



Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church

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

10:15 am WORSHIP
December 20, 2020
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

- Hebrews 1:3

When we say yes to Jesus, when we yield our lives to him, we move from darkness into light.

- The Rev. Adam Hamilton

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude: *Mary, Did You Know* (played by Ryan Gracey, Dave Petty & Keith Yanda)

Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Leenerts Family

Hymn: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (verse 4)

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save
and give them victory o'er the grave.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

CCLI #1065469

Advent Prayer

Anthem: *Patapan* (Campanile Bells)

arr. M.L. Thompson

*Call to Confession

Jesus was in the world, and though the world was made through our Savior, the world did not recognize the Lord. Please read along silently with me to confess the times that we have not seen Jesus.

*Unison Prayer of Confession (from the Rev. Mike Poteet)

Creator God, in the beginning you called light from Darkness. You have made your light to shine in our hearts by displaying your glory in the person of Jesus Christ. We call Jesus by many names, but they all point to your presence, power and love. May we shine with your light not only at Christmas, but all times, in all our words and deeds. As Jesus took on human flesh so long ago, may we your followers incarnate your love for others, so that all may give glory to God in heaven.

(Silent Confession)

In Christ we pray. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Arise! Your light has come! The Spirit's call - obey! For you have been forgiven in Christ's name. Thanks be to God! Amen!

*Response: *Angels We Have Heard on High* (Chorus)

**Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

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HEARING GOD'S WORD

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God; ³all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴In him was life,^[a] and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

⁹The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. ¹¹He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. ¹⁵(John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") ¹⁶And from his fulness have we all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only Son,^[b] who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.

Leader: The Word of the Lord!

Sermon: *No Small Winter*

Rev. Laura Strauss

Anthem: *Angels We Have Heard on High* (Campanile Bells)

arr. L. Larson

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Joys & Concerns

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.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

*Prayer of Dedication

*Response: *Angels from the Realms of Glory* (Verse 4)

**All creation join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore our voices raising to the eternal Three in One;
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the coming King!**

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DEPARTING TO SERVE

Anthem: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* (Campanile Bells) arr. V. Stephenson

*Benediction

*Response

*Postlude

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

Happy Birthday to Emmie D'Amico (21st) and Carol McCallum (24th)!

Happy Anniversary to Mike & Carla Robinson (20th)!

Stephen Ministers offer caring, Christian friendship and concerned listening to people when they need it the most. SHUP has five (5) trained Stephen Ministers; Evelyn Lape, Karen Heim, Carole McCullough, Laura Flaus & Ginny Bowman. If you would like to talk to a Stephen Minister, please contact Evelyn Lape at 412-531-9856.

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.

PRAYER LIST

Prayer Circle - The Ernst family; Kevin, Sarah, Charles, Sara & Lorryn and Karen Evans

December - Family of Dan Hanczar, Family of Robert Strader, Levi & Lainey, Lois McMahan, Chuck Beer, Phyllis, Healthcare and all essential workers, Bill Ney

November - the family of Mona Odendahl, Cary, Evelyn Lape, Mike LeJeune, The family of Dorothy Wolfe, Lois McMahan, Bob Shetler, Matthew, The Family of Ron Smith

Ongoing - Nancy Brumfield, Eneless Frank, Mya Kelly, Joanna, Becca, our Mission Co-Workers: Rev. Mark Adams & Miriam Maldonado Escobar and their children; Cindy Anna Flor & Nathan who serve at the U.S.-Mexico Border, our sister church, Litchenza CCAP in Malawi, Africa, Pabatso Makhalanya, Healthcare and all essential workers

The Year of the Bible

Pastor Laura would like to read through the Bible with you in 2021! You are invited to join her on this journey beginning January 1st! Daily readings will be posted in our bulletin, Messenger, website, and social media.

If you would like to be a part of "The Year of the Bible," call the church office at (412)561-6261 or send us an email at sunsethillschurch@gmail.com so that we may add you to our "The Year of the Bible" registration. This is for recording purposes, so we may know who is participating in the reading and Pastor Laura can encourage you along the way.

There are also "The Year of the Bible" guides available for \$9.00. They will be in the bins behind the Findley Hall entrance. (Just take a book and leave a check in the bin). You do not need to purchase the guide to participate, but it may help you along the way.

If you have questions about The Year of the Bible, please email Pastor Laura at revlaurastrauss@gmail.com.



WELCOME TO SUNSET HILLS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

CONNECT with us!

Phone: 412-561-6261

Office hours: Monday – Friday, 8:30am-2:30pm

Address: 900 Country Club Dr. Pgh, PA 15228

Website: www.shupchurch.org

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sun, Dec. 20 - The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:15 am Adult Sunday School - Zoom
10:15 am Worship - YouTube
11:30 am Fellowship Hour - Zoom
6:30 pm Nativity Play Rehearsal - Zoom
7:00 pm Youth Group - Zoom

Mon, Dec. 21

6:30 pm Nativity Play Recording - Zoom

Wed, Dec. 23

4:30 pm Kid's Club - Zoom

Thurs, Dec. 24

5:00 pm Outdoor Christmas Eve Service
7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service - YouTube

Fri, Dec. 25

Office Closed -Merry Christmas

Sun, Dec. 27

8:15 am Adult Sunday School - Zoom
10:15 am Worship - YouTube
11:30 am Fellowship Hour - Zoom

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **Building Closed:** The church building will remain closed to all except staff until January 20th. Our worship services will continue to be posted to our YouTube channel. Please read below for more information about our Christmas Eve Services.
- ❖ **Adult Sunday School:** This class will finish the study of Adam Hamilton's "Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas" next Sunday. This class meets via Zoom.
- ❖ **Fellowship Hour:** Join pastor Laura using Zoom for fellowship today at 11:30 am. To get the Zoom link, please visit the "Events Page" on our website www.shupchurch.org.
- ❖ **Kid's Club:** All children in K-5 are invited to join Pastor Laura via Zoom. If you would like more information, please contact Pastor Laura at revlaurastrauss@gmail.com.
- ❖ **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 at the end of your pew, mail the check to the church office or use the tithe.ly.com app (just remember to put Christmas Joy on the memo line).
- ❖ **Christmas Festival:** The Christmas Festival that was scheduled for today, December 20th has been cancelled.
- ❖ **Nativity Play:** Because we had to cancel our live Nativity, the youth will create a nativity play. The play will be included in the Dec. 27th service. There will be rehearsal on Zoom on Sunday, Dec. 20th at 6:30 pm. The play will be recorded on Zoom on Monday, Dec. 21st at 6:30 pm.
- ❖ **Christmas Eve Service Outdoor Service:** We will hold a 20-minute service in the Memorial Garden on Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm. ***Please register with the church office at sunsethillschurch@gmail.com if you are planning to attend.***
- ❖ **Christmas Eve Worship Service Video:** In addition to the outdoor service, a video of the indoor service will be posted to our YouTube Channel by 7:00 pm on Christmas Eve. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeEpiQYSD_9My9tb5GEhVRA
- ❖ **2020 Pledges:** If you are sending in a pledge that you would like to be added to your statement for 2020, it needs to be received by the church office no later than December 31, 2020.
- ❖ **Virtual Christmas Concert:** The Virtual concert that Shelby talked about in her December Messenger article is available for viewing. You can access the video by going to our website <https://www.shupchurch.org/music> or visiting our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/shupchurch/>.