

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

JANUARY 02, 2022

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.*

January 02, 2022

The Lord's Supper

"Despair can be hope's forerunner; optimism is its tawdry competitor." - Colin Morris

**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: *Das Alte Jahr vergangen ist*

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

Many: Just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.

One: He has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ.

All: As a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

*Hymn 28: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

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

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!

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Lord, who daily calls us into the light, we confess that we often prefer the darkness. In the dark, we can excuse our failures to do what You command. We can merge ourselves in the crowd and avoid commitment. But you, O God, will not let us be shadow people: You have forgiven us. You have sent us Jesus in whose face we see You; in whose love, we are invited to love You. In his forgiveness we can daily be renewed. Give us the courage, then, to recommit ourselves to your purposes, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Silent Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

†*Congregational Response 579: *Gloria Patri*

*congregation standing; †latecomers may be seated

**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

Delores Solomon

The First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:7-14

Page 690 OT

For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

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: *Sweet Holy Child*

Mary Caldwell

What Shall I bring for the Sweet Holy Child
Who has but the straw for a bed.

Shall I bring stars for the wee silver crown
To place by his dear little head.

Gold from the sun shall I bring for a light.
Softest of moonbeams to garland the night
Gentle white lambs for his delight.
Sweet Jesus the Lord of my heart.

What shall I bring for the sweet Holy Child
Who smiles as he wakes from his sleep
Roses so fair and a soft blanket warm,

All these young Jesus may keep.
Songs for his joy and delight I shall bring
All of my heart for this dear little king

Love and devotion the tribute I bring,
Sweet Jesus the Lord of my Life.

Lullay, Lullay the sweet Holy Child,
I bring thee a lullaby song.

Dreamless thy slumber for night winds are still.
The wise men and shepherds have gone.
Far in the eastern skies shadows appear.
Hush, little prince there is nothing to fear.

Soft as an echo of thy name I hear
Sweet Jesus, the savior of all.

Shane Tapley, Tenor

The Second Lesson: John 1:1-18

Rev. David Cassie
Page 86 NT

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **LIGHT CHANGES EVERYTHING -- AND US!**

Rev. David Cassie

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 37: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

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

Infant holy, Infant lowly, For His bed a cattle stall; Oxen lowing, Little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swifts are winging Angels singing, Noels ringing, Tidings bringing: Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new. Saw the glory, Heard the story, Tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow, Praises voicing, Greet the morrow: Christ the babe was born for you!

*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: *I Wonder as I Wander*

John Jacob Niles

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die.
For poor on'ry people like you and like I...
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.
When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall.
If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

Shane Tapley, Tenor

*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

(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 56: The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

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

The first Nowell the Angel did say
Was to certain poor Shepherds in fields as they lay:
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell,
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell. Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave
great light, And so it continued, both day and night.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell. Born
is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star,
Three wise men came from country far,
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Nowell. Born is the King of Israel.

This Star drew nigh to the north west;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both
stop and stay, Right over the place where Jesus lay.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell. Born
is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those wise men three,
Fell reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in
His presence, Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell.
Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven
and earth of nought, And with His blood mankind hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Nowell. Born is the King of Israel.

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. David Cassie

*Congregational Response: #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: In dir ist Freude

J.S. Bach

PREACHING TODAY: The Rev. David G. Cassie is the former Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of West Jersey (PCUSA). He and his wife, Dhyana, an Audiologist, were mis-

sionaries in Honduras and Mexico. In México they were involved in Church Planting with the Presbyterian Border Ministry. They also served in Honduras with the Christian Commission for Development (CCD), where Dave taught rural and urban pastors in CCD's theological extension program, while Dhyan worked in CCD's Health Division, training rural health workers in the detection of hearing disorders.

COMMUNION ELEMENTS: With this new COVID-19 variant Omicron running rampant, we are asking everyone to please be mindful about NOT leaving your communion elements (cups and toothpicks) laying around. Please be sure to dispose of all of your elements when leaving the sanctuary. Thank you for your understanding as we continue to combat COVID-19 together. Our main priority is ensuring safe protocols that keeps everyone healthy and safe to the best of our ability.

THANK YOU FROM FPCG STAFF: One of the brightest parts of the holidays is people like you. And your gift made it all the more special. Sending a heartfelt thank you to the congregation for the generous contributions to our Christmas gift. Your kindness and thoughtfulness is truly appreciated. May the grace of the Lord be with you all. We're wishing you a happy and prosperous new year!

MONTHLY WINDOWS: Just a friendly note that articles for the Windows newsletter are due on the 15th of each month. All request for articles to be added to the Windows should be sent directly to Chere at Communications@fpcgermantown.org. Thank you.

FROM THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH in GERMANTOWN PROPERTY COMMITTEE to the ladies of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown. The FPCG ladies lounge needs a refresh! The structure of the Ladies Room will remain the same. however, your input and suggestions of how we can update this area will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Carolyn Ballard Freeman at carolyn.ballard3@verizon.net; call 1-215-438-2956 and leave a message; or you can send your comments in writing to: The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown (attention: FPCG-Property Committee 35 West Cheltenham Avenue Philadelphia, Pa. 19144). Please submit your comments by Tuesday January 11, 2022.

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@presbyph.org with any questions or concerns you may have.

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, Jan. 02	10:00 AM	Worship—Rev. David Cassie preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School K-5
	11:30 AM	Confirmation Class
Monday, Jan. 03	10:00 AM	Uncle Bobbie's Online with Rev. Kevin Porter
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, Jan. 05	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Upstairs Office
	7:00 PM	Session Meeting—Finney Room
Thursday, Jan. 06	10:00 AM	GACM Food Distribution (10-12pm)
	12:30 PM	Bible Study
	7:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Jan. 07	6:30 PM	Elementary School Youth Group
Saturday, Jan. 08	9:30 AM	CDFC Meeting—Finney Room
Sunday, Jan. 09	8:45 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 AM	Worship—Rev. Bruce MacCullough preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School K-5
	11:30 AM	Confirmation Class
		Keystone Concert



Internet song performances on this website are authorized by the WorshipCast License.

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 (Rev. Kevin, Guest Preacher, 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. Kevin 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