

Second Sunday of Advent

Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church
Classic Worship, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
December 10, 2023

WELCOME

Dr. John Robbins

OPENING VOLUNTARY

God Rest You Merry
Sungyun Kim, organ

arr. Maureen Howell

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Rejoice in the Lord always.

People: I will say it again: Rejoice!

Pastor: Let your gentleness be evident to all.

People: The Lord is near.

Pastor: We rejoice in the hope of Christ's coming.

All: Let us worship God!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 203

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

ELLACOMBE

* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

(9:00) Shelley & Brooks Gentry
(11:00) The Brabham Family

Leader: We light this candle as a symbol of Christ the Way.

May the Word sent from God through the prophets

lead us to the way of salvation.

People: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

All Sing: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR ADVENT – by Nathan Nettleton

We believe in God, creator and lover of the earth, origin and destiny of us all.

We believe in Jesus the Christ—God coming to us in the fragile promise of a baby yet unborn—who emerges as the herald of hope, God's laughter in the face of despair. Plunged into death and hell, he broke free the captives, and is leading the way to the land of promise where justice and peace will flourish.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who implants the seed of truth, brings us to birth as the body of Christ, and empowers us to confront and transform all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.

We believe in the coming reign of God. Announced by John the Baptist, it has drawn near to us in Jesus, and will be consummated in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven, when all who have passed through the world's deep sorrow will be raised from the waters, robed in righteousness, and gathered into the joyous fulfilment of God's desire.

For the coming of that day, we work and pray: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

* GLORIA PATRI 70

MEINEKE

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 9:6-7

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Rev. Abbey Maynard

Ever present God, you taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand.

Grant that we may always be watching for the coming of your Son.

Save us from undue love of the world, that we may wait with patient hope for the day of the Lord, and so abide in him, that when he shall appear, we may not be ashamed; for it is in Jesus' name we pray:

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.

CHORAL AMEN

HYMN 209

Blessed Be the God of Israel

MERLE'S TUNE

INTRODUCTION

Dr. Robbins

SERMON

From Atheism to Christianity:
How I discovered faith and the difference it makes

Dr. Alister McGrath

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

A German Christmas
Handbell Ensemble & Susan Antonetti, flute
Dr. Frode Gundersen, director

arr. Margaret Tucker

* DOXOLOGY 95

OLD 100th

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* CLOSING HYMN 211

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

* BENEDICTION

Dr. Robbins

* CLOSING VOLUNTARY

I Saw Three Ships
Sungyun Kim, organ

arr. Richard Elliott

ACOLYTES

(9:00) Andrew Duke & Saxon Greening (11:00) Mary Carol Daugherty & Will Daugherty

USHERS

(9:00) Nancy Archer (*Lead*), Lee Archer, Ann Bortz, Geoff Gwinn
(11:00) David Jones (*Lead*), Pat Crane, Keith Gober, Daniel Hines, Will Jones

ALTAR GUILD

Nancy Banks

SOUND

Bob Worthington

SANCTUARY AND COLUMBARIUM FLOWERS

The Sanctuary and Columbarium Flowers are given in glory to God in honor of the members of the PHUMC Foundation Willing Friends Society for their ongoing support of the mission and ministries of PHUMC.

Dr. Alister McGrath is a Northern Irish theologian, Anglican priest, intellectual historian, scientist, Christian apologist, and public intellectual. Dr. McGrath has taught at Oxford University, Gresham College, King's College in London, Cambridge University and is a Teaching Fellow at Regent College. McGrath holds three doctorates from the University of Oxford: a doctoral degree in molecular biophysics, a Doctor of Divinity degree in theology, and a Doctor of Letters degree in intellectual history.

McGrath is noted for his work in historical theology, systematic theology, and the relationship between science and religion, as well as his writings on apologetics. He is also known for his opposition to New Atheism and antireligion and his advocacy of theological critical realism. Among his best-known books are *The Twilight of Atheism*, *The Dawkins Delusion?*, *Dawkins' God: Genes, Memes, and the Meaning of Life*, and *A Scientific Theology*. He is an international authority on C. S. Lewis, and published an award-winning biography on Lewis in 2013 to mark the 50th anniversary of his death.

2nd Sunday of Advent December 10, 2023

**PULASKI
HEIGHTS**
United Methodist Church

THE Miracle OF Christmas

Advent and Christmas Worship with Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church

Hanging of the Greens

Special Service For All Ages
December 3 | 5pm | Sanctuary

Dr. Allister McGrath Preaching

December 10 | 9 & 11am | All services

A Service of Hope and Healing

December 10 | 5pm | Sanctuary

A Service of Lessons and Carols

December 17 | 9 & 11am | All services



The central miracle asserted by Christians is the incarnation.

—C.S. Lewis

PHUMC.COM/CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24

Advent 4 Worship

9am | Sanctuary | Rev. Curry

Modern Candlelight Communion

12 & 6pm | Wesley Hall | Rev. McMurray

Classic Candlelight Communion

2, 6, & 8pm | Sanctuary | Dr. Robbins

Children & Family Christmas Eve

4pm | Gym | Rev. Clark

Classic Candlelight Communion

11pm | Sanctuary | Rev. McMurray



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Primetimers Christmas Luncheon

Thursday Dec. 14 11:30AM
PHUMC GYM Free
RSVP: PHUMC APP Call 501-664-3600 Front Desk

phumc.com/primetimers



From Atheism to Christianity

How I discovered faith and the difference it makes

Dr. Alister McGrath