



**THE WORSHIP OF GOD**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
*DECEMBER 22, 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 HOUR

## PRELUDE

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

*Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!*

## GREETING

Jordan S. Conley

## THE WORK &amp; WITNESS OF OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

If you are a guest at Crescent Hill, consider filling out one of our connection cards in the pew rack in front of you, or scanning the QR code on the back of your worship folder. We'll reach out to connect about our community, one that we'd love for you to be a part of.

## ENTRANCE INTO WORSHIP

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The night is far gone.

**All: The day is near.**

One: And so we wait.

**All: We wait with hope,**

One: For the brokenhearted to be healed,

**All: For the downtrodden to be lifted up.*****We wait for the coming of the Christ child.****-Johanna Harader, Spacious Faith*SONG OF HOPE, PEACE, JOY & LOVE *When God Is a Child*

Joan Collier Fogg

Hope is a star that shines in the night, leading us on till the morning is bright.

***Refrain: When God is a child there's joy in our song.******The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong.******And none shall be afraid.***Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth, giving a promise of safety and worth. ***Refrain***Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn, telling the world that the Savior is born. ***Refrain***Love is a flame that burns in our heart. Jesus has come and will never depart. ***Refrain****Brian Wren, 1989 in Bring Many Names*

## LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE

Crosby Family

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE 135

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear Desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a king.  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit rule  
in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

*Charles Wesley, 1744*

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

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

MUSICAL REFLECTION

*While By the Sheep*

German Carol  
arr. John Rutter

Chancel Ensemble; Louie Bailey, conductor and piano

While by the sheep we watched at night,  
Glad tidings brought an angel bright.

There shall the Child lie in a stall,  
This Child who shall redeem us all.

How great our joy! Great our joy!  
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!  
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!  
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

This gift of God we'll cherish well,  
That ever joy our hearts shall fill.

There shall be born, so He did say,  
In Bethlehem a Child today.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Corrie Hammons

\*HYMN OF CHRISTMAS

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

REGENT SQUARE

Angels from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation's story  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Sages, leave your contemplations,  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations;  
ye have seen his natal star: **Refrain**

**Refrain:** Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Saints before the altar bending,  
watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
in his temple shall appear. **Refrain**

Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
yonder shines the infant light: **Refrain**

Though an infant now we view him  
He will share his Father's throne,  
Gather all the nations to him;  
Every knee shall then bow down. **Refrain**

*James Montgomery, 1816, 1825, alt.*

WORDS FOR THE JOURNEY

*A Prolonged Visit*

Jordan S. Conley

DISCIPLINE OF SILENCE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

David Graves

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 forever. Amen.**

OFFERING OF OURSELVES, OUR TITHES, & OUR GIFTS

*Our regular tithes and offerings support the budgeted ministries of Crescent Hill Baptist Church.*

MUSICAL OFFERING

*Ave Maria*

J.S. Bach/Charles Gounod

Max Magar, piano

\*ADVENT DOXOLOGY

*O Source of Love, the Giver and the Gift*

VENI EMMANUEL

O Source of Love, the Giver and the Gift, with glad and gen'rous hearts we now uplift

Our voices in eternal praise, for all your gifts that crown our days.

O Lord, our God, our hearts to thee are bound to share your hope with people all around. Amen.

*Louie Bailey, Advent 2012*

\*ADVENT PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Jordan S. Conley

One: Holy One, this Advent season we wait in love.

**All: And we give in love.**

One: Love for your coming reign;

**All: Love because of your presence with us even now.**

One: Receive these generous offerings,

**All: And use them for your work of healing and love in our world. Amen.**

\*INVITATION TO RESPOND

Crescent Hill is a welcoming community of faith. We invite those seeking baptism for the first time, or those seeking to join our fellowship from another faith community to come forward during the Hymn of Response. Rather than a place of guilt, we invite you to come forward to claim your identity as the beloved of God united in beloved community. Welcome home.

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE

*The First Noel*

THE FIRST NOEL

The first Noel the angel did say,  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

**Refrain:** Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. **Refrain.**

And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. **Refrain.**

This star drew nigh to the northwest;  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay. **Refrain.**

Then entered in those wise men three,  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. **Refrain.**

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his love our life hath bought. **Refrain.**

\*BENEDICTION

Jordan S. Conley

POSTLUDE

*Morning Reflections*

Louie Bailey

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

- Texts are reprinted by permission of CCLI License 1801331 and One License A718444.
- We invite those who wish to be baptized or join the church to share that decision with the church near the conclusion of worship. However, if you would prefer to explore baptism or church membership privately, the ministers would be glad to discuss those decisions with you following worship.

