

⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶ And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Galations 4:4-7



Abington Presbyterian Church

December 27, 2020
10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship
First Sunday of Christmas

ORDER OF WORSHIP
1st Sunday of Christmas December 25, 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

Holy and merciful God, your light has come into the world with the coming of the Savior, the birth of a child. Thank you remembering your promise to redeem us. Now that Advent and Christmas are behind us, let us not forget that there is work to be done. People suffer, justice is lacking, and the earth cries out. Equip us to respond to the gospel with love and grace through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRELUDE

"La Nativité" (from Poèmes évangéliques)

by Jean Langlais

"In a humble manger, on a calm night, Mary and Joseph await the birth of Christ the Lord. After the baby is born, the celestial guardians, in a gracious apparition, announce the event in Bethlehem to the shepherds. Coming to the crèche, they offer their tender melodies to the infant Jesus as a symbol of adoration. Then the holy family finds calmness in the Peace of the Lord."

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

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.

The light shines in the darkness.

And the darkness did not overcome it.

For Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Come, let us adore him.

*** HYMN 132**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, we confess that our hearts have not been open to all that you have revealed to us in the Nativity of your Son. You sent Christ to be born as a helpless child, and yet we have not attended to the suffering of children. You chose humble Mary to be mother of our Lord Jesus, and yet we have not attended to the struggles of women. The holy family could find no room in Bethlehem but a stable, and yet we have not attended to the cry of the homeless. You announced your birth to lowly shepherds, yet we ignore those who tend our farms and fields. Forgive our lack of attention, and free us for joyful compassion, that we may know Christ in serving others. Through Jesus Christ we pray.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Sisters and brothers, receive the good news of the gospel: while we were yet sinners Christ died for us and our salvation.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

WORD

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* Hymn 545

Bid Your Servant Go in Peace

LAND OF REST

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:22-40

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Now is the Time

The Rev. Aaron Twitchell

* 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

* HYMN143 Angels from the Realm of Glory REGENT SQUARE

* 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 "In dulci jubilo" (BWV 729) Johann Sebastian Bach

[service hymns and some announcements follow]

Worship Leaders:

Preacher: The Rev. Aaron Twitchell

Organist: Rich Spotts

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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), 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.

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.

132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to-day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

all the earth; you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;
 Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant light: come and wor - ship,
 you have seen his na - tal star:
 to the e - ter - nal Three in One:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!

This familiar carol was first published as a poem in the Christmas Eve 1816 issue of a newspaper the author edited in Sheffield, England. The tune name celebrates the location of a prominent Presbyterian Church in