



the First Sunday of  
**Advent**

<sup>14</sup> The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

<sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

*Jeremiah 33:14-16*



<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup> And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

*1 Thessalonians 3:11-13*

## **Abington Presbyterian Church**

November 28, 2021  
10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent November 28, 2021

## 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.*

PRAAYER BEFORE WORSHIP *A time for quiet preparation before worship*

In this Advent season, O God, bring your light to overcome that which shrouds us in darkness. Bring your hope that overcomes despair. Brings your peace that is stronger than all the chaotic forces. And open our hearts to the gifts you bring. Amen.

PRELUDE Choral Fantastai on “Veni Emmanuel” *Walter MacNutt*

## LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Look up, for the realm of God is near.

As we give thanks for God's steadfast love, we rejoice in the promise of redemption.

The gifts of God are for all generations and for people in every walk of life.

**In humility, we receive God's blessings and embrace God's call to responsibility.**

God's light, God's peace, God's presence come to us.

**With joy, we welcome God's goodness at work within and through us.**

* HYMN 92	While We Are Waiting, Come	WAITING
-----------	----------------------------	---------

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE *Sue, Bob, and Jenny Parsons, and Joan and Charlie Lane*

## PRAYER

\* HYMN 88                      O Come, O Come, Emmanuel                      VENI EMMANUEL  
  (v. 1,5,6)

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All-embracing God, we rejoice that in your coming, you tend to our human needs. You know the cares that weigh us down and the snares that captivate us. Strengthen our hearts so we can turn away from the wrong we originate or allow. We admit that we have ignored the signs of your presence. Our vision is uninspired and narrow because it focuses on our own wishes and whims. Intervene to save us and all of your children.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's light penetrates our darkness. God's grace makes its way into our hearts and lives.  
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

\* RESPONSE

A Thousand Stars That Light the Sky

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

**A thousand stars that light the sky are not so bright or near so high  
as that which God intends to do: a promise, rising bright and new.**

**The grains of sand that line the shore match not what God has yet in store –  
a world the Word will come to mend with love and life that has no end.**

\* THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*Greet one another with the sign of peace.*

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**WORD**

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*"Seers of Old"*

*chant arr. John Sall*

*The Chapel Choir sings an excerpt from the ancient chant found as Hymn 108.*

This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word.  
Now he shines, the long-expected . Let creation praise its Lord, evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven, adore him. Angel hosts, his praises sing.  
Powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent; every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore!

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Strengthening Our Hearts

*The Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hilll*

\* 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!"

\* HYMN 84

Creator of the Stars of Night

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

#### 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

##### OFFERTORY

Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes

*Hal Hopson*

Thou shalt know him when he comes, not by any din of drums,  
nor his manners, nor his airs, nor by anything he wears.  
Thou shalt know him when he comes, not by his crown or by gown,  
but his coming known shall be, by the holy harmony  
which his coming makes in thee.  
Thou shalt know him when he comes. Amen

##### \* DOXOLOGY

*Hymn 606*

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

##### \* HYMN 357

The Days Are Surely Coming

LLANGLOFFAN

##### \* BENEDICTION

##### \* POSTLUDE

Nun komm, der Heiden Heilan  
(Savior of the Nations, Come) BWV 661

*Johann Sebastian Bach*

[some announcements follow]

**Worship Leaders:**

**Preacher:** The Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill

**Liturgist:** The Rev. Aaron Twitchell and The Rev. Dr. Jade King Bass

**Chancel and Chapel Choirs:** John Sall, director

**Organ:** Erik Meyer

**Permissions:** “A Thousand Stars That Light the Sky” words by Adam Tice (b. 1979). © 2010 GIA Publishing Co., Inc. Used by permission. Reprinted and streamed under OneLicense.net #A-729335. All rights reserved.

“Seers of Old” text is from the hymn “Of the Father’s Love Begotten from the 5<sup>th</sup> Century attr. Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, trans. 1854, public domain.

“Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes” words from an anonymous source and set in new musical anthem by Hal Hopson. ©1982 Harold Flammer Music. Reprinted and streamed under OneLicense.net #A-729335. All rights reserved.

**In need of special prayers this week:** Len Browna, MM Harris, Herb Harris, Doris Boerner, Ira Greenbaum (nephew of Marlyn Whyte), Helen Porter (mother of Joe Porter), Suzy Paravla (daughter of Susan Davis), Linda Maisenhelder, Christine Kim (wife of Stephen Kim), Will Pompilli (son of Teresa Pompilli), Wayne Gibbons, Jr., Susan Arnhold (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), Kris and Erik Reidenbach (friends of Sally Adams), Judy Meissner, Nina DiTimasso and Audrina Rose (friends of Anne-Marie Constable), Barb Kelly, Susan Johnson, John and Phyllis Frazier, Robin Cupo, Laura Lafferty, Emil Kupper, Joanne Lieb (friend of Ian & Amy Beck), Erma Yerkes, Linda Doyle, Shirley Keiter, Tim McCabe (friend of Marlyn Whyte).

**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.

Abington Presbyterian Church celebrates God’s infinite love and believes all people are equal in the eyes of God. We welcome all to worship and serve with us. We seek to work together to oppose intolerance, racism, and injustice that threaten the unity of humankind.