

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ADVENT COMMUNION
DECEMBER 2, 2018

ALIVE,

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.

December 2, 2018

First Sunday of Advent

"Everything will be okay in the end. If it's not okay, it's not the end." - John Lennon

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

Minute for Mission

Dick Liberty

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

The Hood Family

Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness. (Desmond Tutu)

Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul—

and sings the tunes without the words—and never stops at all. (Emily Dickinson)

Hope is like peace . . . It is a gift only we can give one another. (Elie Wiesel)

Friends, as we enter this Advent season, we come to this space
familiar with the darkness and hungry for hope.

So today we light the candle of hope as a prayer, a protest,
and a reminder that darkness will not win.

Gun violence will not win.

Cancer will not win.

Death will not win.

Bigotry will not win.

Racism will not win.

Terrorism will not win.

Love will win.

For, in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him.

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

(light candle)

Thanks be to God.

*congregation standing; † latecomers may be seated

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession (*Luke 21*)

God of promise, today's Gospel reads like the end of the world, and we don't know what to make of it. We read of fig leaves sprouting, portents in the sky, and people not passing away until Jesus' words have come to pass. After 2000 years of waiting for the end to come, it's hard to drum up much expectation. We go our way as if nothing is happening, expecting nothing and no one. Break into our complacency with your word. Help us to raise our heads, look up, and be alert. Help us believe and live in full expectation that something is happening in our world, that you are breaking into our world and into our lives. Forgive us when we miss you coming because we are looking in the wrong places. Help us perceive that the beloved community is near.

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 worshippers, 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.")

A Time for Children

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

Gospel Choir: *Emmanuel*

Norman Hutchins
arr. Sara C. Blanford

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel. Come, come let us adore him. Kneel down before him. Worship and adore him. Emmanuel, we worship you.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Lesson: Luke: 21:25-36

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Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **HEAVEN CAN'T WAIT**

The Reverend Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 8: *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

TRURO

*Affirmation of Faith: *Apostles Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy
Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from
the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the
Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of
saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life ever-
lasting. Amen.

Offering of Our Gifts and Lives

Offertory: *E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sin, who loved us all, and shed his blood
that we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord almighty God, who was and is, and is to
come, sing holy, holy Lord. Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints be-
low, for Christ is coming soon. E'en so Lord Jesus quickly come, and night shall be no more. They
need no light, no lamp, nor sun for Christ will be their all! (Revelation 22, adapted by Ruth Manz)

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: O God, you brought light out of darkness, and you bring light still. We fear
signs and portents instead of recognizing the hope of your Son within
them. You sent Jesus that we might not fear, but rather be saved. In him,
your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth, and
we beheld your glory, Immanuel! Therefore we praise you, joining our
voices with heavenly choirs and with all the faithful of every time and
place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Congregational Response: *Sanctus*

F. Anthony Thurman

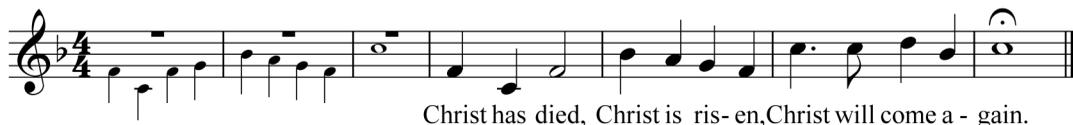
Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly__
Lord, God of pow-er and might. Hea-ven and earth are filled with your
glo-ry. Ho - san - na in__ the__ high-est! Bles - sed is he who
comes in the name__ of the Lord. Ho - san - na in__ the__
high - est; Ho - san - na in__ the__ high - est!

Leader: We come together this first Sunday in Advent, remembering your Son Jesus. Born in humility, he came to rule over all. Helpless as an infant, he showed the power of your love. Poor in the things of this world, he brought the wealth of your grace. As we celebrate this meal, may we remember with gratitude all that has been done for us and offer ourselves as a living and holy sacrifice, that our lives may be a witness to Jesus' redemptive love.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Congregational Response: *Memorial Acclamation*

Thurman



Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and fruit of the vine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may nurture us and strengthen us as the body of Christ. As we eat this bread and drink this cup, may we never forget your covenantal love, binding us to you and one another everywhere. Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, with the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Congregational Response: *The Great Amen*

Thurman



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.

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.)

Communion Meditation: *He Shall Feed His Flock* (from *Messiah*)

G.F. Handel

Evelyn Santiago, soprano; Margaret Mezzacappa, mezzo soprano

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; and he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. (Isaiah 40:11) Come unto him, all ye that labour, come unto him that are heavy laden, and he will give you rest. Take his yoke upon you, and learn of him, for he is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. (Matthew 11:28-29)

Prayer After Supper

Eternal God, the promise of the coming of Jesus into a manger, and into our hearts and home, is fulfilled in this holy meal. May it bless our Advent waiting, so that we leave this service cleansed and renewed, ready to share your love and forgiveness with all we meet. Strengthen us in the days ahead, that we may more fully become the people you imagine us to be, living in gratitude and hope and grace, in the knowledge of your steadfast love for us. Grant this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forevermore. Amen.

