



the Fourth Sunday of  
**Advent**

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of  
Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans  
of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for  
me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from old,  
from ancient days.

*Micah 5:2*



<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,  
“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God  
my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on  
the lowliness of his  
servant.  
Surely, from now on all  
generations will call me  
blessed;  
<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done  
great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

*Luke 1:46–49*

## Abington Presbyterian Church

December 19, 2021  
10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent   December 19, 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*

O God, we gather as those who dwell in the folds of your embrace and care. We thank you for your power and your gentleness. We welcome the anticipation of growing in our understanding of how you come into this world to bring deliverance and hope. Amen.

**PRELUDE**      Variations on Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland      *Karen Keene*

**LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH**

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us magnify the name of our God together as we ponder the wonder of God's majesty.

**Our Creator knows our names and chooses us to be carriers of good news.**

Rejoice that God restores our strength and equips us for tasks to which we are called.

**God has done great things for us. Holy is God's name, now and forever.**

We have a God who values us even when others express their disdain and scorn.

**From generation to generation, God is faithful. We leap for joy when we feel God near us.**

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

**\* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

**\* PRAYER**

**\* HYMN 102**      Savior of the Nations, Come      NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Gracious God, thank you for listening to our prayers. However, we acknowledge that even our petitions unto you are impoverished and less than faithful. We lack sincerity and gratitude. We don't lack selfishness or arrogance. Move toward us, broken as we are, with your healing embrace. Change our inner thoughts and motivations, as well as what we say and do, that we might draw closer to right relationships with you and our neighbors.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God helps us see our need for grace, lifts the burden of our sin, and guides us toward more purposeful living.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

1. My soul gives glory to my God;  
my heart pours out its praise.

God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.

5. Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,  
Remembering past promises with present faithfulness.

\* THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*Greet one another with the sign of peace.*

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

BELL VOLUNTARY

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

*Lloyd Larson*

*The Festive Ringers share a setting of Hymn 347.*

**WORD**

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 5:2-5a

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:39-55

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Insignificant

*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.**

\* HYMN 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

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 ANTHEM

There Is No Rose of Such Virtue

*Benjamin Britten*

There is no rose of such virtue

As is the rose that bare Jesu,

*Alleluia*

For in this rose contained was

Heaven and earth in little space,

*Res miranda* (wondrous thing)

By that rose we may well see

That he is God in persons three,

*Pares forma* (equal in form)

The angels sung the shepherds to:

Gloria in excelsis Deo! (glory to God in the highest)

*Gaudeamus* (let us rejoice)

Leave we all this worldly mirth,

And follow we this joyful birth,

*Transeamus* (let us cross over)

Alleluia, res miranda, pares forma, gaudeamus, transeamus.

\* DOXOLOGY

Of the Father's Love Begotten

*Hymn 108, v. 6*

**Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost,**

**to thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be.**

**Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,**

**evermore and evermore! Amen.**

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\* HYMN100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

\* BENEDICTION

\* POSTLUDE

Finale on Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

*Karen Keene*

*[some announcements follow]*

**Worship Leaders:**

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

**Liturgist:** The Rev. Aaron Twitchell

**Candle Lighters:** Carolyn & Gary Koch

**Children's Message:** Ruth Sall

**Festive Ringers:** Nathan Lazurus, director

**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.