

CHRISTMAS EVE



2024

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
DECEMBER 24, 2024



Crescent Hill
BAPTIST CHURCH

We gather to worship the Living God. In order to focus our hearts on this purpose, we ask that you silence all cell phones, alarm watches, and other electronic devices.

CHIMING OF THE CARILLION

GREETING

Jordan S. Conley

INTROIT

Sweet Little Jesus Boy

Robert MacGimsey

Gregory Emmanuel Rahming, bass-baritone

BIDDING PRAYER

Hilary Jones

*CAROL OF PRAISE 173

O Come All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

Stanzas 1, 3, 4

arr. David Willcocks

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him,
born the King of angels.

Refrain: O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation!
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
“Glory to God, all glory in the highest”; **Refrain**
Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; **Refrain**

*GOSPEL LESSON: PEW BIBLE, P. 58

Luke 2:1-20

Rick Forest

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

INTERLUDE

What Child Is This?

GREENSLEEVES

Louie Bailey, piano

arr. Louie Bailey

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Cross Family

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. (Isaiah 9:2-7)

All: Joy to the world! The Lord is come!

One: As we light the Christ Candle, its flame shines upon our smiles and tears. It shines through the carols and the familiar tales of old. It shines upon the shepherds in their fields and the humble family huddled around a manger. It shines on this winter night, as in Bethlehem long ago.

All: Joy to the world! The Lord is come!

One: The light shines in the darkness!

All: And the darkness has not overcome it.

*CAROL OF CHRISTMAS 147

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the heavens looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Anonymous, 1885; st. 3, 1892, alt.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Corrie Hammons

OFFERING OF OURSELVES, OUR TITHES, & OUR GIFTS

Ten percent of otherwise undesignated gifts will go to the church's benevolence fund to help the needy in our community.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

Gregory Emmanuel Rahming, bass-baritone; Louie Bailey, piano

*CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY

Glory Be to God on High

GLORIA

Glory be to God on high, to our Savior Christ the Son, to the Spirit, ever near.
Sing we to the Three-in-One: Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo. Amen.

Louie Bailey, 1994

*CAROL 170

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Edmund H. Sears, 1849, alt.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

CHRISTMAS HOMILY

Jordan S. Conley

CHRISTMAS ACCORDING
TO THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

John 1:1-5, 10-14

PEW BIBLE, P. 91

*Please share the light with others seated in your pew.
+During the last stanza, all may raise their candle.*

*SHARING OF THE LIGHT 164

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and Child,
holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;

Christ, the Savior, is born,
Christ, the Savior, is born.

+Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Joseph Mohr, 1818; tr. John F. Young, 1863

*CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Jordan S. Conley

*CAROL OF CELEBRATION

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Issac Watts, 1719

POSTLUDE

Christmas Reflections

Louie Bailey

*Worshippers are invited to rise, in body or spirit.

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- Listening devices are available for use. Please see an usher or a member of our Tech Team for assistance. Our Technology Team members are: Chris Jones, Eileen Bartlett, John Arnett, & Darrell Adams.

Today's Worship Leaders

Jason Conn and his husband, **Keith Rousey**, are Louisville natives, and spent their childhood years within the Baptist church. They have been together for 26 years, and have been married for nine years. They are parental guardians of Brynlee, Jordyn, and Grayson Cross.

Rick Forest has been a member of Crescent Hill Baptist Church for over 30 years. He is a graduate from Southern Seminary and received his doctorate from Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond. Rick now co-teaches the Barnabas Sunday School class and, he serves as a Chaplin at Norton Children's Hospital.

Corrie Hammons has been a member of Crescent Hill her whole life. She has spent several summers as a children's ministry intern, and has recently started a position at the Belle of Louisville. In her free time, Corrie enjoys playing music, reading, and playing with her border collie, Kenobi!

Hilary Jones has been a member of Crescent Hill for the majority of her life, spanning preschool through college and young adult years. This has been a formative place for her, and she is now involved in the Children's Ministry. When not at church, she can be found working as the Guest Services Manager at the Belle of Louisville Riverboats. She resides in Jeffersontown with her husband Chris, daughter Amelia, two cats and a puppy.

Gregory Rahming has been a member of Crescent Hill Baptist Church since 2011. He has served as Vocal Instructor at Sacred Heart School for the Arts, Vocal Professor at Simmons College of Kentucky and is currently the Vocal Instructor at Kentucky Country Day. He is the Co-Founder/Artistic Director of The Mari-Ella Academy of Vocal Arts, and the Founder/Artistic Director of local singing group "2ND CHANCE".

Staff Contacts

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Crescent Hill is an inclusive community of faith rooted in the Baptist tradition. We're a little different than other churches. We welcome all, regardless of race, age, creed, physical abilities, marital or economic status, gender identity, or sexual orientation. No matter where this day finds you, know that you are the beloved of God & there is space for you here...welcome home.



Find our live-stream online at *Crescent Hill Baptist Church*.



