(Portions of today's liturgy were adapted from "The Book of Common Worship," Westminster John Knox Press, 2018. We are also grateful to Imani Fellowship (Vallejo, CA) and West Cincinnati Presbyterian Church for access to past worship resources, courtesy of Rev. Tinsley. Daily Readings from Vanderbilt Lectionary. Cover art: clipground.com)

College Hill Community Church
(Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.)
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On the web at collegehillcommunitychurch.org and on Facebook

Daily Lectionary Readings

- **Monday, November 30, 2026:** Psalm 79; Micah 4:1-5; Revelation 15:1-8;
- **Tuesday, December 01, 2026:** Psalm 79; Micah 4:6-13; Revelation 18:1-10;
- **Wednesday, December 02, 2026:** Psalm 79; Micah 5:1-5a; Luke 21:34-38;
- **Thursday, December 03, 2026:** Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Hosea 6:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10;
- **Friday, December 04, 2026:** Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Acts 11:19-26;
- **Saturday, December 05, 2026:** Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Ezekiel 36:24-28; Mark 11:27-33;

Land Acknowledgement

We are on land that was faithfully stewarded and kept by indigenous people for countless generations. We honor and acknowledge that the following Nations and Tribes were present in the area now known as Montgomery County: Chippewa; Delaware; Eel River (Miami; Kaskaskia (Miami, Peoria); Kickapoo; Miami; Ottawa; Piankishaw (Miami, Peoria); Potawatomi; Shawnee; Wea (Peoria); and Wyandot. We acknowledge that the land was taken from these people with violence and without treaty. We recognize, too, that this was often done under cover of Christianity and the doctrine of discovery, which we renounce. We lament the misuse of our religion to oppress and kill. We honor the Indigenous people's ongoing work for recognition and their fight to recover that relationship with the land that has been so damaged by centuries of violence and oppression.
We also want to acknowledge that as we continue to honor the land and her people, we have amongst us who are indigenous people displaced from other places. We care and acknowledge them in this statement of joy.



First Sunday of Advent

COLLEGE HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

(PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, U.S.A.)
1547 Philadelphia Drive Dayton, Ohio 45406

"Serving the God who loves and values all."

ORDER OF SERVICE

November 29, 2026

First Sunday of Advent; Hanging of the Greens Observance

PRELUDE ***José LaMont Jones*** **ACOLYTE** ***Imani Johnson***

GATHERING PRAYER: In Unison
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and recue captive Israel! Eternal God, through long generations you prepared a way for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths. Renew us in faith and hope, so that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love, as Lord of lords and King of kings, to whom be glory always. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel! Allelujah! Amen and Àṣẹ.

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN ***When Morning Gilds the Skies*** **PH 487**

CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader: *The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise:*
All: I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice
and righteousness in the land. (Jer.33:14a, 15)
Leader: *Salvation is nearer to us now*
All: than when we first became believers;
Leader: *the night is far gone,*
All: the day is near.
Leader: *Let us then lay aside the works of darkness*
All: and put on the armor of light. (Rom. 13:11-12)

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE – HOPE
The Pulliam-Nju Family

As we begin this season anew, we gather with age-old burdens. Somehow these burdens feel fresh, even as our shoulders may be heavy with having carried them for so long. What word can Advent speak into such weariness? We do not gather seeking easy

Advent

"Advent" means "coming" or "arrival." During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ's coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. In its historical origins, the season of Advent was patterned after the season of Lent, a six-week period of penitence and preparation for Easter. Similarly, the four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination, as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ's return. (PCUSA)

Between Memory and Hope:

