

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

DECEMBER 26, 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 26, 2021

1st Sunday after Christmas/Lessons & Carols

*"Pride makes us artificial and humility makes us real." - Thomas Merton*

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

Prelude: *Away in a Manger*

Malcolm Archer

Welcome and Announcements

†\*Call to Worship:

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: Good news! Unspeakable joy!

**Many: A great light has burst forth, overcoming the darkness!**

One: A child is born for us—a son has been given!

**Many: Bringing a kingdom of endless peace, we shall call him Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God!**

One: Come, let us see what God has brought us!

**Many: Let us see what the Lord has done!**

One: Glory to God in the highest!

**All: And on earth, peace and good will to everyone!**

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

TRURO

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

**God of holy mystery, it was no heavenly stranger that came to save us; it was no divine afterthought that freed us from captivity to aimlessness and sin; it was no casual gesture that fashioned our salvation. As we laugh and sing your praises at Christmastime, remind us once more of what you offer: a love born of endless searching, a connection born of deep longing, a future born of selfless sacrifice. As we praise you with our lips, and love you with our hearts, help us to be the people you imagine us to be, remembering that you are Emmanuel, "God with us," now and always, guiding our steps, and directing our paths.**

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.**

### PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

**The First Lesson:** Isaiah 7:10-15 (Page 598 OT)

Andrea Overton

God promises that a child shall be conceived who will be known as "God with us."

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

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, 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 thee, O Israel!

O come, Desires 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 thee, O Israel!

**The Second Lesson:** Isaiah 9:2-7 (Page 600 OT)

Marc DiNardo

God promises that child shall be the Prince of Peace and his kingdom shall never end.

\*Hymn 28: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

IN DULCI JUBILO

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say:

Jesus Christ is born today. Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.

Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss:

Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

**The Third Lesson:** Matthew 1:18-25 (Page 1 NT)

Sheila Heyer-Rivera

An angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream.

Hymn 38: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

CAROL

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

**The Fourth Lesson:** Luke 1:26-58 (Page 53 NT)

Peter Smith

The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary  
that she will bear the Son of the Most High.

Anthem: *Gesu Bambino*

Pietro Yon

When blossoms flower e'er 'mid the snows, Upon a winter night, Was born the child, the  
Christmas Rose, The king of love and light.

The angels sang, the shepherds sang, The grateful earth rejoiced; And at his blessed birth  
the stars Their exultation voiced.

O come let us adore him O come let us adore him O come let us adore him Christ the  
lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows To greet the holy night, That gave the world it's Christ-  
mas rose, Its king of love and light

Let ev'ry voice acclaim his name, The grateful chorus swell From paradise to earth he came  
That we with him might dwell.

O come let us adore him O come let us adore him O come let us adore him Christ the  
lord.

*Laurice Simmons Kennel, Soprano*

**The Fifth Lesson:** Luke 2:1-20 (Page 54 NT)

Andrea Overton

Jesus is born at Bethlehem and is worshiped by angels and shepherds.

Hymn 49: *Once in Royal David's City*

IRBY

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a man-  
ger for his bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall: with the poor, oppressed, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us He grew; He was little, weak and help-  
less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in  
all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child so dear and  
gentle is our Lord in heaven above: and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Kevin Porter

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: *Sweet Little Jesus Boy*

Robert MacGimsey

Sweet little Jesus Boy They made You be born in a manger Sweet little Holy chil' Didn't  
know who You was Didn't know You'd come to save us, Lord To take our sins away

Our eyes was blind We couldn't see We didn't know who You was Long time ago You was  
born Born in a manger low

Sweet little Jesus Boy The world treat You mean, Lord Treat me mean too, But please, Sir,  
Forgive us, Lord. We didn't know 'twas You

Sweet little Jesus Boy Born long time ago Sweet little Holy chil' An' we didn't know who  
You was.

*Laurice Simmons Kennel, Soprano*

**The Sixth Lesson:** Matthew 2:1-12 (Page 1 NT) Marc DiNardo  
Jesus is likewise sought after and found by Wise Men from the East.

\*Hymn 53: *What Child Is This?* GREENSLEEVES  
What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ, the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing: Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate, Where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear: for sinners here The silent Word is pleading. This, this is Christ, the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing: Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, Come, one and all, to own Him. The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him. This, this is Christ, the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing: Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!

**The Seventh Lesson:** John 1:1-18 (Page 86 NT) Rev. Kevin Porter  
The Word was made flesh and we have seen his glory.

\*Hymn 29: *Go Tell It on the Mountain* GO TELL IT  
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain that  
Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

**GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME**

\*Charge and Benediction Rev. Kevin Porter

Postlude: *Postlude on Antioch* Gerre Hancock

**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](mailto: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 31<sup>st</sup> 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>

**WINDOW ON THE WEEK**

**Sunday, Dec. 26**      10:00 AM      Worship—Lessons and Carols  
                                 10:15 AM      Sunday School K-5  
                                 11:30 AM      Confirmation Class  
                                 12:30 PM      Deacons Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/7217841109> or via phone by dialing 1-301-715-8592 and entering Meeting ID: 721 784 1109# when prompted to do so.

**Wed, Dec. 29**      10:00 AM      Staff Meeting—Upstairs Office

**Thursday, Dec. 30**      10:00 AM      GACM Food Distribution **(10-12pm)**  
                                 12:30 PM      Bible Study

**Saturday, Jan. 01**      **CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR**

**Sunday, Jan. 02**      10:00 AM      Worship  
                                 10:15 AM      Sunday School K-5  
                                 11:30 AM      Confirmation Class



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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

### 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

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Acting Pastor/Head of Staff	Kevin L. Porter
Director of Adult Education and Community Life	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

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David Cassie, Linda Jaymes, Allison Seed

## The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

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