# Today's Worship Leaders

**Melanie Debusman Bunger** was born into Crescent Hill Baptist Church. Growing up here has endeared CHBC to a special place in her heart and she has severed in many ways over the years. She loves being with her family including mom-Amelia Debusman, husband-Brian Bunger, their two children - Rachel and William and a new son-in-law, Ryan Miranda. Melanie is employed at Norton Healthcare as an accountant. In her spare time she enjoys gardening, reading and cooking.

**David Graves** first joined Crescent Hill Baptist Church in 1956, and served as our Minister to Youth while in graduate school. During his career, he was the Executive Director of the Home of the Innocents, Brooklawn, and then interim director of numerous non profit human services agencies. This year he celebrated his 80th birthday, and he and his wife Margaret celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

**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!

**Max Magar** is a 2024 graduating senior. He has been active in the Upper School Choir and the Drama Troupe in *Fiddler on the Roof*.

---

## Staff Contacts

### Rev. Jordan Conley

Pastor

[jordan@chbcky.org](mailto:jordan@chbcky.org)

### Ann Cottone

Building Administrator

[ann@chbcky.org](mailto:ann@chbcky.org)

### Rev. Dr. Louie Bailey

Minister of Music/Organist

[louie@chbcky.org](mailto:louie@chbcky.org)

### Bobbe Crouch

Financial Secretary

[bobbe@chbcky.org](mailto:bobbe@chbcky.org)

### Lillian Gordon

Communications Specialist

[lillian@chbcky.org](mailto:lillian@chbcky.org)

---

*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:



# Advent

## Words for the Beginning



**DEC**  
**22**

**Advent IV -- Love**  
**(10:45 AM)**



**DEC**  
**24**

**Christmas Eve**  
**Candlelight Service**  
**(5:30 PM)**

### Upcoming Church Office Schedule

**December 24:** Office Closed at 12pm

**December 25 - December 27:** Office Closed

**December 31:** Office Closed at 12pm

**January 1:** Office Closed

**December 29,**  
**A Service of Carols & Prayer, 10:45 AM**  
**There will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL this day**

- *Words for the Beginning theme and graphics adapted from A Sanctified Art | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).*

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](mailto:justicecenter@allpeoplesuu.com).

At the December Ministry Forum, the congregation was provided with a document outlining the Church Council's recommendation about Highland Latin School. Printed copies are available for members in the church office. If you want a digital copy of this document, please email Ann Cottone at [ann@chbcky.org](mailto:ann@chbcky.org). Church Council will provide more details in the days ahead about a congregational vote to be held on a Sunday in January 2025.

## 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 needed items will be available in the church office soon. Thank you for your support as we collaborate with Kentucky Refugee Ministries to welcome this family!

*Thank you*

How blessed we are to be part of the family of faith at Crescent Hill Baptist Church! I Attended the Sunday Morning Worship last week for the first time since Terry's Stage 4 Esophageal cancer diagnosis. I had a chance at the end of the service to thank the congregation for all the prayers and acts of love and kindness that we have received, and also to give a status report on Terry. The acts of love and kindness include food prepared, offering rides for Terry when I'm not able to, checking in, sharing of people's own cancer journey and so much more.

"How could we ever repay them?" Terry would say..to which I now say, "Nothing is required in return. It's an act of love for us. We just need to accept it graciously."

The overwhelming support and love for us have touched us so much more than words can ever express.

Thank you, Crescent Hill family, for your love.

-

Mitz Nabekura

## 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!



### 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!

Week of November 17

**barre 3**

Week of December 8

  
**PARLOUR**  
PEOPLE • PIZZA • PINTS

Week of November 24

**THE WINE RACK**

Week of December 15

**Margaret's**  
FINE CONSIGNMENTS

Week of December 29

 **LOUISVILLE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Week of December 1

**kiddo**  


Week of December 22

**REDHOG**

### Weekly Prayer Concerns

We extend Christian sympathy to the family of Berniece Thomas, who passed away last week. 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 Budget Offerings (includes online giving through 12/12): **\$32,874**

Total December 2024 Revenue (includes online giving through 12/12): **\$34,693**

**2024 Pledged for 2025 Update: Total amount pledged: \$222,354** (Total pledges received: 31)

#### For Comparison:

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

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

**2023 Pledges for 2024: Total amount pledged: \$340,664** (Total pledges received: 63)

**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.

