

*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 10, 2017

Second Sunday of Advent

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Savior of the Nations, Come*

J.S. Bach

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 the Second Advent Candle

Dani Howard and family

Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

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

We light this candle for peace. (*Light the second candle.*)

Hear God's promise of peace from Isaiah 11:1-10: A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Let us pray: **Faithful God, you are at work to restore all of creation in its intended harmony. Give us your shalom that we may be reconciled to all enemies in the peace that passes all understanding through Christ Jesus our Lord. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.**

*Hymn 1: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

STUTTGART

*congregation standing

† latecomers may be seated

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Confession of Sin

O promised Christ: We are a world at war. Our peace depends on your coming. We are a sinful people. Our pardon depends on your coming. We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises; our only hope of doing God's will is that you should come and help us do it. Lord Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits for your peace, for your pardon, and for your grace. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

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.")

Children in grades five and younger may now leave for their classes.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Anthem: *Is Your Heart Prepared for a King?*

Robert Lau

In the quiet of the night, or in morning's early light, is your heart prepared for a King?
Will you hear an angel sing? Will your own hosannas ring? Is your heart prepared for a King?
Wait! Watch! Pray for the one who brings hope to a wearied earth, who brings peace by his birth.
Can you see the shining star? Does it call you from afar? Is your heart prepared for a King?
Will you watch? Will you pray? Is the babe of whom we sing born to be our God and King?

Prayer for Illumination

Donna Bremer, Reader

The First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

Page 627 OT

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

People: **Thanks be to God!**

*Hymn 3: *Comfort, Comfort You My People*

PSALM 42

The Second Lesson: Mark 1:1-8

Page 32 NT

Leader: God we thank you for your Word.

People: **The Story of your grace.**

Sermon: **HOPE THROUGH THE WILDERNESS**

The Rev. Randal L. Bremer

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*Confession of Faith (from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit
who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup and salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ the Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Reverend Kevin L. Porter

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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Offering of Our Gifts and Lives

Offertory: *I Waited for the Lord*

Felix Mendelssohn

I waited for the Lord, he inclined unto me, he heard my complaint. O blest are they that hope and trust in him.

Evelyn Santiago, soprano; Margaret Mezzacappa, mezzo soprano

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 308: *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem*

KINGSFOLD

*Charge and Benediction

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let everyone who hears say, "Come." And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

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: *Canticle of the Turning*

Aaron David Miller

IN MEMORIAM

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God in loving memory of
John Chandler

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 Second Sunday of Advent, we continue to 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 prepare the way for Christ's 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. If you were unable to attend last week's Messiah, you can watch the Internet livestream recording at www.fpcgermantown.org/Messiah-2017.

COFFEE HOUR: This week's host: Congregational Development and Fellowship Committee. Next week's host: Open. Thank you to Christopher Torrence and John Orandosh for supplying the munchies last week.

CHRISTMAS DINNER: Each year our annual Christmas dinner is well received by all who attend. Friends and members of First Church walk away full of fellowship and tasty food. This year was no exception. Thank you to all who volunteered your time and energy. Everything was simply amazing!!! From setup on Saturday to cleanup on Sunday, it was all hands on deck. The dinner was truly an intergenerational event. A special thank you to the Youth Group members who so graciously and politely served and cleaned up, and special thanks to Charlotte and Molly Reisse for helping with the centerpieces.

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.

STAFF APPRECIATION: Christmas is the time when we tangibly show our appreciation to our staff for all they do during the year to serve our congregation and the community. Most of us have experienced the "extra" each of these staff members put into their job. Staff Appreciation Christmas Gifts will be given to Kevin, Eileen, Tony, Sara, Evelyn, Christian, Heidi, Joan, Cindy, Terry, Whaley, Robert and Tanieya just prior to the holiday. You can contribute to these appreciation gifts after church today, when a member of the Personnel Committee will be available during the coffee hour to receive your contribution. *Please be generous.*

OUR CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL is this Saturday, December 16 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This annual event features light lunch and refreshments, arts and crafts for all ages including gingerbread house building, nativity scene with live animals and the Christmas Pageant and Carol Sing. Please join us on December 16.

SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR RECEPTION for Donna and Randy Bremer will be held on Sunday, December 17, sponsored by the Elders and Deacons. We will thank Randy for his ministry with First Church and recognize his retirement from full-time ministry. Those interested in making a financial gift to honor Rev. Bremer are asked to make their checks payable to the "Rise Against Hunger" organization (formerly "Stop Hunger Now") and leave them at the church office or in the offering plate. The money will be used by Rise Against Hunger to purchase food items that will be packaged and sent to countries of need. A packing event will take place at our church on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, Monday, January 15, 2018.

THE RACHEL CIRCLE, an arm of the Presbyterian Women USA, will hold its monthly meeting at 11:00 a.m. in the Jennings Room on Monday, December 18. All women are encouraged and invited to attend. This month each attendee is asked to bring a food item to share during the chat and chew time.

SPRING CONCERT: SAVE THE DATE! The Germantown Oratorio Choir & Orchestra will perform the Brahms *Requiem* on Sunday, March 18, at 4 p.m. Rehearsals begin on Tuesday, January 9, from 7:30-9 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The *Requiem* will be performed in English using the composer's own arrangement for four-hand piano accompaniment played by duo pianists Gayle Martin and Ted W. Barr. For more information or to participate, call 215-843-8811 or e-mail music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com.

STEWARDSHIP: Gifts Given and Given Gladly. Many have already dedicated their 2018 stewardship commitment, representing a tangible opportunity to worship and serve God through generosity. To the many who participated, we thank you for being Foundation Participants in this important work. To those of you 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. 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.

THE IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER has been permanently extended. 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 paying no income taxes on the transfers, using the transfer toward your required minimum distribution for the year and your gift not being subject to the 50% deduction limits on charitable gifts. To request a transfer, contact your IRA administrator. To qualify for the current year's income tax return, your 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.*

WE EXTEND OUR CHRISTIAN LOVE and sympathy to Lois VanEerden on the loss of her brother, Lambert VanEerden, Sr. Please keep Lois in your thoughts and prayers.

BULLETIN DEADLINE REMINDER: Please remember that the deadline for getting items into the Sunday bulletin is Thursday at 10 a.m. Thank you.

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, December 10

- 9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Worship—The Reverend Randal L. Bremer preaching
- 11:30 AM Chancel Choir—Choir Room
- 11:30 AM Sunday School
- 11:30 AM Adult Education—Finney Room
- 11:30 AM Pastor Nominating Committee—Upstairs Office
- 3:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir Holiday Concert
- 6:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir Holiday Concert

Monday, December 11

- 5:00 PM Adult Education—Finney Room

Tuesday, December 12

- 12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Administration Meeting—Finney Room

Wednesday, December 13

- 8:30 PM GACM Thrive Program—Jennings Room
- 11:00 AM Northwest Village Network Tour of Murals and Stained Glass—
Jennings Room and Sanctuary
- 12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Program Meeting—Finney Room
- 3:00 PM Staff Meeting—Finney Room
- 4:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir/Pennsylvania Girlchoir—Sanctuary,
Choir Room, Primary Room, Longstreth Auditorium
- 5:30 PM GACM Board Meeting and Holiday Party—Jennings Room
- 6:30 PM Christian Education Committee—Upstairs Office

Thursday, December 14

- 6:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir
- 6:00 PM Christmas Festival Play Rehearsal
- 6:30 PM Gospel Choir—Sanctuary
- 6:30 PM Children's Choir—Choir Room
- 7:45 PM Handbell Choir—Choir Room

Friday, December 15

- 5:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensemble Groups—Choir Room

Saturday, December 16

- 11:00 AM Annual Christmas Festival (11:00 AM to 2:00 PM)
- 1:00 PM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary

Sunday, December 17

- 9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Worship—The Reverend Randal L. Bremer preaching
- 11:30 AM Chancel Choir—Choir Room
- 11:30 AM Sunday School
- 11:30 AM Adult Education—Finney Room
- 11:30 AM Pastor Nominating Committee—Upstairs Office
- 3:00 PM American Rebirth Tour Holiday Party—Longstreth Auditorium,
Jennings Room, Finney Room

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

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

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