

The Church's Liturgical Year: Advent of Hope not Wishes



THIS IS A TEST

What do you see? What does this symbol have to do with Advent?

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to the anniversary of Jesus Christ's birth and His second coming at the end of time. In these trying times of terrorist threats, war, death, stress and pain, **CHPC's Advent Preaching Series focuses on HOPE...real hope.**

As a grade school child, preparing for the Winter Holidays was confusing at best. No holly and ivy at my school, just silver and blue. My parents arrived for the Holiday Pageant and learned I could dance the *horah*. Carols were sung in English and Chanukah songs in Hebrew. What fun! Then my family went home to watch the electric train circle our tinsel tree. Cookies were baked and presents made for *our* holiday celebration that was somehow different. Both holiday celebrations are rooted in miracles of God. But my family missed that message. Holidays floated by on traditions and whatever the current emotions were until 'Christmas' came.

There was no place in my life for Advent until I knew the 'babe in the manger' as my Savior and Lord. I became part of a worshipping church that celebrated Advent for *four weeks*. We considered what we did not have to do before Christmas. We considered how we could use the time to fall more in love with Christ and pass that love on to others.

Advent colors, textures, sounds, scents and stories enriched the days. We made time to learn of the 'fullness of time' into which Christ came. We learned of God the Father's love given so we could reflect His Glory. Rather than depression, fear and anxiety, THE HOPE of the world, Jesus Christ bursts into life anew.

So what does all this have to do with the odd triangular symbol?

For starters, the design is the Celtic symbol for HOPE. It is made up of two 'never-ending' symbols, a ring and a triquetra — a triangular shape. If you place a pencil on either of these shapes and trace a path around them, you would return to your starting point.

The triquetra was used by pagans in Northern Europe and artists in Japan. When Christians added the interwoven circle, the Celtic knot became a symbol of God's love revealed by the Holy Trinity. Interestingly, this symbol predates the use of the cross in worship settings. Rock stars to video games to TV show have adopted all or part of the design without much thought to its real meaning.

REAL HOPE vs WISHES

That rousing chorus of 'We *Wish* You a Merry Christmas...' or signing Christmas

/Holiday *Wishes* on a greeting card, plays into the confusion of the season. In English, we use the word 'wish' to refer to things that are impossible or won't happen: "I wish I could fly" or "I wish Christmas would come faster."

By contrast, using 'I hope' or 'Hope' as a noun occurs when there is a good chance or a certainty about something. That's why the Celtic symbol is such a good reminder of

- Hope in the eternal God — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — *the Trinity is a sure thing.*
- *God's plan is a sure thing.* Christ has come. Christ is coming. Christ is coming again.
- *And the end of time is a sure thing.* No matter what else happens...God Wins! He is the HOPE of every tribe and every nation.

FOCUS ON THE LOOPS in the design. See the vertical loop extending with the other two? Let your imagination go. What do you see? God breathing life into humanity, male and female? God reaching out to you and me, and through us to others?



A God on High connecting with Ordinary People... to change the world? How about a candle and a candleholder?

For future Sundays in Advent, we'll talk about other aspects of the symbol of HOPE. Here's an Advent reading that flows out of the image of a vertical candle being held in a candleholder.

BY SHARLYN STARE, ELDER STARECVG@AOL.COM

ADVENT READING: Light the First Advent Candle

Today we light the first candle of Advent. In this season when days grow shorter, when there is more darkness than light, we can feel that hope is equally fleeting. Yet God's Word assures us that light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not, cannot, and never will overcome it. So we light a candle to remind us that, in Jesus Christ, light has come into the world — not a fleeting or temporary light, but a living, breathing light. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." Then God said to *ordinary people*: "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."

Current Foundation Hour Classes

In between services at 10:10am, we offer classes for children and adults. Below are the listings for the adult classes that begin today and meet Through Dec. 6.

Messianic Prophecy

The Old Testament predicts the coming of a Messiah who will establish an eternal kingdom. Christians know this Messiah as Jesus, the Christ. This class will trace the centuries-long thread of prophecy that leads to Christ. Led by Fran Kelley at 10:10am. Class will be in the Ministry Center Basement Room A.

Bible Study Helps

Would you like some help understanding the Bible. On Nov 29 Scott Rice will explain how to use a Study Bible. On Dec 6 Zach Vander Veen will share some useful internet Bible Study helps. On Dec 13 Bill Custer will demonstrate the use of Halley's Bible Handbook. Led by team at 10:10am. Class will be in the Ministry Center Basement Clubroom.

Dealing With Holiday Stress

The holidays can be a busy and stressful time, preventing us from experiencing God's peace and remembering the true meaning of the holidays. Come to this class and learn some helpful tips for dealing with holiday stress. Led by the Congregational Care team, Tim Silliman, Jan Johnson and others at 10:10am. Class will be in the Ministry Center Basement Room C.

Mission Spotlight

Come hear stories of mission success and challenge. Schedule of speakers to be announced next week. Led by the Missions Team at 10:10am. Class will be in Fellowship Hall.

