

Prayer for Use Before Worship

*God of Mercy,
grant that the Word you speak this day
may take root in our hearts,
and bear fruit to your honor and glory,
or the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*



**Carmel Presbyterian Church
100 Edge Hill Road
Glenside, PA 19038-3099
215-887-1074**

***Carmel Presbyterian Church
First Sunday of Advent
Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope
November 27, 2022
10:00 AM***



A Week of Hope

Order of Worship

We enter this church not as strangers, but as children of God.

** Please stand, as able.*

*Congregation voices **Bold** responses.*

WE GATHER TOGETHER

We gather as a community of faith to meet God in new ways and reflect on the hope and promise of God's gift to us through Jesus Christ.

Welcome and Greetings –

***Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope
Dexter***

Scott & Abigail Clayton with Beatrix and

Introduction (Spoken responsively.)

Today is the beginning of Advent—the preparation time for celebrating Christ's birth.

We are here because God's promises to our ancestors came true when Jesus was born.

God's promise is kept each Sunday when we worship because Christ is in our midst.

God will keep the promise to come again in glory.

Scripture

Listen for the Word of God from Isaiah, Chapter 60, verse 2:

The prophet Isaiah said: “For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and God’s glory will be seen upon you.

Lighting the Candle of Hope (Spoken responsively)

We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into our darkness.

With the coming of this light, there is *hope*.

Because of Christ we not only have hope but believe that good is stronger than evil.

God wants us to work for good in this world.

Advent prayer (In unison.)

O God, we thank you that Jesus brought hope into our world. By the good news of the Bible, you are still bringing hope to people. Help us to be ready to welcome Jesus Christ so that we may think good thoughts and do good deeds and that we may be a people of hope in our world. Amen.

Prelude

Veni Emmanuel

***Colin Mawby
(1936-2019)***

**** Call to Worship (Spoken responsively) –***

Welcome one another as Christ welcomes you; let all together sing praise to the glory of God.

Blessed be the God who brings us together, whose amazing wonders fill the universe.

We are greeted by a voice beyond our hearing, welcomed by a presence far greater than we can know.

All creation speaks to us of our Creator, who calls us into this community of caring people.

Listen, people of God, for a message of hope; look around you for opportunities to share the good news.

The God of hope fills us with joy and peace; the Holy Spirit empowers us to serve in humble trust.

Call to Confession (Seated) –

Prayer of Confession (In unison) –

Righteous God, we confess that we have not looked up to claim the riches of your love. We have not listened to your voice of truth in the wilderness of our despair. We have not acknowledged your presence amid the loneliness of our struggles. We have been too busy with our own agendas to reach out in concern to those who carry burdens far greater than our own. Forgive us. Baptize us anew, we pray, with a passion for justice and righteousness...

(A moment of silence for personal reflection & confession...)

Amen. **Amen.**

Choral Response

Kyrie

arr. David N. Johnson

*Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Assurance of Pardon (Read responsively) –

Hear the Good News of the gospel! God does not judge by what our eyes see or decide by what our ears hear.

The needy are delivered from their oppressors. The righteous flourish and peace abound.

Even now, God’s realm is among us, making all things new. Friends: believe the Good News of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. We are freed to bear fruit befitting repentance.

*** Passing of the Peace (Spoken responsively) –**

Since God loved us so much, we are free to love one another.

Let us love one another since love comes from God.

With the hope of those who are forgiven, and with a commitment to walk in the way of peace, let us pass the peace of Christ to our neighbors.

Peace be with you!

(Greet one another sharing God's peace now and throughout the week.)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

We hear the stories of our faith in scripture, song, prayer, and sermon.

Children's Message –

(Following the Children's message, children in third grade and below are invited to depart for Children's Worship downstairs in Carmel Hall.)

Prayer for Illumination (In unison) –

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Old Testament Reading —

The first reading is Isaiah, chapter 2, verses 1-5; p. 594). Isaiah the prophet and the Lord's mountain. Listen now for the Word of God to you!

