

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

DECEMBER 27, 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 27, 2020

1st Sunday after Christmas/Lessons & Carols

*"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: *Greensleeves (Bluesleeves)*

Malcolm Archer

Welcome and Announcements

†\*Call to Worship:

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: Good news! Unspeakable joy!

**Many: A great light has burst forth, overcoming the darkness!**

One: A child is born for us—a son has been given!

**Many: Bringing a kingdom of endless peace, we shall call him Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God!**

One: Come, let us see what God has brought us!

**Many: Let us see what the Lord has done!**

One: Glory to God in the highest!

**All: And on earth, peace and good will to everyone!**

\*Hymn 40: *Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

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

**God of holy mystery, it was no heavenly stranger that came to save us; it was no divine afterthought that freed us from captivity to aimlessness and sin; it was no casual gesture that fashioned our salvation. As we laugh and sing our praises at Christmastime, remind us once more of what you offer: a love born of endless searching, a connection born of deep longing, a future born of selfless sacrifice. As we praise you with our lips, and love you with our hearts, help us to be the people you imagine us to be, remembering that you are Emmanuel, "God with us," now and always, guiding our steps, and directing our paths.**

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.**

### PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

**The First Lesson:** Isaiah 7:10-15 (Page 598 OT)

Rev. Rebecca Segers

God promises that a child shall be conceived who will be known as "God with us."

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!

**The Second Lesson:** Isaiah 9:2-7 (Page 600 OT)

Larry Elliot

God promises that child shall be the Prince of Peace and his kingdom shall never end.

\*Hymn 28: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

IN DULCI JUBILO

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say:

Jesus Christ is born today. Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.

Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss:

Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

**The Third Lesson:** Matthew 1:18-25 (Page 1 NT)

Lisa Grewe

An angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream.

Hymn 38: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

CAROL

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world; above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing, and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow, look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing. O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold, when with the ever-circling years come round the age of gold; when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

**The Fourth Lesson:** Luke 1:26-58 (Page 53 NT)

Rev. Rebecca Segers

The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary  
that she will bear the Son of the Most High.

\*Hymn 23: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heavenly song? Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**The Fifth Lesson:** Luke 2:1-20 (Page 54 NT)

Larry Elliot

Jesus is born at Bethlehem and is worshiped by angels and shepherds.

Hymn 49: *Once in Royal David's City*

IRBY

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall: with the poor, oppressed, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us He grew; He was little, weak and help-  
less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in  
all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child so dear and  
gentle is our Lord in heaven above: and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Kevin Porter

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

Anthem: *Mary had a Baby*

Spiritual, arr. Hall Johnson

Mary had a Baby, Yes, Lord,  
Mary had a Baby, Yes my Lord,  
Mary Had a baby, Yes Lord

The People keep a-coming and the train done gone

Star keep a shinin', Yes Lord  
Movin' in the elements, Yes My Lord,  
Stood above the Stable, Yes Lord

The People keep a-coming and the train done gone

Where did she lay him? Yes, Lord  
Laid him in the manger, Yes my Lord  
Wrapped him in the swaddlin', Yes Lord  
The People keep a-coming and the train done gone

What did she name Him? Yes, Lord  
Named him King Jesus, Yes, my Lord

Wonderful Counsellor, Yes, Lord  
The People keep a-coming and the train done gone

Mary had a Baby, Yes, Lord,  
Mary had a Baby, Yes my Lord,  
Mary Had a baby, Yes Lord  
The People keep a-coming and the train done gone

Laurice Simmons Kennel, Soloist

**The Sixth Lesson:** Matthew 2:1-12 (Page 1 NT)

Lisa Grewe

Jesus is likewise sought after and found by Wise Men from the East.

\*Hymn 53: *What Child Is This?*

GREENSLEEVES

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ, the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing: Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate, Where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear: for sinners here The silent Word is pleading. This, this is Christ, the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing: Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, Come, one and all, to own Him. The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him. This, this is Christ, the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing: Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!

**The Seventh Lesson:** John 1:1-18 (Page 86 NT)

Rev. Rebecca Segers

The Word was made flesh and we have seen his glory.

\*Hymn 29: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

GO TELL IT

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain that  
Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

### **GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME**

\*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Postlude: *Fantasia on Adeste Fideles*

David Blackwell

**GUEST MUSICIAN:** Laurice Simmons Kennel, Soprano, was born and raised in Southwestern Michigan. She now resides in Philadelphia, PA with her Husband. She received her Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Michigan State University and her Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Currently, Ms.Kennel studies privately with Sharon Sweet. Laurice has performed a

wide range of operatic roles. She has sung the role of Mimi (La Boheme), Micaela (Carmen), Donna Anna (Don Giovanni), Violetta (La Traviata) and Suor Angelica (Suor Angelica). Ms. Kennel has sung with the Opera Company of Philadelphia, New York City Opera at Lincoln Center, Lyric Opera Company Los Angeles and OperaDelaware .



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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

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

## Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Honorably Retired

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David Cassie, Linda Jaymes, Allison Seed

## The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

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