



the Third Sunday of  
**Advent**

<sup>2</sup> Surely, God is my salvation;  
I will trust, and will not be  
afraid,  
for the Lord God is my  
strength and my might;  
he has become my salvation.

<sup>3</sup> With joy you will draw water from  
the wells of salvation. <sup>4</sup> And you will  
say in that day:

Give thanks to the Lord,  
call on his name;  
make known his deeds among  
the nations;  
proclaim that his name is  
exalted.

*Isaiah 12:2-4*



<sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in  
everything by prayer and supplication  
with thanksgiving let your requests be  
made known to God.

*Philippians 4:6*

## Abington Presbyterian Church

December 12, 2021

10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent    December 12, 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*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, ruler of the universe, for you have kept us in life, sustained us, and brought us to this holy season. Amen.

**PRELUDE**

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

*Johann Sebastian Bach*

**LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH**

**INTROIT**

Will You Come to the Manger?

*Sally DeFord*

Can you hear? Can you hear? There's a song on the air  
There are legions of angels singing there  
Can you hear? Will you follow the heavenly hymn?  
Will you come to the manger of Bethlehem?

Can you see? Can you see? Rising bright in the east  
There's beacon and promise of hope and peace  
Will you follow it now as they followed it then?  
Will you come to the manger of Bethlehem?

Will you know? Will you know, 'neath the skies all aglow,  
The Gift of God's love wrapped in swaddling clothes?  
Will you seek His face? Will you feel His grace?  
Will you know your Lord and King?

Will you come? Will you come to the Father's own Son?  
Will you follow your heart to the Holy One?  
All the voices of heaven will guide you to Him  
Will you come? Will you come? Come to the manger of Bethlehem.

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

**In the wilderness, prepare the way of our Lord.**

The Lord will give you a sign. A young woman is with child and shall bear a son.

**And they shall name him Immanuel, which means "God with us."**

Every valley shall be lifted up and every mountain be made low;

**the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Hallelujah!**

**\* HYMN 92**

While We Are Waiting, Come

WAITING

\* LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

\* PRAYER

\* HYMN 105

People, Look East

BESANCON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, always with us, always coming:**

**We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent.**

**We have forgotten how to hope in miracles;**

**we have ignored the promise of your kingdom;**

**we get distracted by all the busyness of this season.**

**Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid.

**Thanks be to God.**

\* HYMN OF PRAISE 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

*v. 3*

**You come, O Lord, with gladness,**

**in mercy and goodwill,**

**to bring an end to sadness**

**and bid our fears be still.**

**In patient expectation**

**we live for that great day**

**when your renewed creation**

**your glory shall display.**

\* 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

Zephaniah 3:14-20

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:7-18

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Sorry/Not Sorry”

*The Rev. Aaron Twitchell*

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Philippians 2:5-11

**We believe in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death –  
even death on a cross.  
Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess to the glory of God:  
Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.**

ANTHEM

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

*Erik Meyer*

Rejoice! Rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;  
the evening is advancing and darker night is near.  
The Bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray, and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.

The watchers on the mountain proclaim the Bridegroom near;  
Go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand;  
arise, O heirs of glory; the Bridegroom is at hand!

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, thou Sun so longed for, o’er this benighted sphere!  
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth’s redemption, that sets your people free!

A LITANY OF EXPECTATION

Watching and waiting for the coming of Christ,  
we pray for the promise of a new creation,  
saying: Come quickly, Lord;  
**our hope is in you.**

With expectation, we pray for the church . . .  
Let your reign of love shape us,  
as a master potter skillfully forms a vessel,  
that we may reveal your beauty to the world.  
Come quickly, Lord;  
**our hope is in you.**

With expectation, we pray for the world . . .  
Draw near to those who wait for you.  
Break into their circumstances with blessing.  
Heal the earth that awaits your restoration.  
Come quickly, Lord;  
**our hope is in you.**

With expectation, we pray for this community . . .  
Transform the places in which we live.  
Grant that the gifts you have given all of us  
may be used for the common good.  
Come quickly, Lord;  
**our hope is in you.**

With expectation, we pray for loved ones . . .  
Comfort all who suffer and despair.  
Assure them of your presence and care.  
Let your face shine and save us.  
Come quickly, Lord;  
**our hope is in you.**

God our hope, as the promised day approaches,  
fill us with the joy of your Holy Spirit  
and strengthen us to serve you faithfully;  
through Christ, who is coming to reign.  
**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

He Is the Gift

Shawna Edwards

In every star we see and all the songs we sing  
Of shepherds on a hillside, of goodwill and peace.  
The lights on every tree and all the gifts we bring  
In every part of Christmas we'll see our King.

For He is the light that shines from the star,  
He is the shepherd watching over us all.

And He is the peace that wise men still seek.  
A Savior born that we might live, He is the gift.

Hope and joy and strength He offers all our days,  
Pure and perfect blessings all wrapped in His grace.  
And when the lights come down the moments disappear  
But He who gives us everything will still be here.

For He is the light that shines from the star,  
He is the shepherd watching over us all.  
And He is the peace that wise men still seek.  
A Savior born that we might live, He is the gift.

* DOXOLOGY	What Child Is This	<i>Hymn 145, v. 3</i>
<b>So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him. The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby. Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!</b>		

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* HYMN 93	Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates	TRURO
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\* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE	Wachet auf	<i>Max Reger</i>
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*[some announcements follow]*

**Worship Leaders:**

**Preacher:** The Rev. Aaron Twitchell

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

**Candle Lighters:** The McAllister family

**Children's Message:** Ruth Sall

**Soloist:** Cary McAllister

**Pianist:** Aaron McAllister

**Chancel Choir:** John Sall, director

**Organ:** Erik Meyer

**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), Judy Meissner, Jeanne Mueller (mother 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.