

CRESTWOOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Advent is a season of both quiet reflection and joyful expectation. This service is intended to be a time of spiritual preparation, as we watch and wait for the coming of the Kingdom of God. Through our experience of sacred Word and music, the story of the coming of Christ gradually unfolds and deepens our understanding of God's message of love and redemption. May these words and this music propel you quietly toward the true joy of Christmas.



December 10, 2023

8:30 & 10:45 AM

Welcome to Crestwood!

We are glad you have joined us for worship.

We hope your time with us is meaningful and that you return soon.

Our Vision

Connecting People to God and Each Other

Our Mission

Crestwood Christian Church connects people to God and each other
by being a community that welcomes and accepts all people;
invites questions about how faith and life intersect;
encourages people to take the next step in their spiritual journey;
cares for each other and the stranger;
and serves God through serving others.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 10, 2023

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

8:30 & 10:45 AM

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are visiting with us, we'd love to hear from you. And if you have a prayer concern, we will be glad to add it to our prayer list. Please fill out the Connection Card on the back of the pew in front of you or contact the church office for more information.

PRELUDE

O Radiant Dawn

James MacMillan

O Radiant Dawn, Splendour of eternal Light, Sun of Justice:

Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

Isaiah had prophesied, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone."

O Radiant Dawn, Splendour of eternal Light, Sun of Justice:

Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Long ago the people were given a sign of God's presence.

All: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us."

Leader: God's promise to us remains sure and true.

God's Anointed One will soon walk among us to lighten our darkness, to restore the joy of our salvation, to save us from our sins.

***HYMN 119**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (v. 1 and 2)

VENI EMMANUEL

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Don and Karen Blakeman (8:30 AM)

Bob and Sice Shanklin and Grandkids (10:45 AM)

CHILDREN'S TIME (10:45 AM only)

After Children's Time, three-year-olds through grade two may leave for children's worship.

After worship, parents may pick up their children in the Children's Wing.

THE PASTORAL PRAYER 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY

A Lute Caroll

Mary E. Caldwell

Courtney Porter, soprano

What sweeter musick can we bring,

Than a Caroll, for to sing The Birth of this our heav'nly King?

Awake the Voice, Awake the String!

Heart, Eare, and Eye, and everything Awake!

The Darling of the world is come, And fit it is, we finde a roome

To welcome Him, To do Him honour, who's our King and Lord

Of all this Rejoicing!

*What sweeter musick can we bring,
Than a Caroll, for to sing The Birth of this our Heav'nly King?
Awake the Voice! Awake the String! Awake the String!*

READING

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

CAROL

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

arr. David Ashley White

*Comfort, comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.
Hark, the voice that crieth in the desert far and near,
Calling us to new repentance since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away;
Let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.
Make ye, make ye straight, make ye straight what long was crooked,
make the rougher places plain;
O let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token that the word is never broken.*

READING

Jeremiah 23:5-6

CAROL

There Is No Rose
Allison Weitkamp, oboe

Z. Randall Stroope

*There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu. Alleluia.
For in this rose contained was Heaven and earth in little space. Resmiranda.
The angels sungen the shepherds to: Gloria! Gloria transeamus.
The angels sungen the shepherds to: Gloria! Gloria in excelsis!
Now leave we all this worldly mirth, and follow we this joyous birth; Transeamus Domini.
The angels sungen the shepherds to: Transeamus, Gaudeamus, Resmiranda. Alleluia.
There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

READING

Isaiah 7:10-14

CAROL

Ave Maria

Morton Lauridsen

*Ave Maria, gratia plena:
Dominus tecum,
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
Et benedictus fructus ventris tui,
Jesus.*

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee,
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.*

*Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
Ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
Nunc et in hora mortis nostrae,
Amen.*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.*

READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

CAROL

Wonderful Peace

Gustaf Nordqvist

*Peace, peace, wonderful peace. Peace to the world is given.
Hush'd are the angels, so still is the night;
Then in the East shone a heavenly light.
Join in the chorus His praises sing!
Glory to God, to the newly born King.
Peace, peace, wonderful peace. Peace to the world is given.*

*Peace, peace, bearer of peace. Men of goodwill receive Him.
Holiest of nights, O most wond'rous of days;
Shepherds and kings lift their voices in praise.
Join in the chorus, His praises sing!
Glory to God, to the newly born King.
Peace, peace, wonderful peace. Peace to the world is given.*