In Advent we expectantly wait for the One who has already come. We anticipate th promised justice of God's new world, yet we praise God who raised the "righteous branch" to rule with justice and righteousness. We hope for the restoration of the afflicted, the tormented, and the grieving, yet we delight that healing has come in Christ. We long for the beating of swords, into plowshares, yet we rejoice that the Prince of Peace has appeared. We yearn for the barren deserts of our inner cities to flourish, yet we laud the desert Rose that has bloomed. We dream of the land whe lions and lambs live in harmony, yet we acclaim the child born to lead us into the promised land. Christ has come! Christ is risen! Christ will come again! In Advent, we are living between the first and the second coming of the Lord. The dialectical tension of maranatha [alternately translated "Come, our Lord!" or "Our Lord has come"] - placing us between memory and hope, past and future - may strengthen our Advent liturgies. Perhaps we need to cling to the ancient cry of maranatha! and its paradoxical meanings so we may freely embrace "the new thing" prophesied by Isaiah (Isaiah 43:19) that God is doing among us right now. The tension and paradox we find in Advent shapes our celebrations during the season.

An excerpt from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship (Geneva Press, 2003, p. 96)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, December 2nd at 6:30pm. The study we are using for Advent is *Weeks of Reflection on Christ's Coming* - The first week is "A Thrill of Hope" based on John 1:1-14; and Genesis 1: 1-5. The zoom link will be in your email.

Christian Education is seeking a format to encourage participation in adult Bible study.
A short survey is in your bulletin today. We want to know what subject interests you and in what time you would participate. Perhaps we could meet after worship service with some snacks available. Because of demands on people's time, we wonder about a once-a-month format for study. Please fill out the survey asking you these few questions and place it in the offering plate to help with our planning.

Ullery-Elam Public Relations and the CHCC Worship and Music Ministry have teamed up to provide a Blue Christmas Service of Scriptures, Song, and Prayer to address the anxieties of the times and develop mental, emotional, and spiritual resiliency in our community. The Lord is our strength and our refuge. December 17, 2026 @ 6 PM.

Collaborative Congregations Zoom Advent Bible Study: You are welcome to join members of other churches in our presbytery in "Embodied Light," a weekly Zoom devotional study for Advent using a book by Rev. Melissa Tidwell, a former pastor in our presbytery, who will lead the study. The study happens each Monday in Advent at 7:00 pm (see dates below). The book is available through online sources such as Better World Books or Upper Room Books. For details contact Larry Hollar.

Bach Society Holiday Concert: Hear beautiful and sacred songs of the holiday season at the Bach Society of Dayton's much-beloved "Sweet Sounds of the Holidays" concert on Sunday, December 6, at 4:00 pm, at the Kettering Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 3939 Stonebridge Rd, Kettering. For information and tickets, see bachsocietyofdayton.org, or ask Larry Hollar for more information.

SPECIAL PRAYERS: Prayers for Rev.Tinsley,Brenda Brown, Pamela Byrd, Carole Estelle for the loss of her mother, and for Shannon Estelle for the loss of her grandmother, Gloria Gates & her son, Michael Love, Rosalyn Givens, Lloyd Jones, Sandra March, Clarissa Moore, Patricia Powell, and Nelson Stone.
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answers. We gather to await a presence: Emmanuel, God with us. We gather in community with those who have walked these difficult valleys before. We call the first candle Hope. Hear God's promise of Hope from Romans 15:13: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.
Let us pray. Comforting God, be present to us today in the presence of one another. Reveal your Spirit among us in the love of your church. Give us hope in the midst of distress. Like a candle on a winter's evening, shine your light into the difficult corners of our lives. Remind us that we are never alone because your love for us never fails. We pray this in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Leader: *College Hill Community Church seeks to serve God in all that we do, and in how we live our lives. These are weekly announcements describing some of our faithful actions*
as God's people

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION LEADERS ANNOUNCE PLANS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

CHOIR ANTHEM *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* PH 9

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: *Come to me, all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.* (Matthew 11:28-30) *Let us rest in God's mercy as we pray together.*
All: God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom. We have lived casual lives, and ignored your prolonged judgment. We have been slow to serve you and our neighbors. Have mercy on us and forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior, whose coming we await. Amen.

