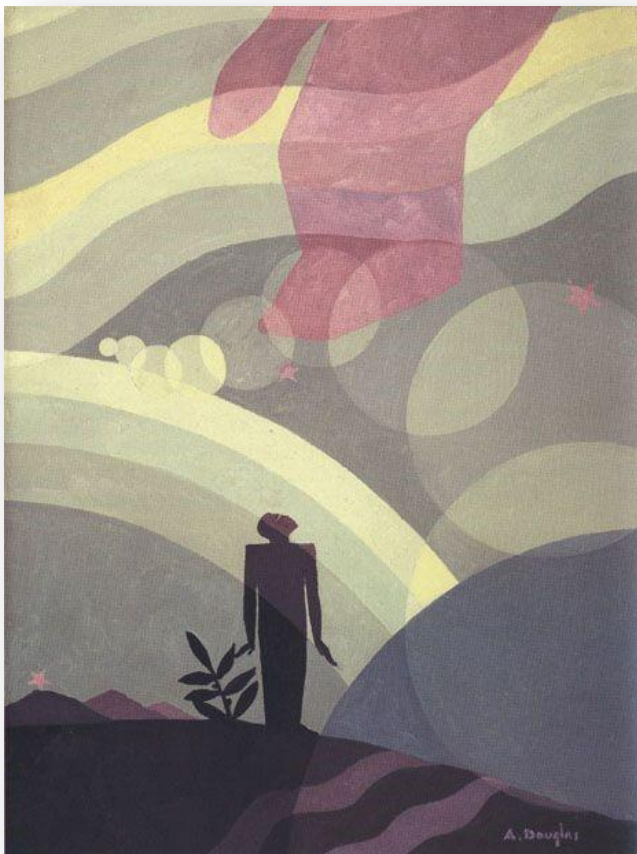


Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church



Worship for December 1, 2024

**Worship for the First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2024**

*We are glad you are worshipping with us today.
Please join us for refreshments after the worship service.*

Meditations (In preparation for worship)

"And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints."

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

"The purpose of Advent Christmas and Epiphany is ceaselessly to reanimate in us that hope, that expectation."

Louis Bouyer

"The great narrative, to which we as Christians are called to be faithful, begins at the beginning of all things and ends at the end of all things, and within the arc of it civilizations blossom and flourish, wither and perish. This would seem a great extravagance, all the beautiful children of earth lying down in a final darkness. But no, there is that wondrous love to assure us that the world is more precious than we can possibly imagine."

Marilynne Robinson

Prelude *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Tune: Veni Emmanuel, 13th C.
Arr. by Mark Hayes

Welcome!

Please stand if you are able. The congregation reads aloud the **bold print.*

Opening Sentences

Not in the mighty places of power,
But in little Bethlehem,
In a room out back:
The Messiah is coming

Sung Response #85 *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* (verse 1)

Lighting the Advent Candle

Andrew, Karen and Ava Trapasso

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Let us walk in the light of the Lord. **We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.**

Opening Hymn #82 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Prayer of Confession

Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin, as though there were no justice. We live in fear, as though there were no grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation.

Hear now our silent prayers of confession...

Pardon

Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven. **Alleluia!** May the Lord guide your way, strengthen you in holiness, and make you abound in love for one another and for all. **Amen!**

***Gloria #113** *Angels We Have Heard on High* (refrain)
Glo---ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o!
Glo---ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o!

***Passing of the Peace**

Children's Conversation

Children's Hymn #95*Prepare the Way of the Lord*

Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God.

Prayer for Illumination**Hebrew Bible Lesson***Jeremiah 33:14-16***Craig Cobb**

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Gospel Lesson*Luke 21:25-36*

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man."

Sermon "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done..."**Rev. Courtney Steininger**

***Affirmation of Faith** from “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.

Offering

Offertory

People Look East

Eleanor Farjeon

***Doxology #606**

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

***Prayer of Dedication**

Announcements

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of Intercession

Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise...**

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name.

Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and forever.

With thanksgiving we offer ourselves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the saving death of our risen Lord until he comes in glory.

Breaking of the Bread and Communion

Prayer after Communion

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.

***Hymn #357**

The Days Are Surely Coming

***Benediction**

Postlude *Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen* (Behold a branch is growing), arr. David Polly



Welcome to our worship at Pebble Hill!

If you are with us for the first time, we hope that you find our worship meaningful and our fellowship inviting.

Please reach out to Pastor Courtney or Nancy Byrne to learn more about Pebble Hill Church.

