

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

DECEMBER 12, 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 12, 2021

Third Sunday in Advent

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: *Prelude on Picardy*

Craig Phillips

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

Susan MacDonald: We light this candle in hope. (*Light the first candle.*) We light this candle for peace. (*Light the second candle.*) We light this candle in joy! (*Light the third (pink) candle.*) To those who live as exiles from home in a dark time, to those enslaved as exiles due to others' oppression, to those who are sin's exiles from their best God-promised selves, the Lord speaks the joy of good news. Hear these words from the prophet Zephaniah!

Daniel Conner: Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. He will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.

Marney Hague: "I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD.

Jason Williams: Let us pray: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid, for the LORD is my strength and my might; God has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day:

All: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice! Sing praises to the LORD, for God has done gloriously!

*Hymn 10: On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

WINCHESTER

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

*congregation standing; †latecomers may be seated

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh. Awake and harken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from sin: make straight the way for God within, and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward. O let Your face upon us shine And fill the world with love divine.

All praise to You, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won, whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus, we confess in this Advent season of joy our willingness to be loved by you but our reluctance to love our neighbors, let alone our enemies. We confess our readiness to accept your forgiveness but our refusal to forgive others around us who annoy, frustrate or wound us. We confess our eagerness to grasp your sacrifice on our behalf, but our reluctance to give of our time, our energy or our resources to meet the needs of those hurting within our world. In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to accept your invitation to join you in the works of love you set before us. Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you with joy and to share your generosity with all we encounter. Help us to love one another, as you have loved us. Come, Lord Jesus. 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

Rhonda Highsmith

The First Lesson: Isaiah 12:2-6

Page 642 OT

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

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: *E'en so Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him

Who freed us from our sins

Who loved us all and shed his blood

That we might saved be

sing Holy, Holy to our Lord
The Lord, Almighty God
Who was, and is, and is to come
Sing Holy, Holy Lord
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell within
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below
For Christ is coming, is coming soon
For Christ is coming soon
E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come
And night shall be no more
They need no light nor lamp nor sun
For Christ will be their All!

The Second Lesson: Luke 3:7-18

Rev. Linda Jaymes

Page 54 NT

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **CHRISTMAS JOY THROUGH JUDGEMENT AND GENEROSITY**

Christian Heyer- Rivera

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 20: *Watchman, Tell us of the Night*

ABERYSTWYTH

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

Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are. Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height See that glory-beaming star. Watchman, does its beauteous ray Aught of joy or hope foretell? Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.

Watchman, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends. Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends. Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth? Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.

Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn. Traveler, darkness takes its flight, doubt and terror are withdrawn. Watchman, let your wanderings cease; hasten to your quiet home. Traveler, lo, the Prince of Peace, Lo, the Son of God is come!

*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: *Never Weather Beaten Sail*

Charles Wood

Never weather-beaten sail
More willing bent to shore
Never tired pilgrims limbs
Affected slumber more
Than my weary sprite now longs
To fly out of my troubled breast
Oh come quickly sweetest Lord
And take my soul to rest

Ever blooming are the joys
Of heav'ns high paradise
Old age deafs not there our ears
Nor vapour dims our eyes
Glory there the sun outshines
Whose beams the blessed only see
Oh come quickly glorious Lord
And raise my sprite to Thee

*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 6: Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending

HELMSLEY

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

Jesus comes with clouds descending; See the Lamb for sinners slain! Thousand, thousand saints attending Join to sing the glad refrain: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ the Lord re-

turns to reign!

Every eye shall then behold You Robed in awesome majesty; Those who jeered and mocked and sold You, Pierced and nailed You to the tree, Shamed and grieving, Shamed and grieving, Shamed and grieving, Shall their true Messiah see.

Yes, Amen! Let all adore You High on your eternal throne; Crowns and empires fall before You, Claim the kingdom for Your own. Come, Lord Jesus, Come Lord Jesus, Come Lord Jesus, Everlasting Christ, come down!

*Charge and Benediction

Christian Heyer– Rivera

*Congregational Response: #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Postlude on Helmsley*

James Vivian

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 Daniel Conner, Marney Hague, Susan MacDonald and Jason Williams., representing the Choir.

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.

PLEASE PARDON OUR APPEARANCE!: In the same spirit of the signs you see when a building is under renovation, thank you for your patience with the staff of FPCG as we are in this time of transition in pastoral leadership! We are grateful for the addition of Cari States-Codding as our new Office Administrator and Don Carlin for taking on the ministry of reaching out to our FPCG members and friends to ask for your joys and concerns so that the staff may continue our ministry of sending you notes lifting you in prayer. David Cassie has stepped into leadership of the Thursday Bible study via zoom. In addition, our elders, deacons, and everyone listed as staff on the back of your bulletin has leaned into whatever is required to keep our ministry and witness for Christ strong during this Advent season. We covet your prayers and understanding when we might experience miscommunication or a missed deadline! Please feel free to reach out to Rev. Kevin via text or phone at 215-518-1675 or at statedclerk@presbyphl.org with any questions or concerns you may have.

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

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

35 West Cheltenham Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Phone 215-843-8811

FAX 888-333-5032

www.fpcgermantown.org