

December 17, 2023

8:30 & 10:45 AM

Gathering

WELCOME

*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

Of the Father's Love Begotten arr. Wilbur Held

*We invite you to use this time for quiet prayer and preparation for worship.*

Connecting with God

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This Advent season, we wait...

**People: We wait for the Christ child to give us hope.**

Leader: This Advent season, we wait...

**People: We wait for the Prince of Peace to calm our fears.**

Leader: This Advent season, we wait...

**People: We wait for the reminder that God is with us.**

Leader: Let us look forward to the coming of Jesus once again.

**People: We wait with great anticipate and joy!**

\*HYMN

The Way to Bethlehem GREENSLEEVES  
©Erin Wathen, 2005

Show us the way to Bethlehem, O Prophet you have spoken.  
You listened in the darkest night, God's silence now is broken.

*Teach, teach us how to wait, for secrets in God's keeping.  
Lead, lead us to the place where God, the child, lies sleeping.*

Show us the way to Bethlehem, God's chosen mother, Mary.  
We wait with you in joy to see the miracle you carry.

*Chorus*

Show us the way to Bethlehem, you Shepherds in your wonder.  
Your star, a sign that peace will come, and evil lie asunder.

*Chorus*

Show us the way to Bethlehem, all you who know this story.  
The wilderness behind us now, we see God's waking glory.

*Chorus*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

8:30 John and Laura Hatfield  
10:45 The Moore Family

CHILDREN'S TIME (10:45)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

ANTHEM

All Bells in Paradise John Rutter

Proclaiming God's Word

READING FROM SCRIPTURE Luke 1:24-45  
*In the pew Bibles, on page 58 of the Second Testament*

SERMON A WEARY WORLD REJOICES SERMON SERIES  
Connecting to Christmas Rev. Dr. Kory Wilcoxson

HYMN 124 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (v1 & 2) PICARDY

Responding to God's Word

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY Once He Came in Blessing Marcel Dupre'

\*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him all creatures here below; Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; OR Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen. Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION FROM SCRIPTURE

SHARING OF THE BREAD & CUP  
O Come, O Come Emmanuel arr. Leonard Danek  
*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.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Putting Faith into Action

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP  
*If you are interested in joining the church, please come forward during the closing hymn.*

\*HYMN 132 When God Is a Child MOON BEAMS

\*BENEDICTION

RESPONSE Rejoice

POSTLUDE Prepare the Royal Highway arr. Wilbur Held

\* \* \*

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

As we move into the Advent season, we recognize that the story of 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. 24 - Luke 1:57-66 - Is There Room to Be Amazed?

**"PASSING THE TORCH" CHRISTMAS PAGEANT  
Today, 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.

**ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS DINNER  
Today, 6:00 PM**

All are invited as we join together for a church family dinner. Chef Shawn will be serving an Italian feast and DWM is providing dessert! Please plan to be a part of this meal as we connect and celebrate.



**CHRISTMAS CAROLING  
Wednesday, Dec. 20, 6:00 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!



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

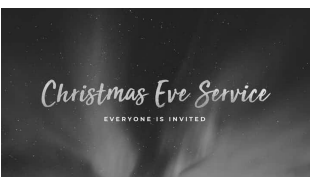


Longest Night Service  
6:00 p.m.

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.

**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



## Joys and Concerns

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

**FAMILY:** **Laurel Cardinale** (great-niece of Joanne Brown), **Bob Chapman** (brother of Pat Nielsen), **Cindy Ebersold** (sister of Pat Nielsen), **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), **Ricky Gray** (of Susan and Kendall Hart), **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 Roys 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 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.

### Next Sunday

A Weary World Rejoices  
Sermon Series  
Is There Room to Be Amazed?  
Luke 1:57-66  
Rev. Dr. Kory Wilcoxson

### Today's Worship Leaders

**Elder**  
8:30 Natalee Feese  
10:45 Jay Prather

**Liturgist**  
8:30 Nate Feese  
10:45 Roberta Buckley

## WHAT'S COMING UP AT CRESTWOOD December 17, 2023

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### Tuesday, December 19

9:45 AM - DWM Naomi Circle - Bradford Room

#### Wednesday, December 20

10:00 AM - DWM Dorcas Circle - Chalice Hall

1:00 PM - Bible Study - Bradford Room

6:00 PM - All-church Caroling

#### Thursday, December 21

11:00 AM - Bible Study - Bradford Room

5:30 PM - Longest Night Dinner - Chalice Hall

6:00 PM - Longest Night Service - Sanctuary

7:00 PM - Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

#### Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

8:30 AM - Worship Service

9:30 AM - Sunday School

10:00 AM - Choir Practice

10:45 AM - Worship Service

5:00 PM - Children's Christmas Eve Service (Livestreamed)

7:00 PM - Candlelight Service

10:30 PM - Organ Prelude

11:00 PM - Candlelight Service

#### Monday, December 25 - Monday, Jan. 1

Office Closed

### CHURCH STAFF

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

Frank Spragens, Music Director  
Cindy Abernathy, Pianist  
Jane Johnson, Organist  
Amber Combs, Childcare Director  
Tara Monzon, PDO Director



A Weary World Rejoices  
Sermon Series  
Connecting to Christmas  
Luke 1:24-45  
Rev. Dr. Kory Wilcoxson

December 17, 2023  
8:30 and 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.*

### CRESTWOOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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