

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

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.*

November 29, 2020

Advent 1

"We have to journey through the darkness to get to the hope." - Annie Kotto

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM
GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: Wachet Auf, Ruft uns sie Stimme

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

†*Call to Worship: Advent Candle lighting The Kotto-Ohemeng family

Reader 1: If ever there was a year we needed Advent, this is the year. We hardly know how to describe the year we have lived through. We hesitate to reflect on all the mess around us in 2020. All we know is that nothing seems right, nothing seems like it used to be, nothing. We need Advent!

Reader 2: The prophet Isaiah cried out for us, "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down ... To make your name known ... so that nations might tremble at your presence." So tear through the mess, O Lord, and come down to us again. We long to be your people, a people of hope.

Reader 3: We light this first candle as a sign of our hope. Hope that you can meet us, even in the mess of our world. Hope that you still see us, though we feel we are lost in the rubble. Let this light be the guide that brings us to Emmanuel once more.

All: O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

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

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spirits by Thine advent here; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desires of nations, bind All peoples in one heart and mind; Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Sovereign Christ, Shepherd King, you seek the lost and the hurting, the strayed and the weary. We can see you kneeling beside the injured, and we ask for your strong and tender hands to bind up our injuries, and carry us to safety. We also ask for your forgiveness when we have injured others and scattered the weak, when we have forgotten that we are your strong and tender hands in this world. Forgive us, and renew us, that we may accomplish your saving work in the world.

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

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

The First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9

Pages 652-653 OT

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

People: Thanks be to God!

A Time for Children

Anthem: Carol for Advent

arr. Don Besig & Nancy Price

Amid the winter's cold embrace, clothed in a shroud of white, an anxious world in silence
waits through the dark of night, As the lonely song of a dove echoes across the sky
above, We can feel the moment is near; Soon the Child of Peace will appear.

What child is this the world awaits with quiet expectation? When will He come, the promised
one, to bring us peace and salvation? Raise, raise your prayers on high. Prepare His way, the
time is nigh. Come, come Emmanuel, O Child of Love and Peace.

The air grows colder, the light grows dim with darkening sky above us, But soon the chill
of the winter wind will warm with God's gift of love. And a star will brighten the sky;
And songs of joy will echo on high! We will know the moment is here; the Child of Love
and Peace will appear.

The Second Lesson: Mark 13:24-37

Rev. Rebecca Segers
Pages 47-48 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **A PASSION FOR THE POSSIBLE**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 17: *"Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us*

WACHET AUF

"Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us; the shout of rampart guards surrounds us: "Awake,
Jerusalem, arise!" Midnight's peace their cry has broken, their urgent summons clearly spo-
ken: "The time has come, O maidens wise! Rise up, and give us light; the Bridegroom is in
sight. Alleluia! Your lamps prepare and hasten there, that you the wedding feast may share."

Zion hears the watchmen singing; Her heart with joyful hope is springing; She wakes and hur-
ries through the night. Forth he comes, her Bridegroom glorious in strength of grace, in truth
victorious: her star is risen, her light grows bright. Now come, most worthy Lord, God's Son,
incarnate Word, Alleluia! We follow all and heed Your call to come into the banquet hall.

Lamb of God, the heavens adore You; let saints and angels sing before you, As harps and
cymbals swell the sound. Twelve great pearls, the city's portals: through them we stream to
join the immortals as we with joy your throne surround. No eye has known the sight, no ear
heard such delight: Alleluia! Therefore we sing to greet our King; Forever let our praises ring.

*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 Our Gifts

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

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

HYFRYDOL

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free. From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee. Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art; Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King, Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring. By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone; By Thine all sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Postlude: Toccata on Veni Emmanuel

Andrew Carter

NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Congregational Meeting of the Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown, in the County of Philadelphia, PA, will be held on Sunday, December 13, 2020, via Zoom following the worship service at 11:30 a.m.

The following will be presented:

- Annual Report 2020
- Preliminary Budget 2021
- Pastor's Terms of Call 2021

Any other business which properly comes before the Congregation may be transacted at this meeting.

Attest: Robert Seed, Clerk of Session

Rev. Rebecca L. Segers, Moderator

Church Officers

Elders

2021

Marc DiNardo
Robert Seed
Jason Williams

2022

Ingrid Harris
Joseph Leube
Delores Solomon

2023

Drew Hood
Andrea Overton
Fatima Robinson

Clerk of Session:
Robert Seed

Deacons

2021

Dhyan Cassie
Rhonda Highsmith
Dani Howard

2022

Dick Liberty
Dolores Shanks
Stephanie Garrett

2023

John Orandosh
Chris Scott Jr.
Carolyn Tarver

First Church Staff

Pastor	Rebecca Segers
Director of Adult Education and Community Life	Kevin L. Porter
Director of Urban Ministry	Eileen Jones
Director of Christian Education	Christian Heyer-Rivera
Director of Music Ministry	John Walthausen
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

Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Honorably Retired

David Cassie, Linda Jaymes, Allison Seed

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