

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

DECEMBER 1, 2019

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 1, 2019

Advent 1/Lord's Supper

"Waiting for the spark from heaven to fall." - Matthew Arnold, "The Scholar Gipsy"

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: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Jesse Padgett

†*Lighting of the Advent Candle Dani Howard, Dick Liberty, and Lois VanEerden

Reader 1: This is the first Sunday in Advent, the time of preparing for the coming of Christ our Savior. Today our word is *wait*. God does not come at our command. We wait on God, scripture says. Advent is a time to wait, to wonder what God has in store for us.

Reader 2: **Listen to the words of Isaiah: (Isaiah 63:15-64:5a)**

Reader 3: As we light* the first Advent candle, we wait—we wait for God's new age; we wait for Christ to be reborn in our hearts; we wait for our prayers to be answered. Let us pray together.

All: Gracious God, help us to prepare not only our homes but also our hearts and lives for the coming of Emmanuel. Let us make our way straight, that Christ may come to us in the fullness of times, as we wait and prepare a place in our lives. Amen.

(* = *Lighting of the Advent candle*)

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

VENI EMMANUEL

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

We confess, O God, that we do not take seriously your coming into our lives. We do not believe that salvation is near; we do not act uprightly, loving you, our neighbors or ourselves; nor do we bend our swords and spears. Forgive us, we pray that we might once again walk in your light, and live in hope-filled expectation of your return.

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.**

*congregation standing; †latecomers may be seated

(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.")

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Bob Seed

The First Lesson: Romans 13:11-14

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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

Anthem: *His Name is Jesus*

Maria P. McAllister

His birth was foretold by prophets of old.

His name is Jesus, He's the Messiah.

With angelic praise, God's plan did unfold.

His name is Jesus, He's the Messiah. There is no other name, the answer's one in the same.

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus

Born of a virgin, Holy Spirit conceived.

His name is Jesus, He's the Messiah.

The God Man was born to set his people free.

His name is Jesus, He's the Messiah. There is no other name, the answer's one in the same.

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus

If you are still wondering like the wise men, you search.

His name is Jesus, He's the Messiah.

The Word, the Creator of Heaven and Earth.

His name is Jesus, He's the Messiah. Bow down and worship him, your heart as an offering
give. Jesus, Jesus.

Jesus, Emmanuel Prince of Peace

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus

Gospel Choir: Sara C. Blanford; Director

The Second Lesson: Matthew 24:36-44

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Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **AN UNEXPECTED HOUR**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

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

ABERYSTWYTH

*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 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 everlasting. Amen.

Offering

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

Paul Manz

Text: Revelation 22/Ruth 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 be saved.

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 below, 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!

*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: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Richard Proulx

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord. God of pow-er and might.

6
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the

11
 high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est. Blest is he who comes in the

16
 name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-

20
 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:



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 a 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*

Proulx



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.)

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 forever more. Amen.

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

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

STUTTGART

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

*Congregational Response : #9 (Refrain)

VENI EMMANUEL

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.

COFFEE HOUR: This week's host: CDFC. Next week's host: Ingrid Harris. Many thanks to Gayle & Herb Henze for supplying the munchies last week. If you love to bake, buy or share hospitality, we need you to host this important time of fellowship! Please see Delores Solomon if you feel called to provide snacks or hands-on support.

2020 STEWARDSHIP: Our 2020 Vision Discipleship/Stewardship Campaign is off to a good start with 38 pledges received for a total of \$145,703.00. We still have a significant way to go, so if you haven't taken the opportunity to commit your time, talent, and treasure to the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown yet, please pick up a pledge card on the literature table (or use the one that was mailed to you), fill it out, and place it in the box on the literature table or in Bookkeeper Cindy Osborne's box in the Church Office. Thank you for your gift and the covenant you're making with the Lord and the church in this offering!

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. Our music calls us to wait, watch, and listen for Christ's second coming. Presented for the first time in worship today is Jesse Padgett's newly composed choral introit, *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*. We give God thanks for the gift of music Jesse generously shares with our church. 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.