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S ASSISTANTS:

KEVIN COBB AND LINDA IMBODEN – USHERS
CRAIG COBB – LITURGIST

COMMUNION SERVERS

AMINY AUDI, DORIS GORMAN, DEEDEE ELLEMAN,
AND DAVID HITCHCOCK

COMMUNION PREPARERS

DONNA SOGNEFEST AND LYNDA WHEAT

THE HOLIDAY SEASON AT

Pebble Hill

ADVENT I: December 1

Adult Forum on Advent and Isaiah

ADVENT II: December 8

Hanging of the Greens during worship

ADVENT III: December 15

Christmas Tree Lighting during worship

Cookie Exchange during coffee hour

ADVENT IV: December 22

Lessons and Carols-style worship

Nativity of the Lord:

December 24



*Merry
Christmas!*

Advent Bible Study

JOIN US TODAY AT 11:30



Our Adult Forum today will be a Bible Study led by Pastor Courtney on Advent and prophecy. How can we understand the prophets like Isaiah and Jeremiah as both speaking to the past (Christ's incarnation) and our own future?

Please keep in your prayers this week:

- ❖ During this holiday season, we hold in our prayers the people who are dealing with sorrow or illness this season.
- ❖ We pray for unity and peace in America.
- ❖ We pray for the Eastern Farmworkers, who provide for those who work our central New York farms.
- ❖ All people living in Gaza, Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Sudan, Yemen and those in Ukraine and Russia, who endure hatred and continued violence.

Church Staff

Rev. Courtney Steininger, Pastor
Ashley Vance, Choirmaster
Nancy B. James, Organist
Mara Miller, Office Administrator
Finance Office
Pamela Hobbs, Sunday School Teacher
Nancy Byrne, New Members' Ministry

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This Week at Pebble Hill December 1 – December 7

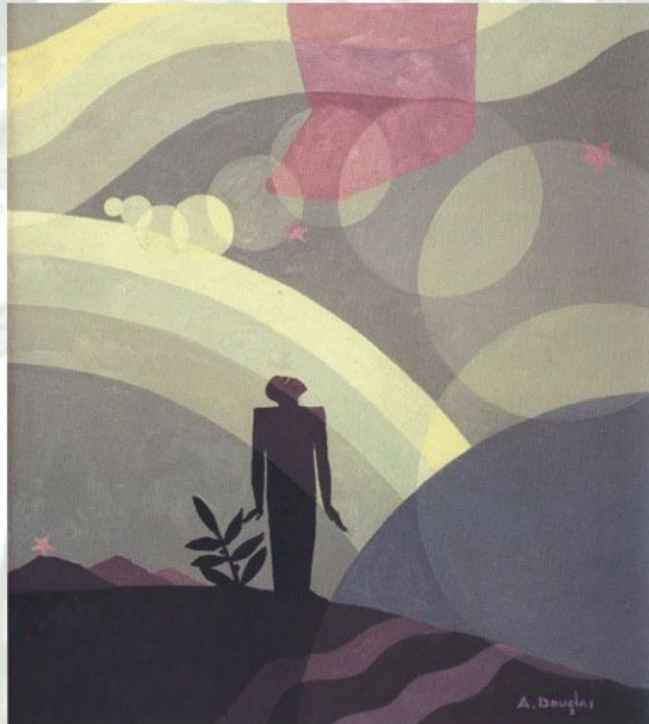
Sunday	10:00 am 11:00 am 11:30 am	Worship Fellowship and Coffee Hour – Atrium Adult Forum on Advent and Isaiah – Forum
Monday	9:30 am 4:00 pm 5:00 pm	Bluebirds – KR Bluebirds – KR L. Stafford Flute Lessons – CE#3
Tuesday	9:30 am 3:30 pm 6:30 pm	Bluebirds – KR Board of Deacons – CR Syracuse Chorale – FH
Wednesday	1:00 pm 3:30 pm 5:00 pm 5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Worship at The Nottingham L. Stafford Flute Lessons – CE#3 Bluebirds – KR Property Committee – Atrium Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	9:30 am 4:30 pm 4:45 pm 5:00 pm	Bluebirds – KR Bluebirds – KR L. Stafford Flute Lessons – CE#3 Salt City Ukulele – FH
Friday	9:00 am	Bluebirds – KR
Saturday	9:00 am 1:00 pm	Bluebirds – KR L. Stafford Flute Lessons – CE#3

He strode the pulpit up and down in what was actually a very rhythmic dance, and he brought into play the full gamut of his wonderful voice, a voice -- what shall I say? -- not of an organ or a trumpet, but rather of a trombone, the instrument possessing above all others the power to express the wide and varied range of emotions encompassed by the human voice -- and with greater amplitude.*

from *God's Trombones* by James Weldon Johnson

The Messiah is Coming!

About the Cover



Listen and Prepare

Aaron Douglas was an American painter, illustrator and visual arts educator. He was also a key figure in the Harlem Renaissance. In 1927, Douglas had provided eight strikingly original illustrations for a collection of poems titled *God's Trombones* by James Weldon Johnson. He later repainted these illustrations as large oil paintings. Recasting both the biblical narrative and the visual vocabulary of art deco and cubism, Douglas created an image as racially impassioned as the sermons of the black preachers celebrated in *God's Trombones*. In this painting, "The Creation" an expectant Adam looks up towards God's hand. As we begin this Advent season, let us too look expectantly towards God, listening and preparing for the Messiah to come!