

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

DECEMBER 24, 2018  
CHRISTMAS EVE

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.  
Please be sure that your cell phone is turned off during worship.

December 24, 2018

Christmas Eve

*“Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection.”* – Winston Churchill

## ORDER OF EVENING WORSHIP AT 7:00 PM

### GATHERING AS GOD’S FAMILY

Solemn Prelude on <i>In the Bleak Midwinter</i>	Larry Visser (b. 1962)
Three Chorale Preludes	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
<i>Sleepers, Wake!</i> (BWV 645)	
<i>Savior of the Nations, Come</i> (BWV 659)	
<i>Now Sing We, Now Rejoice</i> (BWV 729)	
Toccata in F Major (Op. 42, No. 5)	C.M. Widor (1844-1937)

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Twelfth Century

†\*Lighting of the Advent Candle The Ohemeng Family

Emmanuel: God, you are with us.

We have heard the promise of the prophets;

We have caught the notes of an angel’s song;

We have seen a star in the heavens, and we have believed.

Tonight we have come to be with you because you have come to be with us.

We seek an innocent, helpless baby in a crude manger;

We seek a Messiah who will reign with justice;

And you, who are the weakest and the strongest,

the most humble and the most might, have found us.

Now we may find ourselves.

Now we may love each other, now we may truly worship you,

expressing the peace, hope, love and joy that the candles we’ve lit  
in previous weeks represent, as we light the Christ candle,

*(light candle)*

And celebrate aloud with the heavenly host: “Glory to God in the highest!

Peace on earth and goodwill among all people.”

\*Hymn 40: *Joy to the World!*

ANTIOCH

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\*congregation standing;  
†latecomers may be seated

## CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

### Prayer of Confession

**We wait, Gracious God, but seldom do so patiently, much less with joyous anticipation. Forgive us when we expect the worst. Forgive us when we are pregnant with bitterness. Forgive us when we give birth to anger and hatred, rather than kindness and love. Restore us with the gift of your grace, and fill us with the power of your Holy Spirit: that we may be pregnant with expectation; that we may give birth to hope and joy; that we may grow into a people of peace and love. In Christ's name, we pray.**

### 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.")

### *The First Noel*

BeBe and CeCe Winans

The first Noel the angels did say, was too certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay. In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel born is the King of Israel.

The Gospel Choir

Sara Carter-Blanford and Ted Walkenhorst, duet

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

### Prayer for Illumination

The First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Page 600 OT

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

**People:** **Thanks be to God!**

\*Hymn 41: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

The Second Lesson: Luke 2:1-20

Page 54 NT

**Leader:** God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **A BACKWARDS CHRISTMAS**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

\*Hymn 25: *Away in a Manger*

MUELLER

\*Affirmation of Faith (the *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 cruci-  
fied, 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 ev-  
erlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory: *Ding! Dong! Merrily on High*

English Carol/arr. Howard Helvey

Ding dong! Merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing. Ding dong! Verily the sky is riv'n  
with angel singing. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis! E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be  
swungen, and "Io, io, io!" by priest and people sungen. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis! Pray  
you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers; may you beautifully rime your evetime  
song, ye singers. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

The Chancel Choir

Ted Barr and Tony Thurman, four hand piano

\*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

\*Prayer of Dedication

## GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

Anthem: *O Holy Night*

Adolphe Adam/arr. John West

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining; it is the night of the dear Savior's birth! Long lay  
the world in sin and error pining till he appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope  
the weary soul rejoices for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn! Fall on your knees! Oh,  
hear the angel voices! Oh, night divine when Christ was born! Led by the light of faith se-  
renely beaming, with glowing hearts by his cradle we stand. So, led by light of a star sweetly  
gleaming, here came the wise men from the Orient land. The King of kings lay thus in lowly  
manger, in all our trials born to be our friend. He knows our need, he guardeth us from dan-  
ger; behold your King! Before the lowly bend!

The Chancel Choir

Evelyn Santiago, soprano

\*Hymn 60: *Silent Night, Holy Night*

STILL NACHT

\*Charge and Benediction