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

*** Hymn 20**

"Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"

Aberystwyth

New Testament Reading –

The second reading from is Matthew, chapter 1, verses 18-25; p. 1. Matthew tells the story of the Birth of Jesus. Listen now for the word of God to you!

As the earth is filled with the knowledge of God, we offer to all the joy and peace of our faith.

Amen.

Amen.

Chimes – (You may sit in silent, reflective prayer as the worship leaders recess.)

Postlude

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

*Paul Manz
(1919-2009)*

Announcements

Guests: You Are Welcome Here

WE CORDIALLY WELCOME THOSE WHO ARE VISITING TODAY. We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in our worship, mission, and programs; we are happy to share our ministry with you. We’d like to get to know you. Please introduce yourself to a person nearby and be sure to join us downstairs in Carmel Hall for refreshments and conversation after worship! We hope your worship experience is meaningful and you will gather with us again soon. Should you wish for Hearing Devices and/or Large Print Bibles & Hymnals, they are available from an usher. Sign our guest book at the sanctuary entrance (or share your email/contact information in the offering plate for a weekly email of future worship and activities). We invite you to speak with the Pastor if you are interested in membership. Restrooms are located down the long hallway just past the Church Office in the Education Building.

CARMEL IS HAPPY TO PROVIDE FOR THE YOUNG MEMBERS of our congregation by offering **Nursery Care** and **Children’s Worship (Grades K-3)** during the Sunday 10:00 am worship service. We request that if you desire **nursery care** for your child during Sunday worship, please call the **Church Office by Friday noon**, so that the nursery is staffed. **Children’s Worship** does not require reserving ahead. Children leave the Sanctuary for Carmel Hall after the **Children’s Message**. We welcome our young families, either in person or in virtual worship. Any questions may be addressed to Janet Simon, Christian Education Committee chair; or Melissa MacFarland, Children’s Worship leader.

THIS MORNING, THE FLOWERS IN OUR SANCTUARY are in loving memory of my husband, Jim, and my parents, Horace and Mildred Neff, by Barbara Thompson and family.

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION – As we enter the season of Advent, reflect on these words from Fred Rogers:

"When I say it's you I like, I'm talking about that part of you that knows that life is far more than anything you can ever see or hear or touch. That deep part of you that allows you to stand for those things without which humankind cannot survive. Love that conquers hate, peace that rises triumphant over war, and justice that proves more powerful than greed."

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHURCH SECRETARY KATHY HOPKINS – We welcome **Kathy Hopkins** to Carmel Presbyterian Church as our **new church office secretary/manager**. Kathy has been a resident of Glenside for 29 years. She'll be married to her husband, Bob for 30 years this coming February. She has two children, Bobby (27 years old) and Shannon (15 years old). Kathy belongs to the St. Luke the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, here in Glenside. Kathy comes from a large family as she is one of eight children.

IT'S TIME TO DECORATE! ADVENT IS HERE! Come join us in decorating the sanctuary to kick-start your Christmas spirit! Decorating will take place in the sanctuary on three consecutive Saturdays at 10:00 am – November 26th, December 3rd, and December 10th. Use the signup link to let us know you are coming - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094ca8a62aa6f49-worship> or just show up and lend a hand. All are welcome!

FAMILY ADVENT ACTIVITY AND DEVOTIONAL GUIDES AVAILABLE – **Family Advent Activity Guides** and **Adult Advent Devotional Guides** are available in the narthex. This year's theme is "**Now in Flesh Appearing**" from Illustrated Ministry and is provided by the **Christian Education Committee**.

