

First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia



CELEBRATION!

December 17, 2017 - Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome

Rev. Jesse Garner

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Marston/Buzan family

*Song (insert)

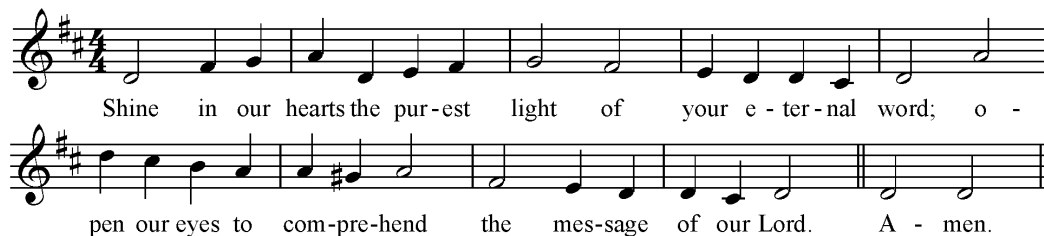
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

*Prayer

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination



Seeing and Touching the Word

Reading the Word of God

Luke 1: 46-56

Eleanor Young

Reflections

Rev. Megan LeCluyse

*Confession of Faith

We confess that we believe in and belong
to the one true and living God,
who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Love before all love.

We believe in God the Father,
sovereign and holy,
Creator and nurturer of all,
Father of Jesus Christ,
sender of the Holy Spirit,
and Judge of all the earth.

We believe in God the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour,
truly human and truly divine,
who lived among us full of grace and truth.
For our sin he was crucified
and by the power of God was raised from death,
forgiving us, setting us free and bringing to birth God's new creation.
Now ascended, he calls us to repentance and faith
and restores us to God and to one another.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
the giver of life at work in all creation,
who inspired the Scriptures and makes Christ known,
who transforms hearts and minds
and gathers us into the community of Christ,
empowering the Church in worship and in mission. Amen.

Offering



1. For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2. In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.

For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In the world-wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,

fu - ture needs in earth's safe keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.

The Lord's Supper

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Let us keep the feast!

Prayer after Communion

God, who takes care of each one of us,

thank you for feeding us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation;

Now send us out into the world to tell everyone about your love.

Amen.

Benediction and Going Forth

May starlight guide our steps towards this place of wonder

May angels sing their news as we travel to the manger

May promise fill these days as we watch at the edge of birth

and may faith tell us, Emmanuel will be with us soon.

*Closing Song (insert)

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Christmas Eve Next Sunday - No Service at 9 a.m.

Next Sunday, December 24th, there will NOT be a Celebration service at 9 a.m. We will celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent at 11 a.m. The Christmas Eve Celebration worship will be held at 4 p.m., and our traditional Christmas Eve worship service will be held at 10:45 p.m. Please join us! Street parking will be available with placard.

Young Adult Group

This Wednesday, December 20th at 7:30 p.m., we will be gathering at First Church (enter on the 21st St. side) for discussion based fellowship surrounding the Christmas season. For more information on the Young Adult Group contact Annie LeCluyse (youngadults@fpcphila.org), and join the Young Adult fellowship group on Facebook.

Lessons & Carols Service Today

TODAY at 4 p.m. is our service of Lessons & Carols for Advent and Christmas. Come and sing all of your favorite carols and hear sublime choral music by Vernon Williams, William Pearsall, Diane Meredith Belcher, CV Stanford, Ola Gjeilo and others! Prelude at 3:40 p.m. A reception follows in Old Buttonwood Hall. Street parking will be available with placard. All are welcome!

LGBT Christmas Party

This Tuesday, December 19th at 6:30 p.m., The LGBT group of First Church will hold its annual Christmas party at the home of Larry Slagle & Mete Egeman in Fairmount. For information, contact Larry Slagle (lgbt@fpcphila.org).

Blue Christmas - A Service of Light on the Longest Night

Advent and Christmas seasons are not always seasons of joy for everyone. For many who mourn, who are anxious, afraid, or who feel alone, this can be a very difficult time. First Church is offering a service of quiet meditation and reflection to bring light into the darkness on Thursday, December 21st at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. Street parking will be available with placard. All are invited.

Moving First Forward Pledge Update

To date we have received 108 pledges for a total of \$385,000 for 2018 Annual Giving. We are still short of our goal for pledges. If you have not yet submitted your pledge for 2018, please complete a pledge card, available in the church office. You can also pledge online at fpcphila.org/moving-first-forward/. Please help us reach our goal for the Future at First.