At most gatherings, an American Sign Language interpreter is at the front of the Sanctuary.

Our Partners in Ministry:





Crescent Hill
BAPTIST CHURCH
A Church for All People

What are you looking for?

That's the question Jesus asked in John's Gospel before inviting the disciples to,
"Come and see."

What are **you** looking for?

Crescent Hill Baptist Church is a **progressive community of faith**.
"A Church For All People", committed to practicing the radical love of Jesus Christ.



If you're looking for a place of belonging,
if you're looking for a community that cherishes

life as a gift,

a church that is committed to practicing the
radical hospitality of Jesus, then we invite you

to

"Come and See."

We wholly affirm that all of us
are beloved of God.

No exceptions.

So, what are **you** looking for?

Welcome Home.

Thank
you

Dearest church family,

We cannot begin to put into words the love and care that you have shown to Nick and me through the devastating loss of Matthew. Thank you for being there for us in so many ways. You exhibit the true meaning of church.

We love you,
-Debbie and Nick

Kentucky Refugee Ministries Coat Drive

We are now collecting new or gently used coats, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, boots, etc. for Kentucky Refugee Ministries. There will be a donation box located in Birchwood Lobby. All coat sizes for all ages will be accepted. Donations will be collected throughout January. Thank you!



The Unlikely Saints Sunday School Class - New Book Series

Victoria Ragsdell will lead the Unlikely Saints Sunday School class in a new book study series of, *The Road to Wisdom* by Francis S. Collins. **This series will begin on January 5** and discussions of the four milestones—Truth, Science, Faith and Trust will follow on January 12, 19 and 26 and February 2. Starting February 9 Victoria will lead our discussions titled, “So What?” and “What’s Next?” Books can be purchased at Carmichaels, Amazon, Thrift Books, EBay and Audible. Summaries for each session which will be emailed and will be available in class. So, mark your calendars and invite friends to journey on the road with us! The Unlikely Saints Sunday School Class meets at 9:30 am in Room 211 across from the elevator on the second floor.

January

5

9:30 AM

A Message from the Social Justice Team



The social justice team is seeking church support to sponsor a Congolese family arriving on January 9, 2025. Ways to help include: donating towards the first three months' rent (estimated at \$2500), offering your time to clean, shop, and welcome the family, or providing gently used household items. A list of required items will be available soon in the church office. You can now scan the QR Code to view the list of needed items and to sign up for donations. Thank you for your support as we collaborate with Kentucky Refugee Ministries to welcome this family!

January

19

9:30 AM

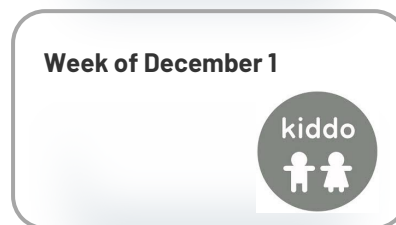
How We Resist: An Exploration of Resistance and Resilience

The Justice Center, part of the All Peoples Unitarian Universalist Congregation, aims to teach justice activism within the community. Join the initial conversation at All Peoples Congregation (4934 Brownsboro Road) to discuss the link between resilience and resistance, acknowledge current resistance efforts, and strengthen connections. The event is free and requires no registration. For more information, contact justicecenter@allpeoplesuu.com.

Little Free Pantry End-of-Year Adoptions

The following neighboring businesses have volunteered to adopt our CHBC Little Free Pantry!

If you can, stop by these local shops and say thanks!



Weekly Prayer Concerns

We pray for Terry Pound; Rickey Geary-Bayman; Eugina Robertson; Margot McCall Lehocky; Jose Chipe; Dr. Glenn Hinson; CJ Phipps; Betty Schnur; Judy Hodge; and, Lolly Tucker. Also, Rickey Geary-Bayman's friend, Monnie Farmer; Lisa Howser and Patti Speck's stepfather, Merrill Smith; Ann Cottone's father, John Revel; Annie Hammon's niece; Nancy; Adrienne Eisenmenger's grandmother, Betty Gorham; Kat Goodman's friend, Danny Campbell; Kay Sanders' friend, Sharon Wilson; Joyce Deboe's friend, Phyllis; Joelle Pope; Jane Zupetz's husband, Charlie; and, Kay Sanders' aunt, Kakai. For those affected by the conflict in Palestine & Israel. We pray for our CBF Field Personnel: Rick & Ellen Burnette, Steve Clark & Annette Ellard and Scarlett Jasper. We pray for healthcare workers, as well as school personnel and students. We pray for those affected by gun violence in our city and nation.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

December 2024 Projected Budget Offerings: **\$38,333**

Total December Offerings received (includes online giving through 12/12): **\$32,874**

Total December Revenue (includes online giving through 12/12): **\$34,693**

For Comparison:

December 2023 Budget Offerings received: **\$37,498**

Total Revenue for December 2023: **\$70,284**

**We're glad
you're here**

If you are a guest with us today and would like to let us know a little more about yourself, please take a moment to scan the QR Code.

