

# Welcome to Philadelphia UMC

December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent Season

## PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We are waiting for the dawn of God's incarnation.

**P: Restore us, O God. Let us see your face.**

L: We are like clay awaiting the potter.

**P: Restore us, O God. Let us see your face.**

L: Teach us to keep alert as we wait.

**P: Restore us, O God. Let us see your face.**

L: Sustain us this day as we worship you.

**P: Amen. Let us worship God!**

**BLESSING of the ADVENT WREATH** J. C. Comer and Family  
Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again. Let us pray that we may always be ready to welcome him. That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love. That the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin. That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ. That the Christmas season may fill us with peace and joy as we strive to follow the example of Jesus.

### CANDLE LIGHTING of HOPE

**P: Lord, we thank you, and we praise you, for your gift to us divine.  
As we celebrate this Advent, fill our hearts with hope sublime.  
Candles glowing, spirit growing, as the Christ child comes to  
Earth. We rejoice His holy birth. Amen.**

\*HYMN "Come, Though Long Expected Jesus" UMH #196

CHILDREN'S SERVICE Anna Kate Dover

\*\*Children bring their greens and place at foot of altar, remain at altar steps.

### THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

L: Shielding the baby, soldiers passed by, leaving baby Jesus safe and sound.

**P: Just as the holly protected the Christ child, help us to protect those who are vulnerable.**

### THE POINSETTA

L: Miraculously transformed into bright red and white leaves that we know as the poinsettia.

**P: Help us to present our gifts to God, no matter how humble, knowing that your grace will transform them and use.**

### THE CRISMON TREE

L: We place these crimson on the tree as a reminder of Christ whose monogram is written in our hearts.

**P: Write your law on our hearts that we may become living monograms of Christ.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

Lily Moss

## PRAYERS, PRAISE AND 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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 40:1-5

Hayley Dover

## SPECIAL MUSIC

Chancel Choir

## TITHES AND OFFERINGS

\*THE DOXOLOGY

UMH #95

SCRIPTURE READING Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 1:1-2, 6-7, 17  
SERMON "The Big Setup" Rev. Kathy Pryor

## HOLY COMMUNION

see insert

Invitation - All are Welcome

Confession and Pardon

The Great Thanksgiving

Giving the Bread and the Cup

Prayer after Communion

\*HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" UMH #211

\*THE BENEDICTION

\*THE POSTLUDE

*\*Those who are able, please stand.*

**Epworth Children's Home** Christmas Offering gathered today.

### Reminders:

Masks are highly encouraged for everyone while inside the church buildings.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Worship at Philadelphia United Methodist Church!  
We are delighted you have chosen to worship with us this morning!

## Opportunities This Week

**Today Christmas Cantata, “What If…” 6:00pm**  
**Refreshments following in the fellowship hall**

**Sunday Servants for 2024 - If you would like to be added to our list of Sunday Servants for the new year, please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule.**

If you already serve in an area, we will keep you in rotation for next year unless you would like to be removed. If you would like to be removed, please see Katie Knight.

## Upcoming Events

December 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6:00pm, Christmas Cantata; Refreshments in Fellowship Hall following cantata.

December 10<sup>th</sup> – 9:30am, C3 & Children’s Christmas Party (during C3)  
5:00pm, Youth Christmas Party at the Pryor Home \*Bring a dessert\*

December 13<sup>th</sup> – 6:00pm, Blue Christmas Service

**December 17<sup>th</sup> – 9:30am, Angel Tree gifts due!**

December 20<sup>th</sup> – 6:00pm, Meet at church to go Christmas Caroling to our shut-ins and older members.

December 24<sup>th</sup> – 9:30am, Christmas Eve Morning Service  
9:00pm, Candlelight & Communion Evening Christmas Eve Service

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**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** meets in the Fellowship Hall at Philadelphia UMC on Tuesdays and Fridays each week at 7:00pm.

**Yoga/Pilates** classes are offered each week on Mondays and Thursdays at 4:00pm in the Fellowship Hall at Philadelphia UMC. There is a \$5 charge per class.

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**GIVING** – Philadelphia UMC provides Online Giving – a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring tithes and offerings. Visit our website, [www.philadelphiayork.org](http://www.philadelphiayork.org), and click our Online Giving link.

**2023 Weekly Budget Needs \$1,938.00 Received 11/26/2023 \$875.00**

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	<b><u>December 3<sup>rd</sup></u></b>	<b><u>December 10<sup>th</sup></u></b>
Liturgist	Hayley Dover	Wayne Sandifer
Ushers	Mike Reeves & Derrick Barrentine	Buck Miskelly & Doug Peterson
Greeter	Kandi Peterson	Margaret Henson
Communion Assistant	<b><u>December</u></b> Janice Ramsey	<b><u>January</u></b>

\*\*Please send any announcements for the bulletin and/or calendar to Katie Knight, [katieknight719@gmail.com](mailto:katieknight719@gmail.com) or (803)627-9458 by Wednesday of each week.

### Communion Service

Christ our Lord invites all to his table who love him, repent of their sin and seek to live in harmony. Let us confess our sins.

**Merciful God, we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be obedient, we have not done your will. Forgive us, we pray.**

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**Glory to God. Amen.**

Blessed are you, O God. In Jesus Christ your Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Through Jesus' suffering and death you took upon yourself our sin and death and destroyed their power forever. You raised from the dead this same Jesus, who now reigns with you in glory, and poured upon us your Holy Spirit, making us the people of your new covenant.

On the night before meeting with death Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to the disciples, and said: "*Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.*" When the supper was over Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to the disciples, and said: "*Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.*" In remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us.

**Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, on these gifts, that in the breaking of bread and the drinking of wine, we may know the presence of Christ and be renewed as the body of Christ for the world, redeemed by Christ's blood, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at your table for ever.

*Giving the Bread and the Cup at the Rail*

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**

(umcdiscipleship.org/Christmas/1972, Methodist Publishing House)

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