



ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

5320 Limestone Road
Wilmington, DE 19808
302-239-2100
www.stphilips.us

"As an inclusive and caring congregation, our mission is to make disciples, praise God, and serve the community."

December 24, 2024
Christmas Eve Family Service - 6:30 p.m.



Welcome to St. Philip's . . . On this most blessed and holy night. May the love of Christ be reborn within your heart this evening as we worship the babe of Bethlehem.

Holiday Worship Schedule . . . Don't forget, this coming Sunday, December 29th, we will continue our normal worship schedule with Sunday morning services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. However, there will be no Kids' Club, Breakfast Club, or Small Groups that day. Likewise, on January 5th, 2025 Sunday morning services will be at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. and, again, there will be no Kids' Club, Youth Group Breakfast Club, or Small Groups. Kids' Club will be back on January 12, 2025 and the Nursery will be open. Small Groups for Adults will be taking a break until March, but in lieu of the normal groups, you are invited to join us for a 7 Week Large Group Learning Event in weeks following. You can find more information about that on our website: www.stphilips.us

The Congregational Council and Staff of St. Philip's would like to extend to you all our warmest wishes for a Blessed Christmas, and may the love of God in Christ Jesus bring you joy and peace in the new year.

The Order of Worship

The Prelude

The Welcome, Announcements, and Call To Worship

- P: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
- C: **The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.**
- P: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Christ the Lord.
- C: **Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.**
- P: All authority is given to him in heaven and on earth.
- C: **And these are his names: Wonderful Counselor and Mighty God, Eternal Father and Prince of Peace.**
- P: Let all the heavenly angels sing his praises:
- C: **“Glory to God in the highest!”**
- P: Let the whole world join to swell the angels’ song:
- C: **“And peace to God’s people on earth!”**

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all from heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

**For Lo, the days are hast’ning on, by prophets seen of old,
When with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient spendors fling
And the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.**

The Prayer of the Day

- P: Let us pray . . . Almighty God, as you made this night glad with the songs of angels and filled it with the brightness of the true Light, so let that Light shine among us, that we too may give you everlasting praise; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

Children's Choir *"In the Bleak Midwinter" trad. Carol*

The Christmas Gospel and CarolsLuke 2:1-20

This will be an interactive gospel presentation. Many children in the congregation have been given pieces and characters of the bible story. After each section is read, And while the congregation is singing, the child/children who possess the characters indicated, should bring them forward and put them in the "manger."

- A: The Christmas Gospel is from the Gospel of Luke, the second chapter.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger because there was no place for them in the inn.

Mary and Joseph are brought forward while the congregation sings:

What Child is This?

**What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

(Hymn is continued on the Next Page ►)

**Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here, the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

The Shepherds are brought forward while the congregation sings:

Angels We Have Heard on High
**Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore, on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the new born King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!

The Angels are brought forward while the congregation sings:

(Hymn is found on the Next Page ►)

Hark the Herald!

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."**

**Joyful, all you nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.**

**Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The animals are brought forward while the congregation sings:

Joy To the World

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its King; Let every heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

The Children's Sermon

*Baby Jesus is placed in the manger at this time
Rev. Amy Wright*

Greetings and Announcements

At this time the Pastors will lift up some of the relevant events/happenings in the congregation. Offering plates are not passed around. Instead the offering plate is near the baptismal font. At some point this evening you may deposit your offering in the offering plate or you may continue to mail, automatically deposit, or use the website to continue your generous giving. Thank you so much for all you do for the ministry we are all a part of here at St. Philip's.

The Prayers

P: Pondering the mystery of the Word made flesh, let us bring before the throne of God our prayers on behalf of the church, the world, and all people in need.

(A brief silence.)

P: Let us pray for the church, that, redeemed by God, we might be purified as God's people and proclaim through word and deed the good news of Jesus the Messiah. God of our salvation,

C: have mercy and hear us.

P: Let us pray for the leaders of the nations and for all those who exercise authority in the world, that they would govern with equity, work for justice, and uphold the truth. God of our salvation,

C: have mercy and hear us.

(The Prayers are continued on the next page ►)

P: Let us pray for those who are victims of violence or abuse; for those who are without a homeland; for those who are dying alone; and for those who suffer from mental or physical illness; so that all may walk with joy in God's glorious, life-giving light. God of our salvation,

C: have mercy and hear us.