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

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

STUTTGART

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Savior of the Nations, Come*

Paul 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.

THE LITURGY: This week's communion liturgy supports the new Christian year that begins in Advent. We always remember Jesus in the celebration of the Lord's Supper, but this month is special as we travel toward the annual celebration of our Lord's birth. The liturgy was written specifically that we might be mindful of the coming of the Light into the world, and bear that witness with us when we go back out into it after worship.

THE MUSIC: On this First Sunday of Advent, the first day of the 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. Paul Manz, whose music is heard in our service today, is best remembered for the many years he spent as cantor at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. His most famous composition, "E'en So Lord Jesus, Quickly Come," was composed in 1953 while his three-year-old son, John, was critically ill and not expected to live. Ruth Manz, who helped her husband prepare the text for the anthem, reported "I think we'd reached the point where we felt that time was certainly running out so we committed it to the Lord and said, 'Lord Jesus quickly come!'" Miraculously, John survived. The anthem written in his honor has sold more than a million copies and has been performed around the globe.

OUR MESSIAH IS COMING TODAY at 4 p.m.! The Germantown Oratorio Choir & Orchestra will perform excerpts from G.F. Handel's beloved oratorio *Messiah* this afternoon at 4 p.m. If you are unable to attend in person, join us via Internet Livestream at www.fpcgermantown.org/Messiah-2018.

Looking ahead: Voices in Bronze, our handbell choir, will play during worship on Dec. 16; the Children's Choir will sing on Dec. 23; our evening service on Christmas Eve at 7 p.m. will be preceded by an organ recital at 6:30.

COFFEE HOUR: No Coffee Hour today because of Annual Christmas Dinner! Next week's host: Ingrid Harris. Thank you to Pastor Rebecca and her daughter, Grace, for providing the munchies last week.

PLEASE SEE LITERATURE TABLE FOR *WINDOW ON THE WEEK*.

DECEMBER CHALLENGE: CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING. During the Christmas and Advent season, we celebrate leadership—past, present and future—through support of the Christmas Joy Offering. We do so because church leaders greatly impact our lives of faith and we want these leaders and their families who are grappling with a critical financial need to have the resources they need which are provided through the Assistance Program of the Presbyterian Board of Pensions. For those supported through the Christmas Joy Offering, this help is truly a gift from above.

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT: 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, Evelyn, Christian, Heidi, Sara, 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.* In the spirit of the season, the Personnel Committee.

THE MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE would like to offer the congregation the opportunity to make suggestions for the 2019 Challenge offerings. If you know of an organization in our community that would benefit from a Challenge Offering, please contact a committee member for more information: Larry Elliott, Andrea Overton, Sam Whyte or Gloria Bethea, Chair. **The deadline for 2019 Challenge Offering suggestions is Sunday, December 16.**

DINNER AND A MOVIE! The Christian Education Committee invites you to Dinner and a Movie on Friday, December 21, 2018. That is also the evening of the Youth Group lock-in, and the entire church family is welcome to come enjoy a pizza supper at 6:30 p.m. in the Longstreth Auditorium followed by a screening of the Christmas movie “Elf” in the Jennings Room starting at 7:15 p.m. Come join the fun and fellowship with us this Advent season!

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 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 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 18, 2018.

WOMEN’S RETREAT: Save your place for the Women’s Retreat on Saturday, March 2, 2109. The cost is \$30 and a \$10 deposit will reserve your spot. Gloria Bethea is taking reservations at the CD table in Longstreth after worship.

Join us for the FPCG Annual

Christmas Festival

Saturday, December 15 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

featuring

- **Build-your-own Gingerbread House**
- **Card Making and Ornament Decorating**
- **Live Nativity with Animals from Saul High School**
- **Christmas Play by FPCG Youth**
- **Christmas Carol Sing-Along**
- **Pictures with Santa**
- **Fun Time with Family, Neighbors and Friends!**

Lunch is Included!

A free-will offering will be taken to help support the festival.

Church Officers

Elders

2019

Ingrid Harris
Joseph Leube
Delores Solomon

2020

Gloria Bethea
Andrea Overton
J. Randall Rosensteel

2021

Marc DiNardo
Robert Seed
Jason Williams

Clerk of Session:
Madeline Valentine

Deacons

2019

Ruth Cato
Diane Filter
Dick Liberty

2020

Randy Clever
John Orandosh
Carolyn Tarver

2021

Dhyan Cassie
Rhonda Highsmith
Dani Howard

First Church Staff

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

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