

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 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 24, 2021

Christmas Eve

"Every traveler has a home of his own, and he learns to appreciate it the more from his wandering."

- Charles Dickens

NATIVITY CONCERT AT 6:30PM

Prelude:

Noël X

Louis-Claude Daquin

In Dulci Jubilo

J.S. Bach

In Dulci Jubilo

Marcel Dupré

In Dulci Jubilo

J.S. Bach

Prelude on "*The Holly and the Ivy*"

Herbert Sumsion

Three Versets on "*Away in a Manger*"

Mark Blatchly

Theme

Foundations

Nocturne

Song

Prelude on "*God Bless You Merry Gentlemen*"

John Rutter

John Walthausen, Director of Music Ministry

ORDER OF EVENING WORSHIP AT 7:00PM

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

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *The Holly and the Ivy*

H. Walford Davies

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown;
Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.

*Refrain: O the rising of the sun and the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a blossom as white as any flower;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet Savior.

Refrain

The holly bears a berry as red as any blood;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to do poor sinners good.

Refrain

The holly bears a prickle as sharp as any thorn;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas day in the morn.

Refrain

The holly bears a bark as bitter as any gall;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to redeem us all.

Refrain

†*Call to Worship:

Christmas Eve Candle lighting

Contina Lee Lundy: We have watched; we have waited in hope. *(The first candle is lit.)*

*congregation standing; †latecomers may be seated

Joseph Leube Jr: We have watched; we have waited for peace. *(The second candle is lit.)*

Contina Lee Lundy: We have watched; we have waited in joy! *(The pink candle is lit.)*

Joseph Leube Jr: We have watched; we have waited with love. *(The fourth candle is lit.)*

Contina Lee Lundy: Now our redemption draws near! *(The Christ candle in the center is lit.)*
Hear the Word of the Lord from the gospel according to John:

Joseph Leube Jr: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Contina Lee Lundy: He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him.

Joseph Leube Jr: In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Contina Lee Lundy: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Joseph Leube Jr: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

All: And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. Alleluia! Amen!

*Hymn 41: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

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O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem! Come and behold him, born the King of angels! O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation! Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest! O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Call to Confession

Christian Heyer-Rivera

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you sent a star to guide the Magi to the child Jesus. We confess that we have not followed the light of your Word. We have not searched for signs of your love in the world or trusted your good news to be good. We have failed to praise your Son's birth and refused his peace on earth. We have expected little and hoped for less. Forgive our doubt and renew in us all fine desires, that we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Lord. 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

Lydia Overton

The First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Page 600 OT

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Leader: God's Word is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path.

People: Thanks be to God!

Anthem: *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Harold Darke

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.
Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.
Enough for Him, Whom cherubim, worship night and day,
A breast full of milk, and a manger full of hay;
Enough for Him, Whom angels fall before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.
What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

*Laurice Simmons Kennel, soprano
Shane Tapley, tenor*

The Second Lesson: Luke 2:1-14

Rev. Kevin Porter
Pages 54-55 NT

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended

from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **WHAT DAY IS IT?**

Rev. Kevin Porter

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 44: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

ST. LOUIS

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

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth! And praises sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray, cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

*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: *All Bells in Paradise*

John Rutter

Deep in the cold of winter,
Darkness and silence were everywhere;
Softly and clearly, there came through the stillness
a wonderful sound to hear:
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,
Sounding in majesty the news that they bring;
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,
Welcoming our Saviour, born on earth a heavenly King.
All bells in paradise I heard them ring:
"Glory to God on high' the angel voices sing."

Lost in awe and wonder,
Doubting I asked what this sign might be:
Christ our Messiah revealed in a stable,
A marvellous sight to see.
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,
Sounding in majesty the news that they bring;
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,
Welcoming our Saviour, born on earth a heavenly King.
He comes down in peace, a child in humility,
The keys to his kingdom belong to the poor;
Before him shall kneel the kings with their treasures,
gold, incense and myrrh.
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,
Sounding in majesty the news that they bring;
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,
Welcoming our Saviour, born on earth a heavenly King.
All bells in paradise I heard them ring:
"Glory to God on high' the angel voices sweetly sing."

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Celebration of the Light Coming into the World

*Hymn 60: *Silent Night, Holy Night*

STILLE NACHT

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Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy
Infant so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!"

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King: Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born.

*Hymn 31: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

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Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King: peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb: veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity, pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Kevin Porter

Postlude: Postlude on *"Hark, the Herald Angel Sings"*

David Wilcocks

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LEADERS: Elders Joesph Leube Jr and Contina Lee Lundy and lighting the candles is Elder Sheila Heyer Rivera. They are representing our current Session.



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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

2021

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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