

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

DECEMBER 19, 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 19, 2021

Fourth 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: *Or vous dites Marie*

Alexandre Guilmant

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

Randy Rosensteel: Today, we re-light the three Advent candles: one for hope (*the first candle is lit*); one for peace (*the second candle is lit*); and one for joy (*the pink candle is lit*). Today, on this fourth Sunday in Advent, we also light the candle for love. (*The fourth candle is lit.*)

Dhyan Cassie: In John 3:16 the gospel tells us, "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." Later this week, we will celebrate the birth of this Son of love in whom we place our trust.

Randy Rosensteel: In 1John 3:16 the epistle tells us, "We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another." We are challenged in this season to love others sacrificially, even as Christ loves us.

Dhyan Cassie: Let us pray: God of love, may we receive your Son of Love, Jesus, with hope, peace, and joy!

All: And may his love transform us into a people of love. Amen!

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

TRURO

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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

Dear God, we want to open wide our hearts to you, as we have just sung. But sometimes, the business of this season distracts us, and we close our hearts to

*congregation standing; †latecomers may be seated

you. We want to feel your inner presence, but sometimes we shut your presence out. Too often, we close our eyes to the grace and love you seek to reveal to us. Forgive us, dear God, and help us to receive the hope, peace, joy and love you freely offer us this Advent and Christmas season.

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 Wolford

The First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

Page 815 OT

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

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: *Magnificat in G*

Charles Villiers Stanford

My soul doth magnify the Lord.

And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden: For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:

As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

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.

Savannah Whittenburg, soprano

The Second Lesson: Luke 1:39-56

Don Carlin

Pages 53-54 NT

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's

greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **WAITING...P...P...P...TOGETHER**

Don Carlin

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 435: *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

DENNIS

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

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear, and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin, we shall be free; and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

*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: *Mary Had a Baby*

Willam Dawson

Mary had a Baby, My Lord!
Where was he born?
Born in a manger
What did they call him?
King Jesus, oh yes!

He is called “King Jesus, Mighty Counsellor, King Emmanuel,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Mary had a Baby, my Lord!

Roxy Callan, soprano

*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 40: Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

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Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive its king; let every heart prepare him
room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven
and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ while fields and floods, rocks, hills,
and plains, repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground. He comes to make his
blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is
found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his
righteousness, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of
his love.

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response: #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Venez divin Messie*

César Franck

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, Chereese, 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: Randy Rosensteel and Dhyan Cassie. Lighting the candle is Roberta Robinson, Dave Wolford, David Cassie, representing the community of FPCG at Cathedral Village.

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.

2022 STEWARDSHIP: Our 2022 Generosity and Giving Campaign is still in process. Initial response had been encouraging, but we still have a way to go. If you haven't taken the opportunity to commit your time, talent and treasure to our church yet, please pick up a pledge card on the literature table (or use the one mailed to you), fill it out, and place it in the box on the literature table or in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Thank you for your gift and the covenant you're making with the Lord and the church by this action.

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.

PIHN LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO FIGHT FAMILY HOMELESSNESS THIS WINTER: HOSPITALITY, HOUSING, HOPE is a 30-day campaign to raise \$200,000 in donations and pledges by December 31st to help 250 families avert homelessness this winter and the year to come. Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network (PIHN) is asking for donations to boost direct aid and pay program costs government won't cover. Gifts of \$500 or more (up to \$3,000) will be doubled by a dollar-for-dollar match, courtesy of two anonymous donors. Now, PIHN is responding to a new housing crisis emerging for Philadelphia families already battered by Covid. PIHN is getting about 25 calls, walk-ins and referrals a week, and needs are growing as we move into colder weather. For more information and to learn how you can help, visit [www/philashelter.org](http://www.philashelter.org) or <https://www.facebook.com/philaihn>



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The Poinsettias in the Sanctuary Are in Memory and Honor of Our Loved Ones and Friends

In Memory Of

George and Julia Abbott
Bert & Robert M. Aiken, Sr.
Robert M. Aiken, Jr..
Jamie Alexander
Mr./Mrs. Earl J. Ball, Jr.
Romeo Cascarino
Capt. Michael P. Cassidy, U.S.A.
Susan E. Cassidy
Robert and Vera Cato
John A. Chandler
Mrs. Elma Devine
Ann DiNardo
Mattie Drum
Winnie Fahs
Lenore Finger
Virginia Von Frankenberg
Bill and Bea Gardner
Sandra Cato Gohr
Mr./Mrs. James Gregg
Margery W. Guenthoer
Jason Guggolz
Betty A. Henze
Mrs. Annie Jackson
Reverend Freddie Jackson
Horace L. Jackson, Sr.
Dr. James E. Jackson
Mrs. Myrtle Jackson
Reginald A. Jackson
William A. Jackson
Mr./Mrs. Paul W. Keibler
Mr./Mrs. Harry W. Kleiser
Joseph J. Leube, Sr.
Linda M. Leube
Margaret M. Leube
Virginia Linden

Norma and Dick Mercer
Virginia Miller
Mrs. Carolyn Nagel
Rose Neuringer
William H. Oldach, Jr. & Betty Oldach
Charles & Ora Kaylor
Eleanor C. Parker
George & Margaret Parker
Michael R. Parks
Mr./Mrs. Garrett Rentrop
Mr./Mrs. Jack H. Rosensteel
Ethel Ogden Royce
Miss Edith Stewart
Elizabeth H> Thompson
George Paul Thompson
H. George Thompson
Hilma E. Thompson
Patricia Ann Thompson
Gee Gee White
Faith Wolford
Mrs. Dorothy C. Young
Mr./Mrs. William G. Young

In Honor Of

Rev. Kevin Porter

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, Dec. 19	8:45 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 AM	Worship—Don Carlin Preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School K-5
	11:30 AM	Confirmation Class
Wed, Dec. 22	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Upstairs Office
Thursday, Dec. 23	10:00 AM	GACM Food Distribution (10-12pm)
	12:30 PM	Bible Study
	7:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Dec. 24	6:30 PM	Nativity Concert
	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service—Sanctuary
Sat. Dec. 25	CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS	
Sunday, Dec. 26	8:45 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 AM	Worship—Lessons and Carols
	10:15 AM	Sunday School K-5
	11:30 AM	Confirmation Class

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

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