

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

NOVEMBER 28, 2021
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 28, 2021

First Sunday in Advent

"I believe that injustice prevails where hopelessness persists, and we need people like you who are hopeful about what they can do." - Bryan Stevenson

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

"All are encouraged to join in singing our hymns and responses while remaining masked"

Prelude: *Wachet Auf*

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *Holy, Holy, Holy* arr. John Carter

Holy, Holy, Holy,
Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee!

Holy, Holy, Holy,
Merciful and Mighty!
God in three persons, Blessed Trinity!

†*Call to Worship

Addy: Our God is Alpha and Omega. Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

Elisa: We light this candle in hope. (*Light the first candle.*) Hear God's promise of hope from Jeremiah 33:14-16: "The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Lily: Let us pray: Faithful God, out of death you bring life. Renew us in hope, that we may be alert to the burgeoning of Christ's advent among us.

Mina: God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.

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

HYFRYDOL

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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.

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

God who is with us, and God who is on the way, we confess that we do not wait

*congregation standing; †latecomers may be seated

or watch for you. Words of darkness encumber and distract us. Petty jealousies, hard quarrels, ambitions rooted in selfish desires—they command our attention. We have ceased to hope for peace and harmony among the nations or for security apart from the defenses we construct. We heard your promises, Lord, but dare not trust them. God of power and love, awaken us to hope and fit us for your coming, that we may watch for you with confidence and joy.

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

Amir Staten

The First Lesson: Jeremiah 33:14-16

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The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

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: *Comfort Ye, from Messiah*

G.F. Handel

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness; prepare ye the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry moutain and hill made low; the crooked straight and the rough places plain.

Shane Tapley, Tenor

The Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Rev. Kevin Porter

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How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **WHEN HISTORY RHYMES**

Rev. Kevin Porter

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 3: *Comfort, Comfort You My People*

PSALM 42

"All are encouraged to join in singing our hymns and responses while remaining masked"

Comfort, comfort you my people, Tell of peace thus says our God; Comfort those who sit in darkness bowed beneath oppression's load. Speak you to Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them; Tell them that their sins I cover, And their warfare now is over.

For the herald's voice is crying In the desert far and near, Bidding us to make repentance Since the kingdom now is here. O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way; Let the valleys rise to meeting And the hills bow down to greeting.

Make you straight what long was crooked, Make the rougher places plain; Let your hearts be true and humble, As befits God's holy reign. For the glory of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed abroad; And all flesh shall see the token That God's word is never broken.

*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

Offertory: *Christ Hath a Garden*

Gerald Near

Christ hath a garden walled around,
A Paradise of fruitful ground,
Chosen by love and fenced by grace
From out the world's wide wilderness.

Like trees of spice his servants stand,
There planted by his mighty hand;
By Eden's gracious streams, that flow
To feed their beauty where they grow.

Awake, O wind of heav'n and bear
Their sweetest perfume through the air:
Stir up, O south, the boughs that bloom,
Till the beloved Master come:

That he may come, and linger yet
Among the trees that he hath set;

That he may evermore be seen
To walk amid the springing green.

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow: Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

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

VENI EMMANUEL

"All are encouraged to join in singing our hymns and responses while remaining masked"

O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, 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 you, O Israel.

O come Desire 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 you, O Israel.

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Kevin Porter

*Congregational Response: #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: Toccata on *Veni Emmanuel*

Andrew Carter

MUSIC NEWS: Today at 3pm, the FPCG Oratorio Choir will present its annual performance of Handel's Messiah with professional orchestra and soloists. Come one, come all to this festive concert and FPCG tradition. The concert is free with a donation collected at the door. A festive dessert reception will follow.

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT: Christmas is the time when we tangibly show our appreciation to our staff for all they do during the year to serve our congregation and the community. Most of us have experienced the "extra" each of these staff members put into their job. Staff Appreciation Christmas Gifts will be given to Kevin, Eileen, Christian, Cherese, John, Cindy, Bill, Tony, Robert and Kevin just prior to Christmas. You can contribute to these appreciation gifts after church today, when a member of the Personnel Committee will be available during the coffee hour to receive your contribution. *Please be generous.* In the spirit of the season, the Personnel Committee.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LEADERS: Leading us this morning in lighting our advent candle are Lily Grawe, Elisa Heyer-Rivera, Addy Hoekema-Boerman, and Mina Hoekema-Boerman representing our elementary school children.

I was glad when they said unto me, “Let us go into the house of the Lord!” - Psalm 122

The Session continues to revise procedures and protocols for worship as we gather in this new season. Please review our current parameters here.

- Reservations
 - * There is no need for pre-registration
 - * All who come are welcome
 - ◊ Masks must be worn at all times (will be available if you don't bring one)
 - ◊ Hand sanitizer will be at each entrance
 - ◊ There will be no temperature checks
 - ◊ No proof of vaccination required
- Seating
 - * Please observe the ropes to maintain social distancing between pew
 - * Please seat yourselves socially distanced at least six feet beside, in front, and behind those not with you
- Order of Worship
 - * Your bulletin will include scripture lessons & hymn lyrics, so there will be no need to use the Bibles or hymnals
 - * **Masked** congregational singing is permitted.
 - * Vaccinated Liturgists (Revs. Rebecca & Kevin, and the lay Reader) and Soloists will not be masked when leading, but will be while seated
 - ◊ They will be at least 12 feet away from anyone in the congregation
 - ◊ The exception is the children's sermon
 - Children will be invited to the front pew socially-distanced
 - All including Rev. Rebecca will remain masked for this portion
 - * Direct physical contact is discouraged (e.g. no handshaking, hugging, touching during passing of the peace, etc.)
- Restrooms
 - * Please follow signs to use restrooms
 - * Only the first floor restrooms will be open
 - * Only one person in any restroom at any time
 - * If the door is closed, do not use the restroom
- Exiting
 - * Please minimize congregating in the building or on the sidewalks.
 - * Maintain social distancing as you exit



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Church Officers

Elders

2022

Ingrid Harris
Joseph Leube
Delores Solomon

2023

Drew Hood
Andrea Overton
Sheila Heyer-Rivera

2024

Randy Clever
Duane Horne
Contina Lee Lundy

Clerk of Session:
Andrea Overton

Deacons

2022

Krista Hoekema-Boerman
Dolores Shanks
Stephanie Garrett

2023

John Orandosh
Chris Scott Jr.
Carolyn Tarver

2024

Arlene Grace
Rhonda Highsmith
William Lewis

First Church Staff

Pastor	Rebecca Segers
Director of Congregational Care	Kevin L. Porter
Director of Urban Ministry	Eileen Jones
Director of Christian Education	Christian Heyer-Rivera
Director of Music Ministry	John Walthausen
Building Manager	Bill Cleary
Communications Manager	Cherese Akers
Church Administrator	Cari States-Codding
Bookkeeper	Cindy Osborne
Sextons	Tony Nixon, Robert Patterson, Kevin Gregory

Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Honorably Retired

David Cassie, Linda Jaymes, Allison Seed

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