

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

DECEMBER 05, 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.*

December 05, 2021

Second Sunday in Advent

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."

- Coretta Scott King

**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: *Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland*

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *Never Weather Beaten Sail*

Thomas Campion

Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore.

Never tired pilgrim's limbs affected slumber more,

Than my wearied sprite now longs to fly out of my troubled breast:

O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soul to rest.

†*Call to Worship

Will Lewis: We light this candle in hope. (*Light the first candle.*)

Chris Scott Jr.: We light this candle for peace. (*Light the second candle.*)

Will Lewis: Hear Zechariah's song of hope for peace to the Christ child. A reading from Luke 1:76-79: "You, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Chris Scott Jr: Let us pray: God of hope, Prince of Peace, You speak peace into the world in the Way of the Christ child. Help us embody your peace and live as peacemakers that we may called children of God.

All: God of hope, God of peace, into our darkness come.

*Hymn 13: Prepare the Way

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

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

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear. Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story. O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Christ brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above. His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love. Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. Oh blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace. His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place. All lands will bow rejoicing, Their adoration voicing. Oh blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Eternal and everlasting God, we bow our heads before you and confess that, all too often, we forget we are your children. At times, we live our lives as if you don't exist, and we fall short of being credible witnesses of your love and grace. For the times we have failed you, we ask your forgiveness. We pray that you would help us see you in the moment-by-moment opportunities you give us for sharing the love of Christ with others. Help us to live honestly, to act courageously, and to be the people you created us to be in this broken world, so in need of your healing. Clear our minds and open our hearts so that we may be faithful to you in everything we say and do. We ask all this in the mighty Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

Lisa Grewe

The First Lesson: Isaiah 52:7-10

Page 642 OT

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

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: *Every Valley*

John Ness Beck

Every Valley shall be exalted, and every mountain made low;

And the crooked made straight,

And the rough places plain.

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

And all flesh shall see it together;

For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

The Second Lesson: Luke 1:68-79

Rev. Linda Jaymes

Page 54 NT

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved

from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: **The story of your grace.**

Sermon: **FEET LIKE JOHN’S**

Rev. Linda Jaymes

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 38: *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

CAROL

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

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 Comes round the age of gold; when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

*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.

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory: *People Look East*

Malcolm Archer

People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:

Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

*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

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Eternal God, by your Holy Spirit, you breathed life into human form, and set us all upon the earth to praise and serve you. When we wander from your ways and are lost, you call your people to return to you. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son to be our deliverer, the One who promised to be with us always, even to the end of the age. This day we join together with those who worship and serve you around the world, acknowledging our brothers and sisters in Christ in this sanctuary, on the livestream, in this community, this country, this hemisphere, this world. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord. God of pow-er and might.
 6 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
 11 high-est, ho - san-na in the high-est. Blest is he who comes in the
 16 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high-est, ho -
 20 san - na in the high - est.

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. When he was baptized by John, he was not alone, but surrounded by people, all coming to repent and be blessed together. In Jesus' life and ministry, he reached out to all people: he called fishermen and tax collectors, he served the poor and the friendless, he healed the synagogue leader's daughter and the Syro-Phoenician woman's daughter and the hemorrhaging woman and the ten lepers and many more from all walks and nationalities, and announced freedom from sin's bondage to everyone. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus broke the power of death and led the way to eternal life. This is the mystery of faith:

Congregational Response: *Memorial Acclamation*

Proulx

(organ) Christ has died; Christ is ri-sen; Christ will come a - gain.

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and fruit of the vine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may nurture us and strengthen us as the body of Christ. As we celebrate this meal with Christians around this wide world, may we never forget your covenantal love, shared in the meal, binding us to you and one another everywhere. Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, with the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever:

Congregational Response: *The Great Amen*

Proulx

A - men, A - men, A - men.

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.

The Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Let us Break Bread Together, traditional

La'Treice Branson, percussion

(We will come to the table to receive the elements of bread and juice. Remain masked and socially distanced to come forward using the center aisle, take the elements and return by the side aisle to your seat to eat and drink.)

Prayer After Supper

God of all might and power, we praise you that you came for all people, and humbly pray that these in this sanctuary, along with all who are celebrating your supper today, might be the body of Christ together. May we who have received this sacrament be shaped according to your will, in the service of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, now and forever. Amen.

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 508: For the Bread Which You Have Broken

KINGDOM

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For the bread which you have broken,
for the wine which you have poured,
for the words which you have spoken,
now we give you thanks, O Lord.

By this promise that you love us,
by your gift of peace restored,
by your call to heaven above us,
hallow all our lives, O Lord.

With the saints who now adore you
seated at the heavenly board,
may the church still waiting for you
keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.

In your service, Lord, defend us;
in our hearts keep watch and ward;
in the world to which you send us
let your kingdom come, O Lord.

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Linda Jaymes

*Congregational Response: #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland*

J.S. Bach

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 Will Lewis and Chris Scott Jr., representing the Deacons.

OFFERING ENVELOPES: If you have requested offering envelopes, your 2022 envelopes may be obtained from the table in the Longstreth Auditorium during coffee hour today. If you have not requested envelopes in the past and wish to have them, please contact the church office.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS: The poinsettias in the sanctuary during the Christmas season are in memory and honor of our loved ones. Please contact the church office (215) 843-8811 or email communications@fpcgermantown.org, 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 13, 2021.

THANK YOU FROM THE CDFC: We would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who has assisted us over the past two Sundays to make Rev. Rebecca's Celebration Luncheon and the Messiah Reception a success. A special thank you to the sextons for all the work they did to assist us and that they always do. We could not do any of it without their help! THANK YOU ALL!

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

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

Acting Pastor/Head of Staff	Kevin L. Porter
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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