



the Second Sunday of  
**Advent**

**3** “See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.  
<sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?”

*Malachi 3:1-2*



<sup>76</sup> “And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
<sup>77</sup> to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.  
<sup>78</sup> By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,  
<sup>79</sup> to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

*Luke 1:76-79*

## **Abington Presbyterian Church**

December 5, 2021  
10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent    December 5, 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.*

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

Prepare our hearts and minds for your coming, O God. Sweep out that which resists your goodness. Rebalance our lives so our daily living can reflect your priorities for us and for others. Fill us with deep gratitude and holy expectation. Amen.

**PRELUDE**      **Comfort, Comfort Ye My People**      *Kile Smith*

*The Prelude and Postlude today have a special APC connection. They comprise "Two Meditations on Freu dich Sehr" based on the opening and closing words of today's middle hymn (#87). This pair was commissioned by APC as part of the organ restoration project for a re-dedication recital in our 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.*

**LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH**

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

In this season of waiting, our God comes.

**Come, Holy God, to fill us with your urgent hope for what is just and right.**

In this holy season of delight and wonder, our Savior comes.

**Come, Companion of humanity, to challenge us to share in the gospel welcome for all.**

In these days of remembering what our lives are to be, our Spirit comes.

**Come, Preparer of the way, to take us by the hand leading to the fullness of redemption.**

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

**\* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

**\* PRAYER**

**\* HYMN 82**      **Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**      HYFRYDOL

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**You witness the lives we lead, Approaching God.**

**Asked to share the gospel of hope, we place it on our to-do list instead.**

**Given the chance to cry out for justice for others, we fall strangely silent.**

**Invited to pray with joy in every moment, we prefer to grumble about insignificant things.**

**Have mercy on us, God of grace, and prepare our hearts**

**for your forgiveness to have its way in them.**

**Fill us with your hope so we might reflect your light in the shadows of others.**

**Help us to join with the choirs of angels in singing of your joy.**

**Transform us with that tender mercy who is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We are held in God's heart, not only on this day, but for all the days of our 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.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

## SCRIPTURE READING

Malachi 3:1-4

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:68-79

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## CANTICLE

Blest Be the God of Israel

*Hal Hopson*

*The Chapel Choir sings a paraphrase of Zechariah's song from today's Gospel reading in Luke (text can be found  
at Hymn #109 in Glory to God).*

## SERMON

Our Part and God's Part

*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!"

\* HYMN 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

GENEVAN

### 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

We Believe in the Coming of Emmanuel

*Michael Kemp*

*The anthem was composed by APC's late former Music Director, Michael Kemp, in his final days last spring.  
It combines two ancient texts, one from Jewish prayer liturgy (Ani Ma'amin), and one from the medieval church  
(O Come Emmanuel), with reflections on our yearning for God's presence, our faith in God's comfort,  
and our joy in God's coming.*

#### \* 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

### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

#### GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy... we join our voices with the heavenly choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

HOLY, HOLY (sung)

IN DULCI JUBILO

**Sing Holy, Holy, Holy  
Lord God of pow'r and might,  
Heav'n and earth your glory show  
Hosanna in the highest**

**Bless-ed is the one who comes  
In the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the heights! Hosanna in the heights!**

You are holy, O God of majesty...that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

Gracious God pour out your Holy Spirit...even as we pray as our Lord Jesus has taught us:

#### 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**

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### RECEIVING OF THE ELEMENTS

#### PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

\* HYMN 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

\* BENEDICTION

\* POSTLUDE

That His Word is Never Broken

*Kile Smith*

*See prelude note about APC's commissioning of this work.*

*[some announcements follow]*

#### **Worship Leaders:**

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

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

**Candle Lighters:** Erik, Anna, Lydia and Lukas Meyer

**Children's Message:** The Rev. Aaron Twitchell

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

**Organ:** Erik Meyer

**In need of special prayers this week:** Len Browne, 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), Judy Meissner, Jeanne Mueller (moter of Anne-Mare 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), the Family and Friends of Marilou Cassidy.

**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.

*In Loving Memory*  
*of*  
**Virginia Endy**  
09/10/1923 - 11/22/2021