CELEBRATE AND WELCOME THE CHRISTMAS SEASON – A **Christmas Lunch** with lunch entrees and tasty desserts will be held **Sunday, December 4, 2022**, following worship in Carmel Hall. Sponsored by Congregational Life; email RSVP to mdeacon782@coomcast.net

SUPPORT THE CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS AND THE MUSIC FUNDS – If you wish to contribute to the **Christmas poinsettias** which uphold our Advent season sanctuary traditions or to provide **special instrumental and vocal music** to enhance our Christmas Services, please fill out a **Form** in the lobby and include a contribution. For **flowers**, contact Deb Gates (215-887-1852); for **music**, contact Abby Palmisano (215-887-1074), press 3.

JOIN CARMEL'S FESTIVAL CHOIR FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON – A **Festival Choir** for the Christmas season will begin rehearsing on Thursday, November 17, at 7:30 PM. The choir will prepare for the annual **Candlelight Carol Service** on Sunday evening, December 11, and the 9:00 PM **Christmas Eve Service**. The choir comprises youth and adults from the Carmel choirs and members and friends of the congregation who enjoy singing but cannot commit to weekly rehearsals year-round. Come and sing for this special festive **Christmas season**. Rehearsals will be on Thursday, November 17, and December 1, 8, 15, and 22 at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary. We hope you can join us! Please tell Abby Palmisano if you are coming so a folder of music will be ready for you!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND TELL YOUR FRIENDS – Carmel's annual **Candlelight Carol Service** is set for Sunday, December 11, 2022, at 7:30 pm with a special prelude beginning at 7:15 pm. Hold the date and invite friends and neighbors to this wonderful Carmel Church tradition. All the church choirs, bell ringers, and soloists will lift your spirits in the glorious sounds of the season.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY & FELLOWSHIP IS "CELEBRATING SABBATH" – CPW (Carmel Presbyterian Women) meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 for bible study and fellowship. Our 9-month study is "Celebrating Sabbath" and focuses on exploring the idea of 'accepting God's gift of rest and delight'. Join us in the Women's Fellowship Lounge for lively discussion and light refreshments.

CARMEL DEACONS INVITE YOUR SUPPORT OF THE GIVING TREE – In looking forward to the Christmas season and the hope and joy it brings to so many, Carmel’s Board of Deacons invites you to support again this year Gemma Services (formerly The Village) with Christmas gifts for the children they serve. Check the Giving Tree in the lobby and learn of three ways you can participate:

1. *Pick a **gift** from the top 10 needed items identified by Gemma! They are:*
 - *Remote control cars/vehicles*
 - *Rubik’s cubes*
 - *Gel pen sets*
 - *Lego sets*
 - *Squishmallow stuffed animals (especially small and medium)*
 - *Card games- Uno, Dos, Phase 10, playing cards*
 - *Crayola art sets*
 - *Barbie dolls (especially non-Caucasian dolls)*
 - *Basketball shooting sleeves*
 - *Nike athletic socks (for boys and girls)*
2. *Donate a **\$25 gift card** (the following merchants): ShopRite, Walmart, Amazon, Target, Five Below, Marshalls/TJ Maxx, or Wawa.*
3. ***Give online** through Gemma’s Amazon wish list! The gifts can be shipped directly to Gemma: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2PDSAIHUZCXA1/ref=cm_go_nav_hz?pldnSite=1*

The deadline for gifts and gift cards will be Sunday, November 27th. More information coming on our Facebook page and in the weekly bulletin and email.

CARMEL YOUTH MINISTRY (CYM) INVITES YOUTH IN GRADES 3-8! – Carmel Youth Ministry (CYM) welcomes all kids in Grades 3-8. It meets Wednesday evenings from 6:30–7:30 in Carmel Hall. Fun, fellowship, and growing together as a group guides the group and leaders. **CYM leaders** Joyce, Katey, Melissa, and Jed look forward to seeing you.

MUSIC NOTES FROM CARMEL’S BALCONY – Please hold the date for a new year of church choirs. Join us in the new season of singing and ringing.

