

the Third Sunday of
Advent



⁵¹ He has shown strength with his
arm;
he has scattered the proud in
the thoughts of their
hearts.
⁵² He has brought down the
powerful from their
thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with
good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

Luke 1:51-53



¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its
shoots,
and as a garden causes what is
sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause
righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the
nations.

Isaiah 61:11

Abington Presbyterian Church

December 13, 2020
10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Third Sunday in Advent December 13, 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

Bring the good news we need this day, O God. In our weariness, we seek comfort and liberation. Reveal to us what we need to hear – attune us to that which we avoid, and help us to view aright your saving activity. Amen.

PRELUDE

Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele
(Hymn 87: Comfort, Comfort, Now My People)

Johann Gottfried Walther

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

* CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

The Enama Family

There are many troubling things going on in our world.

We are taken aback by the challenges that face us.

Yet, we turn to the One who has the power and will to bring restoration and healing.

God has given us a garland instead of ashes, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

As we face dark times, we choose to light candles as we anticipate God's light.

We want our souls, our voices, and our actions to magnify the Lord.

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 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

GENEVAN 42

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God can make a way where there has been no way forward. Let us rejoice as we come to know and experience God's grace –

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

* HYMN OF PRAISE

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!

Hymn 132, v. 3

**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 the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!**

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymn 121, v. 4

(sung)

**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 Emmanuel!**

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY

A Christmas Pastorale

Charles Callahan

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:46-55

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Reversal

The Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill

* 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 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 100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

* BENEDICTION

* THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

* POSTLUDE Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele Johann Christoph Oley

[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: Ashley Tsung

Violin: Joan Paltenstein

Organ: Rich Spotts

Permissions below

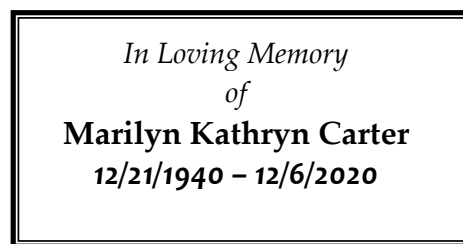
In need of special prayers this week: Len Browna, Michael Kemp, Laura Lockhart, Sylvia Weed (mother of Kathryn Jablokow), Barbara LaNore (sister of Lynda Smyth), Bruce D. Meissner (son of Judy and Bud Meissner), Sylvia Jolly, MM Harris, Herb Harris, Gary Lynch (son of Doug Lynch), Chris Popescu (aunt 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.

Thanks to Sandra and Jim Holt for the special flower arrangement for this season.

Sympathy and prayers for the family of Marilyn Carter, as they mourn her recent death.

Sympathy and prayers for Ray Rife's family, as they mourn the recent death of his sister, June Badorf.



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Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87

1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.

"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.

To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!
 O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,

Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."
 Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1-5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular Genevan Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folksong.

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

G D Em C Em

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain

G D

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the

Em C D Em

fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the

C D Em C Em

dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.