MESSIAH CONCERT: The Germantown Oratorio Choir & Orchestra will present our annual Messiah concert this afternoon at 3 p.m. A dessert reception will be offered in Longstreth Auditorium following the concert. If you or your loved ones are unable to attend in person, the Internet livestream can be found online at www.fpcgermantown.org/Messiah-2019. This concert is made possible by generous gifts from members and friends of First Church. Additional support is provided by the City of Philadelphia Office of Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY: This season we are called to Worship fully, spend less, give more, and love all through the Advent Conspiracy. Join us at 6:15pm for dinner at Andera Overton's home, 509 Murdoch Road, Philadelphia, PA 19119 and/or at 7:15pm for the study. If you need a book, speak with Rev. Rebecca.

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 Monday, December 16, 2019.

2019 CHRISTMAS GIFT TO FIRST CHURCH STAFF: The Personnel Committee will be collecting for the annual Christmas gift to First Church staff during Coffee Hour beginning today and continuing each Sunday through 12/22. Please stop at the table in Longstreth to drop off your monetary gift and to sign the Christmas Card insert. Thank you for in advance for showing your appreciation to the staff during this joyous season.

DECEMBER CHALLENGE OFFERING PRESBYTERIAN JOY OFFERING: During the Christmas and Advent season, we celebrate leadership—past, present and future—through support of the Christmas Joy Offering. We do this because church leaders greatly im-

pact 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 Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s.

MISSION & OUTREACH: Do you have an organization that you would like to be highlighted as one of our monthly challenge offering? Please contact a representative from Mission & Outreach.

ACT & ENGAGE: Act & Engage is a new initiative that offers the opportunity to wrestle with important issues as followers of Christ: to listen, to learn, to engage through the lens of our Christian faith. Our first topic is Criminal Justice and we have held two programs around it thus far. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, January 19, 2020 immediately following worship. Please save the date and join us as we strive to discern how God is calling us to respond to this issue.

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, Dec. 1	9:00 AM	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Worship—Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Grades K-5
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir—Choir Room
	3:00 PM	Messiah Concert & Dessert Reception—Sanctuary, L
Monday, Dec. 2	1:00 PM	Ladies Teen Challenge
Tuesday, Dec. 3	6:15 PM	Advent Study & Dinner—Andrea Overton’s Home
Wed, Dec. 4	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Upstairs Office
	3:30 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary, CR, Longstreth
	6:00 PM	Disciples Basketball Practice—Gym
	7:00 PM	Session Meeting—Finney Room
Thursday, Dec. 5	8:00 AM	Rev. Rebecca at Uncle Bobbie’s, 5445 Germantown Ave. (8-10 a.m.)
	5:00 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Jennings Room
	6:30 PM	Children’s Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
	6:30 PM	Gospel Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
	7:30 PM	Voices in Bronze Rehearsal—Choir Room
Friday, Dec. 6	Middle School Retreat—Camp Johnsonburg (12/6-12/8)	
	10:00 AM	GACM Staff Meeting—Finney Room
	3:30 PM	Drop-in Center—Youth Lounge, Gym
	5:00 PM	KSB Small Group Ensemble—Choir Room
Saturday, Dec. 7	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary (8-3pm)
	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Longstreth (8-1pm)
	9:30 AM	CDFC Meeting—Finney Room
	10:00 AM	Open Gym—Gym
Sunday, Dec. 8	9:00 AM	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Worship—Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Grades K-5
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir—Choir Room
	3:30 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Choir Room

Church Officers

Elders

2020

Gloria Bethea
Andrea Overton
J. Randall Rosensteel

2021

Marc DiNardo
Robert Seed
Jason Williams

2022

Ingrid Harris
Joseph Leube
Delores Solomon

Clerk of Session:
Robert Seed

Deacons

2020

Randy Clever
John Orandosh
Carolyn Tarver

2021

Dhyan Cassie
Rhonda Highsmith
Dani Howard

2022

Dick Liberty
Dolores Shanks
OPEN

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 C. 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
Communications Management Fellow	Building Manager	Cherese Akers
	Bookkeeper	Cindy Osborne
	Sextons	Tony Nixon, David Slaughter, Clinton (CJ) Cotton

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