

the First Sunday of
Advent



⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:4-7

Abington Presbyterian Church

November 29, 2020

10:00 A.M. Celebration Worship

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First Sunday of Advent

ORDER OF WORSHIP
First Sunday in Advent November 29, 2020

GATHERING

The people gather wherever they may in response to God's call, offering praise in words of scripture, prayer, and song. The people acknowledge their sinfulness and receive the good news of God's forgiveness.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

A time for quiet preparation before worship

Creator of All, who fashions us as a potter works with clay, open us to your good news and help us to respond. Minister to us amid our tears and our weariness, that we may accept your grace and use the gifts we receive from your hand. Ready us for the coming of our Savior. Amen.

PRELUDE

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (BWV 659)
(Hymn 102: Savior of the Nations, Come)

Johann Sebastian Bach

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

*** CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

(Shirley, Alan, Amy and Lauren Keiter)

Today is the first Sunday of the season of Advent, a time for us to prepare our hearts to receive the coming of the Lord.

We enter this season of waiting and anticipation, looking forward to welcoming God who comes into our midst.

In a time when we need the light of Christ, we light a candle, honoring the One who is the light of the world.

We ask that God's light would illumine our attitude and our steps throughout this season.

Shine, O light within us.

Shine in our hearts. Shine for the world.

SUNG PRAYER

Christ, Be Our Light

Hymn 314, Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

*** HYMN 82**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Awesome God, although you have provided for us graciously, we wander far from your intent for our lives. Even though you are fully trustworthy, we mistrust you. When we have to wait for something we have prayed for, we grow impatient, showing our lack of faith. We act as if you never called our names or blessed us. Enable us to receive and to take hold of your goodness so we can find new direction for our lives. Save us from ourselves, O God.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We have been given everything we need for a new life in Christ. God's grace and peace come to us now.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Our joy shall have no end!

* HYMN OF PRAISE

Love Has Come

Hymn 110, v.3

Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

WORD

God's Word is read and its message is proclaimed in scripture, music and interpretation.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION(sung)

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Hymn 95

**Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY

Veni, Emmanuel (Hymn 88)

arr. Raymond Haan

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

As We Wait

The Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying "Come, Lord Jesus!"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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

THANKSGIVING & SENDING

After the proclamation of God's Word, we respond with gratitude prepared to go into the world where we are called to live according to God's will.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

* HYMN 314 Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness

* BENEDICTION

* THE PEACE OF CHRIST *Greet one another with the sign of peace.*

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

* POSTLUDE Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland *Johann Sebastian Bach*
(from "Das Orgelbüchlein" -BWV 599)

[service hymns and some announcements follow]

Worship Leaders:

Preacher: The Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill

Liturgist: The Rev. Aaron Twitchell

Children's Message: Ruth Sall

Choir: Cynthia and Kimberly Browna

Cello: Meredith Bates

Organ: Rich Spotts

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"Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness (Christ, Be Our Light)" words and music (CHRIST BY OUR LIGHT)

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"Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland" (BWV 599 from *Das Orgelbüchlein*) by Johann Sebastian Bach. Public Domain.

In need of special prayers this week: Len Browna, Roy Castor, Michael Kemp, Laura Lockhart, Sylvia Weed (mother of Kathryn Jablokow, Barbara LaNore (sister of Lynda Smyth), Bruce D. Meissner (son of Judy and Bud Meissner), Sylvia Jolly, MM Harris, Herb Harris, Gary Lynch (son of Doug Lynch), Chris Popescu (aunt of Joanne Bates), Herb Ewald (husband of Lynda Ewald), Marty Bell (cousin of Alice Price), Elizabeth Cole (granddaughter of Nancy Webb Cole), Doris Boerner, Helen Porter (mother of Joe Porter), Janet Wells (mother of Gwen Bihn), Suzy Paravla (daughter of Susan Davis), Linda Maisenhelder, Christine Kim (wife of Stephen Kim), Will Pompilli (son of Teresa Pompilli), Phyllis Frazier, Nick Cupo, Sr., Joanne Hawkins (mother of Nick Cupo), Wayne Gibbons, Jr., John & Carolyn Burrell (parents of Janet Gildner), Susan Arnhold (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), Kris and Erik Reidenbach (friends of Sally Adams), Linda Doyle, the Carpenter & Trammell families.

For Pastoral Care: To notify the church of an illness, hospitalization, death, or to request prayer, contact a minister or call your Deacon or the Church Office at (215) 887-4530.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness 314

Christ, Be Our Light

Em Am7 Bm7 Esus Em

1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

Am7 Bm7 Esus Em Am7

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

D G C Am Dsus D

your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain G C G Em Bm Em

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

Am7 D G Dsus D Em Em7

dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

C Am7 D G Am7 G

church gath - ered to - day.

By blending biblical images and current vignettes in the present tense, this hymn connects Christ's promise that he is the Light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5) and his charge to his followers to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). This is part of the church's servant calling.