P: Let us pray for all who are gathered here this night to celebrate Christ's birth, that with the eyes of faith we would see the face of our Savior Jesus Christ and that we would return to our homes glorifying and praising God for all we have seen and heard. God of our salvation,

C: have mercy and hear us.

P: Let us give thanks for the saints and all who have beheld God's presence in the birth of Jesus Christ. May their witness continue to draw others into faith. God of our salvation,

C: have mercy and hear us.

P: Confident that you establish righteousness and justice in the world, we commend to you all for whom we pray; through your Son and our redeemer, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen!

*** The Words of Institution**

P: Holy God, in the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Almighty Father, by your Spirit bless this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, both now and forever.

C: Amen.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

The Reception of Communion

Holy Communion will be distributed using the method of individual cup. Come forward, take a cup from the tray and fill in around the altar in a clockwise manner. The pastor will give you a piece of bread and the Assisting minister will fill your cup. Once you eat and drink you are welcome to return to your seat by the side aisle. Gluten free wafers are available . . . Simply let the pastor know your need. As always, EVERYONE is welcome to receive this sign of God's presence, love, and grace. Please come to the table!

Communion Distribution Hymns

As you are waiting to come forward to receive the bread and the wine and/or after you are seated again, we ask you to join us in singing together the following hymns during the distribution of the Eucharist. We will sing these hymns as needed.

Away in the Manger

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.**

The First Noel

**The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep,
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

(Communion Hymns continue on the Next Page ►)

**They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

**And by the light of that same star three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

**This star drew near to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

*** The Post Communion Blessing**

P: Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

The Candlelight Hymn

(The Acolytes/Assisting Ministers will begin the lighting of the candles. Please hold the candles upright. Always take the light from an upright candle. When all are lit we will begin singing. The Pastor will lead the extinguishing of the candles AFTER the Benediction)

**Silent Night! Holy Night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent Night! Holy Night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

Benediction

P: For unto us a Child is born, unto us, a Son is given. He shall be known as Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace.

C: **We praise Him with all honor and glory.**

P: Just as Jesus is God's child so are you God's children. May he bless you, keep you, shine on you, be gracious to you, and give you peace.

C: **Amen**

You may now extinguish your candles

Closing Hymn

**Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh come ye, to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the king of angels:
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**The highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father, Now in flesh appearing!
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God...in the highest!
Oh, come, let us adore him. Oh, come, let us adore him.
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

The Sending

P: As heralds of God's peace, go forth in joy to love and serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

CHRISTMAS
POINSETTIAS



CHRISTMAS
2024

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS ARE DEDICATED TO THE GLORY OF GOD, AND:

In loving memory of John H. Newcomer, Sr., by Jane Newcomer

In loving memory of Joan Jensen, by Rev. Amy Wright

In loving memory of Walt Moyer, by Rev. Amy Wright

In loving memory of my parents, William and Helen Quashne, by Helen Pierce

In honor of our children and parents, by David and Lisa Kenney

In honor of our grandchildren, Ryan, Molly, Pearl, and George, by Paul and Maryann Shovestul

In loving memory of Sharon Marine, by Elizabeth Stirk

In loving memory of Jan, Elizabeth and David King, by Elizabeth Stirk

In loving memory of Russ McCauley, by Elizabeth Stirk

In loving memory of Woody Mutschler, by Sharon Mutschler

In loving memory of loved ones, by Lila Hall

In loving memory of our parents, by Pat and George Spae

In loving memory of Pop, Mom, and Donna, by Fred Pratola

In loving memory of all our loved ones who are no longer with us, by Sally Krapf

In loving memory of our loved ones, by Ron and Ruth Henry

In honor of the families of Lynda Sabochick and Chuck Butler, by Les and Gerry Butler

In honor of the families of Barbara Rhoads and Mike Tepper, by Les and Gerry Butler

In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Throne, by the Brenneman Family

*In loving memory of Cmdr. And Mrs. Marshall E. Brenneman, Chaplain Corps, USN,
by the Brenneman Family*

In loving memory of Sharon Gardner, by Valerie Nicholas

In loving memory of Edward Hewitt and for the blessings of family, by the Litterst Family

In honor of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen C. Litterst & Tobi and Abby Litterst, by Allison F. Hewitt

THOSE WHO SERVE

Assisting Minister:	Maryann Shovestul
Lay Reader:	Donna Daugherty
Greeter/Usher:	Sharon Kittle and Marty Budd
Acolyte:	Luke DeWeese



