

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

DECEMBER 23, 2018

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 23, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Advent

“Uncertainty and expectation are the joys of life. Security is an insipid thing.” – William Congreve

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD’S FAMILY

Prelude: Three Christmas Carols

Joel Raney

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

What Child Is This?

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella

The Linda M. Leube Memorial Concert Piano

Ted Barr and Tony Thurman, four hand piano

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

The Bethea/Greene Family

Friends, we come to this circular wreath as a reminder
that God’s love has no beginning or end.

When we talk about Christmas, we talk about a love song
of God kneeling down like a mother to her child saying,
“Oh how I love you,” to each and every one of us.

Thus, I invite you to take a deep breath in and let it out slowly.
For in that breath, the Holy Spirit speaks love.

Now, I invite you to place your hand on the inside of your wrist or on your neck
just under your chin. Feel your pulse, notice your heart beating inside you.
For in that beat, the love of the Creator sings.

In past weeks, we lit the candles of hope, peace and joy
as touchstones of the Christian faith.

(light candle)

From those lights, we also light the candle of love,
which in one word tells the Christian story.

Friends, you are loved.

God is love.

And Christmas is God’s love song for us all.

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

VENI EMMANUEL

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.")

Solo: *Mary's Lullaby*

Max Reger

Amid the roses Mary sits and rocks her Jesus-child, while amid the treetops sighs the breeze so warm and mild. And soft and sweetly sings a bird upon the bough: Ah, baby, dear one, slumber now! Happy is thy laughter, holy is thy silent rest, lay thy head in slumber, fondly on thy mother's breast! Ah, baby, dear one, slumber now!

Margaret Mezzacappa, mezzo soprano

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Charles Bethea, Reader

The First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

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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!**

The Time for Children

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

Anthems

Were You There on That Christmas Night?

Natalie Sleeth

Were you there, were you there on that Christmas night, When the world was filled with a holy light? Were you there to behold, when the wonder foretold came to earth? Did you see, did you see how they hailed Him King, with the gifts so rare that they chose to bring? Did you see how they bowed, as they praised Him aloud at his birth? Did you hear how the choirs of Angels sang, at the glory of the sight? Did you hear how the bells of Heaven rang, all through the night? Did you know, did you know it was God's own Son, the salvation of the world begun? Did you know it was love that was sent from above to the earth? Did you know it was love that was sent from above to the earth?

To a lowly manger stall God sent down a baby small. By His birth to save us all on Christmas Day, in Christmas Day in the morning. Shepherds poor and wise-men three came the holy Child to see, Him adored on bended knee on Christmas Day in the morning. Hallelujah, Sing we all Noel; Hallelujah, Joyful tidings tell! Let the bells of welcome ring, Let the choirs of angels sing, Glory to the Lord and King on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day in the morning. To a stall, for us all, came a baby small So early in the morning. Wise-men three came to see, fell on bended knee So early in the morning. Hallelujah, Sing we all Noel; Hallelujah, Joyful tidings tell! Praises bring, Carols sing, Glory to the King so early in the morning. To a stall, for us all, came a baby small So early in the morning. Wise-men three came to see, fell on bended knee So early in the morning. Hallelujah, Sing we all Noel; Hallelujah, Joyful tidings tell! Praises bring, Carols sing, Glory to the King so early in the morning. Glory to the King so early in the morning.

Children's Choir, Evelyn Santiago, Director

The Second Lesson: Luke 1:39-55

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Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **WE'RE ALMOST THERE!**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 48: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

ES IST EIN' ROS'

*Affirmation of Faith (from the *Scots Confession*)

When the fullness of time came God sent his Son, his eternal wisdom, the substance of his own glory into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, a virgin, by means of the Holy Ghost. And so was born the "just seed of David," the "Angel of the great counsel of God," the very Messiah promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, true God and true man, two perfect natures united and joined in one person. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory: *Mary's Magnificat*

Andrew Carter

Softly a light is stealing, sweetly, a maiden sings, ever wakeful, ever wistful, watching faithfully, thankfully, tenderly her King of kings. My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. Mary her song to Jesus softly, serenely sings: "I will love you, I will serve you, may my lullaby glorify, magnify my King of kings." Lullaby, lullaby.

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 19: *To a Maid Engaged to Joseph*

ANNUNCIATION

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Toccatina on a French Carol*

Richard Elliott

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.

COFFEE HOUR: This week's host: Daniel Conner. Next week's host: The Rachel Circle. Thank you to Lorraine Hall and Tim Robinson for supplying the munchies last week.

THE MUSIC: On this Third Sunday of Advent, much of our music emphasizes the Song of Mary, the "Magnificat," as recorded in Luke 1:46-55, and the very special relationship between mother and child. We look ahead in joyful anticipation to the prophecy of Isaiah being fulfilled through the birth of the Christ Child in Bethlehem.

Looking ahead: Our Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. will be preceded by an organ recital by F. Anthony Thurman at 6:30. If you were unable to our *Messiah* concert, or if you would like to hear it again, our Internet livestream recording can be played on demand at www.fpcgermantown.org/Messiah-2018.

Save the Date! The Germantown Oratorio Choir & Orchestra will present a Brahms Festival Concert on Sunday, March 17, at 4 p.m. Rehearsals begin on Tuesday, January 8, from 7 -9 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The program will feature the music of Brahms, Robert and Clara Schumann in recognition of Clara Schumann's bicentennial. For more information or to participate, call the church office at 212-843-8811 or e-mail music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com.

