a significant shortfall in congregational giving to balance our budget for this year.

If you made a pledge in 2024 and are able to fulfill it, please do so by December 31st. If you are in a position to give extra this year, we would be very grateful for any additional support you can provide. And as we begin the budgeting process for 2025, we invite you to make a pledge in support of our congregation's ministry.

If you have questions about your 2024 pledge, or would like to learn more about the pledging process, please contact church administrator Rachel Cline: rcline@chestnuthillpres.org.

Thank you for your generous contributions to the life and work of PCCH.

In Christ,

The Rev. Ellen Williams Hensle

2024 OPERATING FUND FINANCIAL SUMMARY			
as of November 30, 2024			
	2024 Annual Budget	2024 YTD Actual	2023 YTD Actual
Congregational Response	693,000	509,565	501,188
Endowment Draws	154,073	149,236	145,437
Other Sources of Funds	158,000	175,848	140,347
Total Sources of Funds	1,005,073	834,649	786,971
All Expenses and Mission	1,005,073	867,087	719,942
Difference	0	32,438	67,029

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Ellen Williams Hensle Senior Minister and Head of Staff

The Rev. Cynthia A. Jarvis Pastor Emerita

Dr. Daniel Spratlan Director of Music

Jeffrey DeVault Organist/Associate Director of Music

Dr. Julie Snyder Director, Children's Education, Joyful Noise, and Youth Choir

Katherine McGill Magid Director of Youth Ministry

Rachel Cline Church Administrator

Megan Cullen Director, Preschool

Mariangela Saavedra Director, Center on the Hill

Mary Frommer Office and Media Coordinator

Leslie A. Lefer Communications Coordinator

Felix Delgado Sexton

Debbie Lambeth Sunday Child Care Giver

CONTACT PCCH

Church office 215.247.8855

Preschool 215.247.8865

Center on the Hill 215.247.4654

info@chestnuthillpres.org

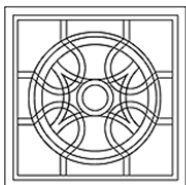
 chestnuthillpres.org

 [PCCHestnuthill](https://www.facebook.com/PCCHestnuthill)

 chestnuthillpres.org/live



PCCH links and
online giving options



The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill
8855 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118