

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

ADVENT COMMUNION
DECEMBER 3, 2017

CELEBRATING

& SERVING

THE LIVING LORD!

*The mission of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown
is to reflect the loving presence of Christ
as we serve others faithfully, worship God joyfully and share life together
in a diverse and generous community.*

In preparation for worship please take the opportunity to speak silently to God.
At the close of the service let us greet one another with cheerfulness.
Please be sure that your cell phone is turned off during worship.

December 3, 2017

First Sunday of Advent

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*
Savior of the Nations, Come

Wilbur Held
Paul Manz

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *Savior of the Nations, Come*

Fourth Century

Savior of the nations, come, virgin's son, make here your home. Marvel now, O heaven and earth,
that the Lord chose such a birth.

Lighting of the Advent Candle Klaas, Krista, Addie and Mina Hoekema-Boerman
Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy and love, re-
membering the promises of God with prayer.

We light this candle in hope. (*Light the first candle.*)

Hear God's promise of hope from Isaiah 2:2-4: In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Let us pray: Faithful God, out of war's chaos, you bring the order of peace. Renew us in hope, that we may work toward Christ's advent of peace among all nations. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.

*Hymn 9: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming. It's time that we prepare for your coming. Let the earth ring with song. Let the light break forth. Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love. Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.

*congregation standing

† latecomers may be seated

Silent Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response 579: *Gloria Patri*

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.

* Sharing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

(As worshipers, we come from diverse experiences and points of view. We have different racial, educational, and economic backgrounds. Yet we are all one in Christ. We symbolize this as we exchange with one another, by words and gestures, signs of peace and reconciliation such as, "The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.")

Gospel Choir: *Now Behold the Lamb*

Kirk Franklin

Now behold the Lamb, the precious Lamb of God. Born into sin that I may live again. Holy is the Lamb. Why you love me so, Lord I shall never know?

Solo: He's the precious Lamb of God. When I always didn't do right, I went left, he told me to go right. Now I'm standing right here in the midst of my tears, Lord I claim you to be the Lamb of God. Thank you for the Lamb, the precious Lamb of God. Because of your grace, I can finish this race.

Solo: Even when I broke your heart, my sin tore us apart, but I'm standing right here in the midst of my tears, I claim you to be the Lamb of God. New life can begin, yeah, for you washed away every one of my sins. Whom the son sets free, is truly free indeed. I claim you to be the Lamb of God.

Soloists: Diane Filter, Stephanie Garrett

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Lesson: Mark 13:24-37

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Leader: God's Word is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: **WITHIN REACH**

The Reverend Randal L. Bremer

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*Confession of Faith: *Nicene Creed*

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We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. You sent him into this world to satisfy the longings of your people for a Savior, to bring freedom to the captives of sin, and to establish justice for the oppressed. He came among us as one of us, taking the lot of the poor, sharing human suffering. We rejoice that in his death and rising again, you set before us the sure promise of new life, the certain hope of a heavenly home where we will sit at table with Christ our host.

Great is the mystery of faith.

Congregational Response: *Memorial Acclamation*

Proulx



Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine ...

... Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours almighty Father, now and forever.

Congregational Response: *The Great Amen*

Proulx



The Lord's Prayer (traditional version)

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The Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

(We will come to the table to receive the elements of bread and wine/juice. Come forward using the center aisle, partake of the elements as you receive them, and return to your seat by the side aisle. Remember that the cups on the outside ring of the tray hold grape juice and the cups within the outside ring contain wine.)

Prayer After Communion

Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this Sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal kingdom. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 20: *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

*Charge and Benediction

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

*Postlude: *Savior of the Nations, Come*

Manz

WELCOME: If you are visiting with us today, please sign the Fellowship Pad at the end of your pew. We pray the hour will be meaningful to you and you will come and worship with us again. Everyone is cordially invited to a time of fellowship in the Longstreth Auditorium following the worship service.

THE MUSIC: On this First Sunday of Advent, the first day of the new Christian liturgical year, we look expectantly to the coming of the Savior of the Nations, the Christ Child of Bethlehem born to save the world from sin and despair. Our music calls us to wait, watch, and listen for Christ's second coming. Looking ahead: Voices in Bronze, our handbell choir, will play during worship on Dec. 17; the Children's Choir will sing on Dec. 24 during the 10 a.m. service; our evening service on Christmas Eve at 7 p.m. will be preceded by an organ recital at 6:30.

COFFEE HOUR: This week's hosts: Christopher Torrence and John Orandosh. Next week's host: open. Thank you to Maddy Valentine for supplying the munchies last week. The CDFC is so grateful for everyone that volunteers to host Coffee Hour. Last week, our thank you to the McCord-Amasis family wasn't included in the bulletin. Please forgive us!!!! We sincerely appreciated all the homemade goodies made by Sally. They were quite tasty. We hope to have your family agree again to do Coffee Hour in the new year. Thanks also to Debra Gary and Timothy Robinson. If you are interested in hosting Coffee Hour, please visit the bulletin board next to the kitchen window or speak to the Chair of the CDFC, Delores Solomon.