A moment of silent reflection is kept

Leader: *We can surely agree with the prophet Isaiah and affirm God as our salvation – for Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. Is not this reason enough to shout aloud and sing with*
joy? Rejoice then, and hear the word of grace and the assurance of pardon that in Jesus Christ you are forgiven.
All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI PH 579

WELCOME TO ALL WORSHIPING WITH US

Leader: *College Hill Community Church welcomes diversity in our worship and above all in the works of ministry that we do in our community and throughout the world. We welcome everyone to join in serving God and neighbor.*
Líder: *La Iglesia Comunitaria de College Hill acoge la diversidad en nuestro culto y, sobre todo, en las obras ministeriales que realizamos en nuestra comunidad y en todo el mundo. Invitamos a todos a unirse al servicio de Dios y al prójimo.*
Leader*: If you are worshipping with us for the first time today—or are back with us after a long time away—please share your name with us so we can welcome you.*
Lider: *Si usted está participando hoy en este servicio con nosotros por primera vez--o está de regreso con nosotros después de un largo tiempo fuera--por favor comparta su nombre con nosotros para que podamos darle la bienvenida.*

COLLECT PRAYER SHEETS AND PASSING THE PEACE
Leader: *If you have written out prayer requests on the sheets in your pews, the ushers will collect those requests now and they will be read during our prayer time.*
Lider: *Si usted ha preparado una oración escrita en los papeles en su banco, en este momento los ujieres vienen para recogerlas, y serán leídas durante el tiempo de oración.*
Leader: *Please stand now in body or in spirit and share the peace of Christ by saying: "The peace of Christ be with you." And in Spanish we say:*
Líder: *"La paz de Cristo esté contigo."*
Kiongozi: *And in Swahili we say: "Amani ya Kristo iwe nanyi."*

THE MEANING OF THE HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE
Kathy Lakes

Reader: *Advent means "Coming," and it is a time when we prepare ourselves for the coming of our Messiah. The Advent season is a time for reflection and joyful preparation. Advent proclaims the revelation of God's love as expressed in Christ's birth in a humble stable. It points to the hope of Christ's coming again as the King of kings and Lord of lords. Advent makes innkeepers out of all of us, asking each of us to make room for the arrival of Christ the King. Let us today, in this Hanging of the Greens service, prepare him room in our hearts, our lives, and our homes. Would you please hang the wreaths in the windows at this time, and will James come forward to light our star. A star in the sky, carols in the evening air, a candle in the window, a wreath on the door, poinsettias aflame with brilliant color, families reunited in love, church bells ringing… This is Christmas! These evergreens throughout our sanctuary symbolize the unchanging nature of our God, and they remind us of the everlasting life that is ours through Christ Jesus.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS
Isaiah 64:1-9; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

SERMON: ***"Now consider, we are all your people."***
Rev. Dr. Charles D. Tinsley, IV

HYMN ***Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*** **PH 464**

TOGETHER WE CONFIRM THE MISSION OF THIS CHURCH:
All: The mission of College Hill Community Church is "Serving the God who loves and values all."

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY PH 592

OFFERTORY PRAYER

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS **Debra Byrd**
Reader: *Christmas joy naturally overflows into music and this joy is heard in the ringing of Christmas bells. Of all our Christmas symbols, the bell has experienced little change and the sound of bells still gladdens our hearts. Bells are a reminder of the voices of the angels so long ago when Christ was born, and bells remain as securely in our presence today. Let us make a joyful noise in expectation of the Baby Jesus by ringing our bells as we sing our hymn.*
HYMN ***Go, Tell It on the Mountain*** **PH 29**

CHARGE
Líder*: Dios todopoderoso, tú nos has hecho a nosotros y a todas las cosas para servirte. Ahora prepara el mundo para tu reino. Ven pronto a salvarnos, para que terminen las guerras y la violencia, y tus hijos e hijas vivan en paz, honrándose unos a otros con justicia y amor, por Jesucristo nuestro Salvador***. Todos: Amén.**
Leader: *Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you. Now prepare the world for your rule. Come quickly to save us, so that wars and violence shall end, and your children may live in peace, honoring one another with justice and love, through Jesus Christ our Savior***. All: Amen.**

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN ***Go with God***
POSTLUDE