

*Hymn 134

Joy to the World (stanzas 1, 2, 4)

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.
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.



PHPC News to Know

Weekly news and updates right in your bulletin.

Year-end Donation Planning

Thank you for your generous financial support of PHPC this year. If you’re planning your year-end donations, here are some things to consider:

Donating Appreciated Stock

There are significant tax advantages when you donate stock that has appreciated to a church or qualified charitable organization. Ask your tax advisor how you might benefit. If you plan to donate to PHPC, email Mary at mary@pleasanthillpc.org for simple instructions.

Donating Some or All of your RMD

If you are 73 or older, you may know that RMD stands for Required Minimum Distribution, or the amount that the IRS requires you to withdraw annually from your IRA. Doing this has tax consequences and you may benefit from directing all or a portion of your RMD to a church or other qualified charity. Ask your tax advisor first, but all you have to do is to instruct your IRA custodian to send the RMD payment directly to PHPC. Please let us know if we can help with your year-end giving in any way. Donations must be received or postmarked by Sunday, December 31 to be tax deductible in 2023.

Grief Support Group

The Grief Support Group provides a free and confidential structured environment to explore the complex feelings evoked by the loss of a loved one. Led by Stephen Minister Mary Winkeljohn and Pastor Katie Day, the group will meet 7 consecutive Tuesday evenings at PHPC from 7:00pm-8:30pm, starting on January 9 through February 20. For questions or to join, please contact Mary at 770-246-9363 or email Pastor Katie at katie@pleasanthillpc.org.

Join Our Weekly Newsletter

Stay informed of the latest PHPC events, as well as news about our various ministries and opportunities to grow in your faith and connect with God and neighbor. Scan the QR code and subscribe to the Chosen Word email newsletter to receive weekly updates.



Welcome

Welcome to Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church. We have been part of the Duluth community since 1985. Our vibrant congregation embraces people from all walks of life as we live out our mission statement of “connecting faith with everyday life.” We are part of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

We are delighted you are worshiping with us and we invite you to become part of our church family. To learn more about us, make a note on the red Friendship Pad or contact the church office.

Worship services are livestreamed at www.pleasanthillpc.org/phpc-live. Worshipers may appear on this live feed. If you wish to remain off camera, sit in the back rows of any section of pews.

Hearing enhancement devices and printed copies of today’s sermon are available for use during our service. Ask an usher for assistance.

For Our Younger Worshipers

All children are welcome in worship at PHPC.

Elementary age children are invited to the Playground after the Children’s Sermon. Worship Bags and Worship Journals are available. Parents must sit in the pews closest to the Playground.

Parents may walk **children age 3-Kindergarten** (potty-trained) to Room B103 for Play & Praise following the Children’s Sermon.

A nursery is available for **children under 3** in room A114.

Elders

Class of 2024

Michael Armstrong
Marian Miller
Pat Miller
Robin Prater
Ben Badinger

Class of 2025

Kristen Ching
Gail Funderburk
Shannon Sligar
Kay Strickland

Class of 2026

Amanda Dannemiller
Alan Klein
Angie O’Farrell
John Reineking

Deacons

Class of 2024

Mark Goodson
Shannon Hudson
Bernie Kida

Class of 2025

Marianne Anderson
Holli Kyle
Bill Maguire

Class of 2026

Isaac Assan-Mensah
Jan Mueller
Margaret Snyder

Church Staff

The Rev. Katie Day, *Senior Pastor and Head of Staff*

The Rev. Jennie Sankey, *Associate Pastor for Christian Education - on sabbatical*

Mary Cooper, *Church Administrator*
Steve Dean, *Director of Music*
Veronica Pennington, *Director of Ministry Support*
Talitha Minton, *Director of Preschool*
Adnan Zukanovic, *Facilities Assistant*
Hyoun Joo Song, *Organist*

Grace Andrade, *Director of Youth Ministry*
Andy Kim, *AV Technician*
Hannah Smith, *Children’s Choir Director*
Hema Chudasama, *Nursery Caregiver*
Farzana Javid, *Nursery Caregiver*

**Pleasant Hill
Presbyterian Church**



3700 Pleasant Hill Road
Duluth, Georgia 30096
770.497.0233
www.pleasanthillpc.org

Celebration of the Lord’s Day
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2023 | 7:30PM

Prelude Hyoun Joo Song
Midnight Clear Medley
Jason Tonioli
Gathering Around the Word

Welcome and Announcements The Rev. Katie Day

Introit

Lighting of the Christ Candle David and Margot Ashley

One: How does a weary world hold onto hope, practice peace, spread joy, or know love?
All: How does a weary world combat cruelty?
One: How does a weary world shine a light into our bleakest night?
All: We do all these things with God’s help. For tonight, a child is born in Bethlehem.
One: Tonight, Christ draws near.
All: Tonight, we light the Christ Candle.
One: Tonight, we are not alone.
All: God is near. Love has drawn close. Rejoice! For God loves this weary world. Amen.

***Hymn 133**
O Come, All Ye Faithful (stanzas 1, 3, 4)
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!
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;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given; word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession
Loving Christ, scripture tells us that you were placed in a manger among livestock and hays because there was no place in the guest room. The space was full, and yet—your parents made room. Scripture tells us that shepherds arrived from the fields beyond town. The space was full, and yet—they made room. Scripture tells us that Mary pondered what the shepherds had to say. Her heart was full, and yet—she made room. Too often we assume there is no more room. Too often we choose exclusion and close off our hearts. Teach us how to make room for one another. Teach us how to make room for you. Carve out space in our hearts to love as you love, for we do not want to build hostility here. With hope and honesty we pray, Amen.

* Please stand in body or spirit.

Assurance of Grace

***Passing of the Peace**
One: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.

The Word Read and Proclaimed

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-22

***Hymn 119**
Hark, the Herald Angels Sing
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”
Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”
Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Sermon How Does A Weary World Rejoice? We Make Room

Music Greg and Mary Kate Veal
The Wexford Carol
arr. David Hamilton
Sealing the Word in Our Lives

The Sacrament of Communion
Invitation to the Table
Pastoral Prayer
Words of Institution
Communion Music Lee and Rylan Bourgeois
Mary, Did You Know?
Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Responding to the Word

Invitation to Offering
Drop in the plate when the Usher comes by.
Scan the QR code.
Go to www.pleasanthillpc.org and click on the Giving tab.
Text givePHPC to 73256.



Please sign the red friendship pad.

Offertory *The Holy Family*
arr. Kenneth Kosche

Scripture Reading John 1:1-5

Sharing the Light

Hymn 122
Silent Night, Holy Night!
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.
Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

Following the Word Into the World

***Charge and Benediction**

***Hymn 134** *Joy to the World (see back page for lyrics)*

***Postlude** *Go Tell It On the Mountain*
arr. Janet Linker

Parts of today’s liturgy have been adapted from
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