Holiday Traditions

Many families have cherished holiday traditions that are passed on from generation to generation. This group is not a class really, but a time to share ideas. Come meet with Ann Clippard on Nov. 29, Bonnie Mack on Dec. 6, and Jan Johnson on Dec.13. Class will be in the Ministry Center Basement Room D.

Parents of elementary age kids group/class

Will meet during the Foundation Hour in the parent lounge of the ministry center (take the elevator in the atrium to floor 2). We will be beginning a new discussion on the book Parenting Beyond Your Capacity, talking about how we connect better with other families as we are raising our children. Class will be in the Ministry Center 2nd Floor Parent Lounge.

Children & Youth Helpers in Worship

Children ages Kindergarten through third grade are invited to a Children's Worship service each week. Start off with your families in both the 9am and 11:15am service, then listen for the announcement dismissing the kids to their special service. Just before the sermon, children will be dismissed to their special study and worship time.

This week's helpers are:

9:00am Jason M.

11:15am Lucas F. / Aidan M.

Next week's helpers are:

9:00am Toby K.

11:15am Andrew and Elizabeth D.

The Martin Family will Greet

29. sunday

8:00am	Morning Prayer	Prayer Room
9:00am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:10am	Foundation Hour	
	• Children's Classes	Barnabas Ctr
	• Jr. High	BC 204
	• High School	BC 205-206
	• Adult Spiritual Form.	Various
	• Parent Group	MC 2nd Floor
11:15am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
1:30pm	Adult Children of Alcoholics	Fireside Room

30. monday

10:00am	Bill Phipps Visitation	Sanctuary
11:00am	Bill Phipps Memorial	Sanctuary
6:00pm	Community Prayer Walk	House of Joy
6:30pm	Karate	Fellowship Hall

1. tuesday

9:30am	Tuesday AM Bible Study	Parlor
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2. wednesday

6:00pm	FX Night	Fellowship Hall
6:30pm	ACA Meeting	BC 203
7:00pm	Bi-Polar Support Group	Great Hall
	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	Kindling Prayer Group	White House

3. thursday

6:15am	Band of Brothers	Fireside Room
8:30am	Prayer - Church/Community	Prayer Room
10:00am	Knitting Group	Atrium
3:00pm	Farm Market	Parking Lot
6:30pm	Karate	Fellowship Hall
7:00pm	ACA	BC 203
	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:30pm	Alanon	BC 201-202

4. friday

5. saturday

2:00pm	Praise Dancers	BC Lobby
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"LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION" POLICY

When parking, remember to keep your valuables and all parcels out of sight safely locked in your trunk. Thieves can even see through dark tinted glass. Don't tempt!

November 29 - December 5 calendar

ANNOUNCEMENTS

World Mission Team invites you to join us Sunday December 6, to hear Pastor Dennis describe his mission experiences. (This meeting has been rescheduled from its original Nov.22 date.) Potluck lunch at 12:45, meeting with Pastor Dennis at 1:30. Come for either or both! Belwood Dining Room, 1776 Larch Avenue. Call Mary Sue for more information or RSVP 541-7829.

Come to The Well to be refreshed in God's presence. The Well springs up on the second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 to 9:00 pm, in different locations around the city. This month The Well will be here at CHPC on **December 8th at 7pm.** Each service at The Well is a unique combination of seeking God's presence through Worship, Biblical Teaching and Testimony, Prayer and Reflection and outreach to the community.

Advent/Christmas Decor: Honor your loved ones by contributing to poinsettia plants and greens used during December. Donors and honorees will be listed in the Christmas Eve Bulletins. *Contact Sam Routzon by Dec. 21st. Ext. 1125 or sroutzon@chpc.org.*

JOINING THE CHPC FAMILY If you are interested in becoming a member at CHPC. Our next New Member Orientation Classes are: Sundays January 10, 17, 24 and 31 at 10:10am. To sign up or have questions contact Michelle Hemsath 541-5676 Ext. 1123 or mhemsath@chpc.org or Pastor Dennis 541-5676 Ext. 1122 or dhall@chpc.org

Lord's Bounty Scholarship Applications are available. Request a scholarship application or grant form by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to: The Lord's Bounty, 5852 Hamilton Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45224. All scholarship application materials must be received by January 31, 2016 to be eligible.

College Hill Early Literacy Team is giving books to 0-5 year olds in College Hill and connecting with their parents. We were recently at the Pumpkin Patch and interacted with another 25-30 families. If you are interested in literacy and building relationships with families in College Hill please let me know! Janet Dumford (541-8281 or janet3747@gmail.com) We are currently planning **Bedtime Story Nights** this Winter and another set of **Let's Read Together! Workshops** for Spring. We need greeters and helpers and even a presenter or two. Please listen if God is nudging you! We need your help to make these events happen. Thank you!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

FX Night is this Wednesday 12/2, 6-7:30pm in Fellowship Hall! This month our skits and games will be led by 4th-6th graders from MEGABLAST! FX Night is a great place to invite new families or to meet families who are new to our church community and form relationships with them.

