

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

DECEMBER 20, 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.*

December 20, 2020

Advent 4

"Pride makes us artificial and humility makes us real." - Thomas Merton

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

Prelude: *Tiento sobre la Letanía de la Virgen*

Pablo Bruna

Welcome and Announcements

Minute For Mission

Dick Liberty

†*Call to Worship: Advent Candle lighting

Marc DiNardo & Liz Drum

Reader 1: We live on the brink every day. We stand on the threshold between this world and the next one. We live and move between the ordinary and divine, between the mundane and the mystery. Too often, we forget to look up and see the angels in our living room. We forget that the love we give and live is a sign of eternity, God with us, right now. We forget that company is coming.

Reader 2: Luke tells us that God's favor came to a girl, an ordinary girl. It might have been you or your daughter; it might have been the girl down the street or your grandchild. But the messenger of God came and greeted her and said, "The Lord is with you." What a gift and a promise: Emmanuel, God is with us.

Reader 3: We light these candles with peace in our hearts for the promise of proximity, the nearness of God. Even when we forget to listen, to lean into that presence, God is as close as our own breath. This, in a confused and confusing world, is a peace that passes all understanding. It is the peace that knows that company is coming.

All: O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

*Hymn 8: *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

TRURO

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits; the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide. let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

O Holy God, our very waiting in Advent is itself a confession: If we are waiting for Emmanuel, we are not yet with you; if we are waiting for Jesus, we need a Savior; if we are waiting for a Messiah, the proud are still powerful, the mighty are still exalted, the hungry stand unheard at the door; if we are waiting for your incarnation in human form, we confess that we have not known you in our sister, we have not loved you in our brother, we have not served you in our neighbor. In this time of great meaning, in the stillness of Advent love and light, hear

our deepest confession; heal us and make us new through the good tidings of your presence in our lives.

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

David Cassie

The First Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Pages 268-269 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: *Ave Maria*

Jehan Alain

Latin Text

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum.

Benedicta tu in mulieribus,

et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Iesus.

Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,

ora pro nobis peccatoribus,

nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

English Translation

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women,

and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

pray for us sinners,

now and in the hour of our death. Amen.

Kathryn Radakovich, Soloist

The Second Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Page 53 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **GOOD ENOUGH FOR GOD**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

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

ANNUNCIATION

To a maid engaged to Joseph, The angel Gabriel came. "Fear not," the angel told her, "I come to bring good news, Good news I come to tell you, Good news, I say, good news.

"For you are highly favored By the God the Lord of all, Who even now is with you. You are on earth most blest, You are most blest, most blessed, God chose you, you are blest!"

But Mary was most troubled To hear the angel's word. What was the angel saying? It troubled her to hear, To hear the angel's message, It troubled her to hear.

“Fear not, for God is with you, And you shall bear a child. His name shall be called Jesus, God's offspring from on high. And he shall reign forever, Forever reign on high.”

“How shall this be?” said Mary, “I am not yet a wife.” The angel answered quickly, “The power of the Most High Will come upon you shortly; Your child will be God's child.”

As Mary heard the angel, She wondered at his words. “Behold, I am your handmaid,” She said unto her God. “So be it; I am ready According to your word.”

*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 25: *Away in a Manger*

MUELLER

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Postlude: *Sortie: Venez Divin Messie*

César Franck

GUEST MUSICIAN: Noted as a “very expressive soprano” (Opus Colorado), Kathryn Radakovich is a thriving soprano known for her precision and chameleon-like versatility. Both locally and nationally, Kathryn can be found singing with some of the most esteemed choral ensembles as well as serving as soloist with early music orchestras.

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	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

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

35 West Cheltenham Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Phone 215-843-8811

FAX 888-333-5032

www.fpcgermantown.org