- **Children's Choir**, for anyone in Grades K-2, meets Wednesdays, from 5:00 PM - 5:40 PM.
- **Junior Choir**, for anyone in Grades 3-8, meets Wednesdays, from 5:45 PM to 6:30 PM.
- **Youth Choir**, for anyone in Grades 9-12, meets Sundays, from 11:15 AM to 11:45 AM.
- **Sanctuary Choir**, for anyone in Grades 7-adult, meets Thursdays, from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM.
- **Handbell Choir**, for anyone in Grades 7-adult, meets Mondays, from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

For questions about any choirs, please contact **Abby Palmisano, Organist and Director of Music**.

WONDER “WHAT’S GOING ON?” CHECK OUT CARMEL’S WEBSITE! Explore the wealth of information at www.presbycarmel.org. Easily find links for the current Livestream worship, past services, and the daily lectionary, or send a prayer request or make a financial donation—and not miss the latest on the Carmel Calendar. Clicking on the upper circular church photo will always bring you back to the Home Page.

JOIN US EACH SUNDAY IN WORSHIP; CELEBRATE COMMUNION ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH! **Live Streaming Worship** is available on **YouTube** or via **Zoom** on the phone for those unable to attend in-person worship due to health comfort levels or travel situations. You can find our Sunday morning worship live streaming Sundays at 10:00 am with links below:

YouTube (Carmel Presbyterian Church Glenside) at
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2KnjuJryWjVkrJljiDvsRw>
Those without Internet access may phone in via the Zoom phone link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8428511409> and Meeting ID: 842 851 1409

SIGN-UP TO HELP WITH WORSHIP – EACH SUNDAY WE HAVE several spots you can assist: liturgist, ushers, greeters, and host for coffee hour. We are not all we can be without you sharing your gifts as a volunteer! Speak with a pastor or sign up online here: <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/904094ca8a62aa6f49-worship>

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Participants Serving the Church in Worship

Peter Sulyok, Transitional Senior Pastor

James D. Eby, Pastor Emeritus

Abigail Vander Hart Palmisano, Organist and Director of Music

Sanctuary Choir

Deb Gates, Liturgist

Scott and Abigail Clayton with Beatrix and Dexter, Lighting the Advent Candle

Beth Cherry and Kristin Waldner, Greeter/Ushers

Beth Cherry, Shepherd

Rodney Hackman & Walter Newman, Chancel Preparation and Emergency Procedure (CPEP)

Tom Bohlander, Jay Raulinaitis, and Dave Rice, Live-Streaming Operators

Katey Schuyler, Coffee Hour Host: Carmel Hall (11:00 AM)

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215-887-1074

www.presbycarmel.org

COMING EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

First Sunday of Advent

Worship in the Sanctuary (and Live-Streaming): 10:00 am

Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope, Sanctuary: 10:00 am

Coffee Hour, Carmel Hall: 11:00 am

Youth Choir (Grades 9-12), Choir Room and Sanctuary: 11:15-11:45 am

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Handbell Choir, Sanctuary: 7:30-8:30 pm

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Giving Tuesday

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Staff Meeting, Fellowship Lounge: 10:30 am

Children's Choir (Grades K-2), Choir Room & Sanctuary: 5:00-5:40 pm

Junior Choir (Grades 3-8), Choir Room & Sanctuary: 5:45-6:30 pm

CYM (Carmel Youth Ministry), (Grades 3-8), Carmel Hall: 6:30-7:30 pm

THURSDAY, December 1

World AIDS Day; Presbyterian HIV/AIDS Awareness

Festival and Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary: 7:30-9:00 pm

SATURDAY, December 3

Advent Decorate the Sanctuary (Trees and garlands): 10:00 am

SUNDAY, December 4

Second Sunday of Advent

Worship in the Sanctuary (and Live-Streaming): 10:00 am

Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace, Sanctuary: 10:00 am

Christmas Lunch, (RSVP: mdeacon782@coomcast.net), Carmel Hall: 11:00 am

Youth Choir (Grades 9-12): 11:15-11:45 am