READING

Mark 1:1-15

HYMN

Prepare the Way, O Zion (see insert)

READING

Zephaniah 3:14-18

CAROL

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

John Gardner

*Tomorrow shall be my dancing day; I would my true love did so chance
To see the legend of my play, To call my true love to my dance;
Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love;
This have I done for my true love.
Then was I born of a virgin pure, Of her I took fleshly substance;
Thus was I knit to man's nature, To call my true love to my dance;
Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love;
This have I done for my true love.*

*In a manger laid and wrapped I was, So very poor this was my chance,
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass, To call my true love to my dance;
Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love;
This have I done for my true love.*

*Then afterwards baptized I was; The Holy Ghose on me did glance,
My Father's voice heard from above, To call my true love to my dance;
Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love;
This have I done for my true love.*

READING

John 1:1-14

CAROL

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

arr. Tom Trenney

*I want to walk as a child of the Light, I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world, the star of my life is Jesus.
In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

*I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path. Show me the way to the Father.
In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.*

The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Shine, shine, shine, shine.

*In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine! Shine! Shine in my heart, Lord.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus. Shine!*

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION FROM SCRIPTURE

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

O Nata Lux

Morton Lauridsen

Please eat the bread when you receive your communion cup, then wait and drink the juice after the Elder's prayer. Please let the deacon know if you would prefer a gluten-free option. We encourage you to recycle your communion cup after the service.

*O nata lux de lumine,
Jesu redemptory saeculi,
Dignare Clemens supplicum
Laudes preces que sumere.
Qui carne quondam contegi
Dignatus es pro perditis,
Nos membra confer effici,
Tui beati corporis.*

*O born light of light,
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
mercifully deem worthy and accept
The praises and prayers of your supplicants.
Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh
for the sake of the lost ones,
grant us to be made members
Of your holy body*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Those desiring to make their confession of Faith in Christ or to place their membership in this church are invited to come forward as we sing the closing hymn.

HYMN 129

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

*THE ADVENT BLESSING

The Lord be with you
And also with you
Let us pray

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

May he who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

J.S. Bach



Christmas Eve Service

EVERYONE IS INVITED

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Sunday, Dec. 24

(regular worship services in the morning)

5:00 PM Children's Service

7:00 PM Candlelight Service
(live-streamed)

10:30 PM Organ Prelude

11:00 PM Candlelight Service

ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS DINNER
Sunday, Dec. 17, 6:00 PM



All are invited as we join together for a church family dinner and singing led by our children. Chef Shawn will be serving an Italian feast complete with dessert! Please plan to be a part of this meal as we connect and celebrate. Please scan the QR code to RSVP no later than Dec. 10 by 2:00 PM.

“PASSING THE TORCH” CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
Sunday, Dec. 17, 5:15 PM

Join us for our “Passing the Torch” Christmas pageant presented by Crestwood children and youth. Our church Christmas dinner will immediately follow the program.



POINSETTIA ORDERS
Payments due Dec. 17



Each plant costs \$8. Call the office to place an order (859-266-0459) or use the QR code to sign up. The Poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary by Dec. 22. If you are purchasing a plant, you are welcome to take it home after the Christmas Eve services.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING
Wednesday, Dec. 20, 6 PM

Join us as we spread holiday cheer to some of our neighbors and church members! We'll depart from church at 6 PM and share in some hot chocolate and fellowship when we're done. The whole family is invited to be part of the singing!



ANGEL TREE THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our angel tree program! For those who would like to participate, we are decorating the angel trees with scarves, hats, and mittens through Jan. 1. All winter care clothing will be donated to local charities. Please join us in sharing the warmth of Christ's love.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE
Thursday, Dec. 21, 6:00 PM

We are approaching the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year. Memories of lost loved ones and the pain of present experiences and situations can become overwhelming. While the holidays are supposed to be full of joy, some of us experience sadness, grief, or anxiety. You are not alone. The Stephen Ministers invite you to a service acknowledging and seeking the LIGHT that comes into the darkness. Please invite friends to join you. A soup supper will be served at 5:30 PM. Please RSVP to the church office for supper if you plan to come.



Longest Night Service
6:00 p.m.

