

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

DECEMBER 8, 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 8, 2019

Advent 2

"Maturity is achieved when a person accepts life as full of tension" - Joshua L. Liebman

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: <i>Lo, How a Rose Is Growing</i>	John Leavitt
Welcome and Announcements	
Minute for Mission	Dick Liberty
Introit: <i>O Come, O Come Emmanuel</i>	Jesse Padgett
†*Lighting of the Advent Candle	Glenna Hazeltine, Joseph Leube Jr., J. Randall Rosensteel, and Jim Thompson

Reader 1: This is the second Sunday in Advent, the time of preparing for the coming of Christ our Savior. Today our word is *prepare*. Not only do we wait for our Savior, but we use this time of waiting creatively. We prepare for Christmas with gift purchases, tree trimming, home decorating, card mailing. We prepare for Christ with prayer, quiet contemplation, resolutions to be better people than we are now.

Reader 2: Listen to the words from the prophet Isaiah: "*Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'*"

Reader 3: Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep."

Reader 4: *We light* the first Advent candle, remembering that we wait for Christ. We also light* today's candle, remembering that we must prepare our hearts for Christ's coming. Let us pray.*

*congregation standing; †latecomers may be seated

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 time, as we wait and prepare a place in our lives. Amen.

(* = Lighting of the Advent candles)

*Hymn 10: *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

WINCHESTER NEW

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Awesome God, we have disregarded your Word, failing to inquire after your will for us. We have ignored the needy, defended our advantages, and neglected our prayers. We have not appreciated or witnessed to your sustaining love. Instead we destroy the resources of the earth with little regard for those who follow us. We value our prosperity more than the harmony you envision for your people. O God, we do not like ourselves this way. Deliver us, 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.")

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Lisa Grewe

The First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10

Page 602-603 OT

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: *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, 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?

The Second Lesson: Matthew 3:1-12

Page 2-3 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **A MARRIAGE OF OPPOSITES**

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—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.

Prayers of the People

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

Offertory: *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

Lloyd Larsen

A voice cries out, "Prepare the way of the Lord,
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Ev'ry valley shall be lifted up and ev'ry mountain made low."

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed; all people shall see it together.

The mouth of the Lord has spoken it.

Comfort, comfort my people; proclaim the promise of the Lord:

His name shall be called Emmanuel.

Evelyn Santiago, soprano, and Margaret Mezzacappa, mezzo soprano

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 2: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

*Congregational Response : #9 (Refrain)

VENI EMMANUEL

Postlude: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Thurman

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: Carolyn & Ernie Freeman and Ingrid Harris. Next week's host: Open. Many thanks to Madeline Valentine & the Messiah Concert reception 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 45 pledges received for a total of \$162,063.00. 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 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. Our music calls us to wait, watch, and listen for Christ's second coming. Looking ahead: Voices in Bronze will play and the Children's Choir will sing in worship next Sunday, Dec. 15. Come early to enjoy the handbell prelude to the service.

MESSIAH CONCERT: The Germantown Oratorio Choir & Orchestra presented our annual Messiah concert last Sunday afternoon. If you were unable to attend or if you did and would like to enjoy the performance again, the Internet livestream video can be found online at www.fpcgermantown.org/Messiah-2019. This concert was made possible by generous gifts from members and friends of First Church. Additional support was provided by the City of Philadelphia Office of Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy.

THANK YOU FROM MADELINE VALENTINE: Many special and sincere thanks for all the volunteers that helped make the Messiah dessert reception a success.

FPCG SECURITY MEETING: Please join us on Monday, December 9th at 6pm in the Finney Room for a security meeting. Officer Smith from the 14th district will offer support to us in establishing a security protocol for our church. If you have any questions or concerns please direct them to Elder, Bob Seed today after worship.

THE RACHEL CIRCLE, an arm of the Presbyterian Women USA, will hold its monthly meeting Monday, December 16th at 11:00 a.m. in the Jennings Room. All women are welcome. Please bring your lunch. Drink and dessert will be provided.

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.

OFFERING ENVELOPES: To save the church the cost of mailing your 2020 offering envelopes, please pick them up during the coffee hour today. If envelopes are not there and you wish to have them, please inform the church office.

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 in advance for showing your appreciation to the staff during this joyous 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 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.

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 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 Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping minority communities.

FPCG IS GOING BACK TO PUERTO RICO: FPCG has been traveling to PR for the last two summers to assist in the recovery from Hurricane Maria. We will be heading down there again this summer on July 18-26, 2020. If you are interested in finding out more about the trip, the island, and the work we will be doing, please join us at our first info session on Sunday, January 12 at 11:30am. Any questions, please feel free to talk with Sheila or Christian Heyer-Rivera

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 26, 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.

Upcoming at First Church

Sunday, December 15th, 11:30am

3rd Sunday Intergenerational Bible Study

Saturday, December 21st, 11:00am—2:00pm

Christmas Festival

Sunday, December 24th, 7:00pm

Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 29th, 5:00pm

***5th @ 5 Worship Service
with Christmas Dinner following***

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

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
	11:30 AM	5th Sunday Planning Team Meeting—Finney Room
	12:30 PM	Middle School Retreatants Return
Monday, Dec. 9	GACM Winter Warmth Drive—Jennings (12/9—12/12)	
	1:00 PM	Ladies Teen Challenge
	6:00 PM	Security Meeting—Finney Room
Tuesday, Dec. 10	5:30 PM	KSB Percussion Rehearsal—Choir Room
	6:15 PM	Advent Study & Dinner—Andrea Overton's Home
Wed, Dec. 11	11:30 AM	Staff Holiday Gathering & Meeting—TBD
	3:30 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary, CR, Longstreth
	5:30 PM	GACM Board Meeting—Offsite
	6:00 PM	Disciples Basketball Practice—Gym
	6:00 PM	Friends of Vernon Park—Finney Room
Thursday, Dec. 12	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. 13	3:30 PM	Drop-in Center—Youth Lounge, Gym
	5:00 PM	KSB Small Group Ensemble—Choir Room
	6:30 PM	All Youth Group Christmas Fest. Planning—YL, G, L
Saturday, Dec. 14	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary (8-3pm)
	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Longstreth (8-1pm)
	10:00 AM	Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting—Jennings
	10:00 AM	Open Gym—Gym
Sunday, Dec. 15	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
	11:30 AM	3rd Sunday Intergenerational Bible Study
	3:00 PM	KSB Holiday Concert—Sanctuary
	7:00 PM	KSB Holiday Concert—Sanctuary

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

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

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