No CRASH or Huddles today but both will meet next week.

The November Theme in BLAST (K-3) and MEGABLAST (4-6) is Service: "lending a hand to help someone else," and our memory verse is Matthew 5:16: "Let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven." Please pray this month that our children would learn to follow Jesus' example of serving others. For more information on what kids are learning as well as ideas on how to engage with them on this subject, check out the Parent Cue on chpc.org/forms.

Parents of elementary age kids group/class will meet during the Foundation Hour in the parent lounge of the ministry center (take the elevator in the atrium to floor 2). We will be beginning a new discussion on the book Parenting Beyond Your Capacity, talking about how we connect better with other families as we are raising our children.

SERVING IN WORSHIP & ARTS AT CHPC

Calling All Instrumentalists How about a CHPC orchestra for Christmas Eve? Calling all orchestra instrument players - woodwind, brass, string, timpani: Email Mike Parker at mparker@chpc.org with your questions or interest.

Let's Fill the Choir for Advent The CHPC Chancel Choir will begin singing Advent music on Nov. 29. If you are a past choir member or have considered singing in the choir, the Advent season is a wonderful time to participate. The choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7-9 pm. If you have questions or would like more information, email Mike Parker at mparker@chpc.org or join us this Thursday evening in the Sanctuary for rehearsal as we begin Advent and Christmas music.

SEND ADORABLE GREETING CARDS AND SUPPORT 3C'S



The art of 3C's children is featured on some very delightful Christmas Cards, Thank You Notes, Notecards, Envelope seals, To Do Lists and Gift Tags. Cards are a wonderful value at \$5.00 per dozen. Orders of three (3) dozen or more can be personalized. There is something for everyone at the table on Main Street. Questions? Call Maggie Smith at 885-6147.

CORRECTION

Last week we incorrectly stated that Barbara Runck's book, *Liz Finds a Forever Home* would be available to purchase at the College Hill Coffee Company. This is not completely true. Barbara will have another book signing there on Saturday, December 12th from 4-5:30pm where you can purchase the book, and she said she could meet you there most any morning if you contact her directly. Her number is in the church directory.

THANK YOU

to everyone who brought cookies for Carol Schubert's reception. We had an amazing turnout!

Prayer Page

"... without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers," Romans 1:9

CHPC Community

Bill Wooten	Mark Whitney
Suzanne Wiers	Carl Wiers
Julie Wilbur	Matt Wilbur
Jenn Williams	Roger Williams

Staff

Michelle Hemsath - Hospitality & Scheduling

Officers/Leadership

Barbara Barber - Deacon

Home Bound/Health Center

Chloe Bernius

Ministries

Christ's Community in College Hill

Global Workers

In the Military

Adam Steveley US Army	Chris Jaeger USMC
Cary Jaeger USMC	Kirk Kalmbacher US Coast Guard
Zach Scharf Army National Guard	Nyjoel Baker US Air Force
Danny Holian US Navy Pilot	Will Connor US Army
Joey Nieberding US Army	Peter & Amanda Leugers US Navy

College/Career Students

Noah Sherman Clara Smith

Condolences

Christian love and sympathy to the family of William Phipps on the death of Bill, Sunday, Nov 22. The service for Bill will be here at CHPC Tomorrow, Nov. 30th. Visitation from 10am-11am. Memorial Service at 11am with graveside service and reception following. Condolences may be sent to: Mrs. Connie Phipps 8819 Falmouth Dr. Cincinnati, OH 45231



November 29, 2015

FEAR NOT

Ordinary People

Preaching: Rev. Dennis Hall

Welcome to College Hill Presbyterian Church

Thank you for worshiping with us today. Single, married, with children or not, there are many opportunities for knowing Christ, worshiping, personal growth and discipleship, service and ministry within the church and beyond the walls.

Visitors - Stop by the welcome table or the desk in the Atrium to find out more about College Hill Presbyterian. Return and become part of this dynamic Church Family.

Upcoming Services

Dec. 6 FEAR NOT - The Plan
Dec. 13 FEAR NOT - Real Fear / Real Hope
Dec. 20 **Unified Service at 10am**
FEAR NOT - The Victory
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Services
5pm Family/Interactive Service
8pm Candlelight/Communion Service

Today's Order of Worship

Prelude
Call To Worship & Opening Prayer
Songs of Praise
Time of Confession & Forgiveness
Song of Response
Welcome Guests / Dismiss Children
Passing the Peace
Scripture & Sermon
Pastoral Prayer
Offering / Closing Song
Announcements
Charge and Blessing
Postlude

Available Help

Ushers have copies of the song lyrics for the 9am service. Ushers can also provide help with wheelchairs and equipment for hearing assistance. Handicapped accessible restrooms are located off the exit hallway to the right side of the main platform. This exit also leads to handicapped parking spaces.