**ADVENT SERMON SERIES:
A WEARY WORLD REJOICES**

As we move into the Advent season, we recognize that the story of the birth of Christ carries with it the full range of human emotions: isolation, fear, disbelief, as well as connection, trust, and joy. Christmas for us can be equally charged with emotions, as we seek to celebrate the joy of the season in the midst of stress, grief, and the burden of responsibilities. If we're honest, sometimes Christmas can simply make us...tired. So how do we still rejoice in the midst of our weariness? For Advent, we'll be exploring that question as we look at Luke's version of the birth of Jesus. Join us as we learn how to rejoice in the midst of our worldly weariness.

Dec. 17 - Connecting to Christmas

Dec. 24 - Is There Room to Be Amazed?

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a congregational meeting next Sunday after the 10:45 AM service to approve the 2024 budget.

WHAT'S COMING UP AT CRESTWOOD

December 10, 2023

Monday, December 11

6:30 PM - DWM Julia Circle - Bradford Room/Kitchen
6:30 PM - Book Club - Chi Rho Youth Room

Tuesday, December 12

2:00 PM - Property Team - Bradford Room

Wednesday, December 13

1:00 PM - Bible Study - Bradford Room
2:00 PM - Safety & Security Comm. - Bradford Room

Thursday, December 14

11:00 AM - Bible Study - Bradford Room
6:00 PM - Finance Team - Bradford Room
7:00 PM - Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

Saturday, December 16

9:00 AM - Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Sunday, December 17

8:30 AM - Worship Service
9:30 AM - Sunday School
10:00 AM - Choir Practice
10:45 AM - Worship Service
5:15 PM - Children's Pageant and Dinner
6:00 PM - All-church Fellowship Dinner

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Elders

8:30 AM Natalee Feese
10:45 AM Gayle Hutcherson

Liturgist

8:30 AM Natalee Feese
10:45 AM Jay Prather

Joys and Concerns

MEMBERS: Joe Clark, Terry Fisher, Jo Fulkerson, Peggy Harris, The Family of Jeanna Ott

FAMILY: **Laurel Carinate** (great-niece of Joanne Brown), **Samuel Hammons** (great nephew of Kim and David Powell), **Virginia Sue Hemphill** (sister-in-law of Monte LaFrana), **Emily Barr Richards** (of the McDonalds), **Jim Wallace** (father of Scott Wallace), **The Family of Dorothy Wray** (mother of Sonny Wray)

FRIENDS: **Kent Grannis** (of Doug Wilkinson), **Noelle Parsons** (of Crestwood), **The Family of Ted Warriner** (of the McDonalds), **Valerie Sims** (of Crestwood)

ARMED FORCES: **Alex Back** (son of Andrea Back), **Anar Aliyev** (of Crestwood), **Karlis Bowman** (nephew of Debbie Bowman Gardner), **Matt Holman** (son of Gaye Holman), **Daniel Day** (grandson of John and Carol Royse and son of Tracy Day), **Bud DeLacey** (nephew of Matt and Michelle DeLacey), **Zoe McIntyre** (granddaughter of John Sims), **Ashlyn Marra-Sigler & Daniel Sigler** (daughter-in law & son of David and Pam Sigler)

HEART-TO-HEART MEMBERS: Karen Billings, Margaret Buchanan, Joe Clark, Dick Featherston, Sylvia Griffin, Jacqueline Lindsey, Buzz Mattingly, Betty Shanklin, John Sims, John & Carolyn Thomas, Buddy & Lucy Wheeler

OUR WORLD COMMUNITY: We pray for the victims & loved ones impacted by violence, inmates of the Fayette County Detention Center & their families, for an end to the war in Ukraine, for the peace of God to rule in the hearts of our local & national leaders, for those affected by COVID & natural disasters, & for God's spirit of reconciliation to bring healing during these difficult times.

Our Church Staff

Rev. Kory Wilcoxson, Senior Minister
Steph Wallace, Student Associate Minister
Missy Wallace, Children's Minister
Rev. Kelly Hale, Interim Minister of Pastoral Care

Erin Rusher, Office Administrator
Jim Cristi, Facilities Manager
Frank Spragens, Music Director
Cindy Abernathy, Pianist

Jane Johnson, Organist
Tara Monzon, PDO Director
Amber Combs, Childcare Center Director

Crestwood Christian Church

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