THE MESSIAH IS COMING, TODAY! The Germantown Oratorio Choir & Orchestra present our church's annual performance of Handel's *Messiah* this afternoon at 4 p.m. Unable to attend? Watch our Internet livestream at www.fpcgermantown.org/Messiah-2017.

FPCG ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER IS TODAY following the Messiah Concert.

COPIES OF THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR can be found on the literature table.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL will be Saturday, December 16. Details to follow.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS: The poinsettias in the sanctuary during the Christmas season are in memory and honor of our loved ones. As is our custom, these flowers will be delivered after Christmas to the sick and shut-in of our congregation. Please contact the church during office hours: Monday through Friday from 9AM to 1PM if you would like your family members' or friends' names included in the worship bulletin. The cost is \$15 per line. Listings will be accepted until Tuesday, December 19, 2017.

A GRAND VISION: VIOLET OAKLEY AND THE AMERICAN RENAISSANCE. The Woodmere Art Museum continues its exhibition of the work of Violet Oakley and has given special attention to the *Great Women of the Bible* mural series here at First Church. Join art historians from Woodmere and East Falls Village on Friday, Dec. 8 at 10 a.m. for a lecture in the Jennings Room, followed by an organ demonstration in the Sanctuary. The Oakley exhibition concludes on January 21. For more information, visit woodmereartmuseum.org or call 215-247-0476. Visit Woodmere for free on Sundays.

THANKS for GIVING: Each year this congregation and community embody the meaning of caring community. Your generosity of food, finances and time enabled Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry to provide 223 households with Thanksgiving baskets. During the 3-day packing and distribution period, 18 volunteers served tirelessly. With hugs, tears and great appreciation, clients left the building with everything and more to prepare a full holiday meal. In addition, the GACM says Thanks! to all who supported our *Crisis Ministry Shares Hope* #Giving Tuesday fundraiser. With the support of a generous \$5000 match pledge, GACM raised a total of \$11,231 during this campaign. This would have been impossible without many of you. Thanks! Thanks! Thanks!

NEWS FROM THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE: There are many steps as we move forward to bring our candidate to preach at First Church. We accomplished one of them a few weeks ago as our candidate met with the Commission of Preparation and Membership and was received unanimously for membership in The Philadelphia Presbytery. We are currently working vigorously with our Committee of Ministry Liaison and Session to proceed with next steps. We thank you all for your patience and ask that you continue to pray for our Church, the PNC and the next minister at First Church. There will be a listening table today during Coffee Hour for anyone who wishes to speak to members of the PNC. Again, we thank you and look forward to sharing information in the weeks to come.

STEWARDSHIP: Gifts Given and Given Gladly

Last Sunday many dedicated their stewardship commitment for 2018 representing a tangible opportunity to worship and serve God through generosity. To the many that participated we thank you for being Foundation Participants in this important work.

To those of you that are still determining your commitment we ask you to prayerfully consider all that our church means to you, your family, our church family and our Germantown community. When you reflect on all that is done then **you will be able to gladly give of your gifts.**

We ask that everyone return a commitment card, even if you can only make a limited financial commitment at this time. **Cards are available on the literature table or by contacting the church office.**

IRA Charitable Rollover Has Been Extended Permanently

If you own an IRA and are 70½ years of age or older, you may transfer up to \$100,000 per year directly from your financial institution to the **First Presbyterian Church in Germantown**, free from federal tax.

Benefits of an IRA charitable rollover include:

- You pay no income taxes on transfers from your IRA to FPCG. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, **so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.**
- Such a transfer may be used toward your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year.
- Your gift is not subject to the 50% deduction limits on charitable gifts.

Just contact your IRA administrator to request the transfer. To qualify for the current year's income tax return, the request should be made in time for the check to leave the administrator's **office** before 12/31/17. *There is no need to wait ...do it today.*

Church Officers

Elders

2018

Marc DiNardo
Robert Seed
Ted Walkenhorst

2019

Joseph Leube
Delores Solomon
Deborah Thompson

2020

Gloria Bethea
Andrea Overton
J. Randall Rosensteel

Clerk of Session:
Madeline Valentine

Deacons

2018

Don Carlin
Vera Harrison
Dani Howard

2019

Ruth Cato
Diane Filter
Dick Liberty

2020

Randy Clever
John Orandosh
Carolyn Tarver

First Church Staff

Interim Pastor	Randal L. Bremer
Director of Adult Education and Community Life	Kevin L. Porter
Director of Urban Ministry	Eileen Jones
Director of Music	F. Anthony Thurman
Director of the Gospel Choir	Sara Carter-Blanford
Director of the Handbell and Children's Choirs	Evelyn Santiago
Director of Christian Education	Christian Heyer-Rivera
Parish Visitor	Heidi Mercado-Littles
Building Manager	Terry Boyer
Administrative Assistant	Joan Harris
Bookkeeper	Cindy Osborne
Sextons	Tanieya Matthews, Robert Patterson, Harold Whaley

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