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.

THE RACHEL CIRCLE, an arm of the Presbyterian Women USA, will be collecting new gloves, hats and socks for adults and children during Sunday worship. All items collected will be given to the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry for distribution.

REVEREND REBECCA WILL BE ON VACATION Wednesday, Dec. 26-Friday, Dec. 28. Please note that she will not be at Uncle Bobbie's on Thursday, December 27.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed from December 24, 2018 through January 2, 2019 to give our volunteers much needed time off and time with their families.

THE GACM will be closed for the Christmas holidays, with their last day of service being Thursday, December 20, 2018. The administrative staff will return on Wednesday, January 2, 2019. The food pantry will reopen on Thursday, January 10, 2019 and social services will resume on Monday, January 14, 2019. Many thanks to staff and volunteers for an amazing 2018!

2019 PLEDGE CARDS: Thanks to all who have submitted your 2019 pledge card—so far we have received 63 for a total of \$262,540. You can still make a difference transforming lives at FPCG and in the community beyond; just place your pledge in the *Transformed by Gratitude* box on the literature table and add your commitment toward next year's ministry.

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES: To save the church the cost of mailing your 2019 offering envelopes, please pick them up during Coffee Hour. If your envelopes are not there and you wish to have them, please call the church office.

***The Poinsettias in the Sanctuary are
in Memory and Honor of our Loved Ones and Friends***

In Memory of:

George & Julia Abbott	Robert M. Aiken, Sr.	Robert M. Aiken, Jr.
Jamie Alexander	Mr. & Mrs. John L. Asher Sr.	Mr. & Mrs. Earl J. Ball Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. William Barrows	Keith Alan Benjamin	Dr. Kenneth W. Benjamin
Eleanor S. Berrington	Mary E. Bethea	Romeo Cascarino
Capt. Michael P. Cassidy, USA	Robert & Vero Cato	John A. Chandler
Cowie Family loved ones	Walter C. Dambman	Clifford C. David
Mr. & Mrs. Edward M. David	Mr. & Mrs. William M. David	Alma E. Deas
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Deas	Elma Devine	Ann DiNardo
Ditzen Family loved ones	Mattie Drum	Martha Henze Egly
Winnie Fahs	Lenore Finger	Bill & Bea Gardner
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Geiger	Sandra Cato Gohr	Mr. & Mrs. James Gregg
Margery W. Guenthoer	Jason Guggolz	Betty A. Henze
Edith Holmes	Mrs. Annie Jackson	The Rev. Freddie Jackson
Horace Jackson	Dr. James Jackson	Mrs. Myrtle Jackson
Reginald A. Jackson	William A. Jackson	Charles & Ora Kaylor
Mr. & Mrs. Paul W. Keibler	Mr. & Mrs. Harry W. Kleiser	Dorothy Knupp
Mr. & Mrs. Miles W. Krimmel	The Rev. Charles F. Krimmel	Joseph J. Leube Sr.
Linda M. Leube	Margaret M. Leube	Virginia Linden
Norma & Dick Mercer	Adelena Milburn	Virginia Miller
Esther S. Nafziger	Carolyn M. Nagel	Rose Neuringer
William & Marguerite Oldach	William & Betty Jane Oldach Jr.	Eleanor C. Parker
George & Margaret Parker	Michael R. Parks	Reimann loved ones
Mr. & Mrs. Garrett H. Rentrop	Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Reisse	Mr. & Mrs. Jack H. Rosensteel
Raymond & Kathryn Ross	Ethel Ogden Royce	Elizabeth Lane Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Franklin P. Smith	Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Steffy	Edith Stewart
Jeannette S. Swartz	Elizabeth H. Thompson	George Paul Thompson
H. George Thompson	Hilma E. Thompson	Patricia Ann Thompson
Fred W. Thurman	Virginia Von Frankenberg	Gee Gee White
Mr. & Mrs. William G. Young		

In Honor of:

F. Anthony Thurman

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, Dec. 23	9:00 AM	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Worship—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School, Grades K-5
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir—Choir Room
	11:45 AM	Confirmation Class—Youth Lounge
	1:30 PM	Disciples Basketball Team Practice—Gym
Monday, Dec. 24		Church Office Closed, GACM Closed
	1:00 PM	Ladies Teen Challenge—Gym
	5:30 PM	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service
Tuesday, Dec. 25		Christmas Day Church Closed
Wednesday, Dec. 26		Church Office Closed, GACM Closed
Thursday, Dec. 27		Church Office Closed, GACM Closed
	6:00 PM	Disciples Basketball Practice—Gym
Friday, Dec. 28		Church Office Closed, GACM Closed Church Hours: 8 AM to 4 PM
Saturday, Dec. 29	9:00 AM	Readers' Choice—Offsite
	10:00 AM	Open Gym
Sunday, Dec. 30	10:00 AM	Worship—Lessons and Carols
	11:45 AM	Confirmation Class—Youth Lounge
	1:30 PM	Disciples Basketball Team Practice—Gym

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	Christian Heyer-Rivera	Heidi Mercado-Littles
Director of Christian Education	Parish Visitor	Terry Boyer
Building Manager	Administrative Assistant	Joan Harris
Administrative Assistant	Bookkeeper	Cindy Osborne
Bookkeeper	Sextons	Tanieya Matthews, Robert Patterson, Harold Whaley

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