

# The Service for the Lord's Day

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23, 2018

11:00 a.m.

Atticus said to Jem one day, "I'd rather you shot at tin cans in the backyard, but I know you'll go after birds. Shoot all the blue jays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird." That was the only time I ever heard Atticus say it was a sin to do something, and I asked Miss Maudie about it. "Your father's right," she said. "Mockingbirds don't do one thing except make music for us to enjoy. They don't eat up people's gardens, don't nest in corn cribs, they don't do one thing but sing their hearts out for us. That's why it's a sin to kill a mockingbird."

—Harper Lee  
*To Kill a Mockingbird*



*The* **FIRST**  
PRESBYTERIAN  
**CHURCH**  
*in* PHILADELPHIA

*est. 1698*

## WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Grace and peace to you as we gather for worship! Here in this place, the seasons of our lives are marked: the children of God of every age are baptized, marriages are celebrated, and when one grieves, the whole body grieves together. We are a family of faith.

And just as Christ Jesus has welcomed each person to this church for over three hundred years, we extend our word of welcome in his name. Christ loves all, calls all, and welcomes all, and so members and guests alike enter to worship with the same profound welcome.

This congregation is steeped in history – three members of the church signed the Declaration of Independence. We are a part of the history of this city from its earliest days. But make no mistake about it: this is a living, breathing congregation seeking in real and tangible ways to make the grace of God known to our very modern world.

We would love to know you, and for you to know us. Please stay after the service and join in our fellowship time together where we enjoy refreshments, and most importantly, share our lives together. And if in getting to know us, you feel God is calling you to join together with us in living God's grace in this place, it would be our joy for you to become a part of this community.

*Baron Mullis, Pastor*

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### IF YOU ARE NEW HERE

Please fill out the pew pads in the black folders. You will find more information about our church on the Visitor's Information Display in the Narthex and in Old Buttonwood Hall.

There are several ways to become involved at First Church, both in the church and in the community. We are committed to the city of Philadelphia and support a number of mission programs and agencies working in this community. To learn more or to get involved, contact [missions@fpcphila.org](mailto:missions@fpcphila.org) and check the announcements for upcoming volunteer opportunities.

### HELPFUL INFORMATION

**Childcare** is provided each Sunday morning for babies and toddlers from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the lower level of the building, reached by the stairs inside the 21<sup>st</sup> Street entrance.

**Large print bulletins** are available in the narthex.

**Parking** is available for worship services on the west side of 21<sup>st</sup> Street from Chestnut to Locust Streets and on the north side of Locust from 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ushers will provide a placard to display on your vehicle dashboard. Parking is also available at SP+ Parking, located at 2107 Sansom Street (next to Day by Day Restaurant). See ushers to validate your parking receipt for a reduced rate.

### BE SOCIAL!

Social Media users—Check in at First Church and like our Facebook Page ([facebook.com/FirstPresPhilly](https://facebook.com/FirstPresPhilly)). Follow us on Instagram & Twitter @firstpresphilly, and join our hashtag campaign #firstchurchlove.

Visit our website to learn more, and subscribe to our email list: [www.fpcphila.org](http://www.fpcphila.org)

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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PRELUDE

*Meine Seele erhebt den Herren*

J. S. Bach

CANTICLE

*Besañçon Carol*

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People, look east and sing today: Love the star is on the way.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Weisiger Family

\*HYMN 16

**The Angel Gabriel**

*Gabriel's Message*

\*SENTENCES

The Reverend Sarah Weisiger

Shower, O heavens, from above  
**And let the skies rain down righteousness.**  
Let the earth open, that Salvation may spring up.  
**Then Mary said, Here am I,**  
The servant of the Lord;  
**Let it be with me according to your word.**  
*Isaiah 45:8; Luke 1:38*

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION



WELCOME

The Reverend Dr. Baron Mullis

\* \* \*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Who are we, Lord God, that you should come to us? Yet you have visited your people and redeemed us in your son. As we prepare to celebrate his birth, forgive us our sins, and make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word, and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, your son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Hear, O LORD, the prayers we offer in the silence of our hearts...

*\*Those who are able may stand.*

## KYRIE

Andrew Senn

Organ *mp*

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

*mf*

Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

The image shows a musical score for the Kyrie. It consists of two staves of music in 4/4 time. The first staff is marked 'Organ' and 'mp' (mezzo-piano). The second staff is marked 'mf' (mezzo-forte). The lyrics are: 'Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.' and 'Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.'

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Brothers and sisters, believe the good news.  
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

## ANTHEM

### Lo! How a Rose

Michael Praetorius

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as seer of old have sung.  
It came, a flow'r so bright, amid the cold of winter,  
When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,  
When half-spent was the night.

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;  
True man, yet very God, from sin and death He saves us,  
And lightens ev'ry load.

O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe,  
O Savior, King of glory, who dost our weakness know;  
Bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of Heaven,  
And into endless day.

\* \* \*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Shine in our hearts the pur-est light of your e - ter - nal word; o -  
pen our eyes to com-pre-hend the mes-sage of our Lord. A - men.

The image shows a musical score for the Prayer for Illumination. It consists of two staves of music in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: 'Shine in our hearts the pur-est light of your e - ter - nal word; o - pen our eyes to com-pre-hend the mes-sage of our Lord. A - men.'

<b>OLD TESTAMENT</b>	Micah 5:2-5	(p. 849)
<b>EPISTLE</b>	Hebrews 10:5-10	(p. 219)
<b>GOSPEL</b>	Luke 1:46-55	(p. 56)

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GLORIA PATRI** *Picardy*

Glory be to God the Father, glory be to God the Son,  
 Glory be to God the Spirit, ever three and ever one.  
 As it was in the beginning, now and evermore shall be. Amen.

**SERMON** **An Old Familiar Song** Dr. Mullis

*My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my savior.  
 Luke 1:46b-47*

**\*HYMN 218** **New Songs of Celebration** *Rendez à Dieu*

**\*APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;  
 he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life everlasting. Amen

**OFFERTORY** **Magnificat** Ralph Vaughan Williams

My soul doth magnify the Lord. And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is

his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat; and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel. As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**\*PRESENTATION & DOXOLOGY**

*Old Hundredth*

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.

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION**

**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.

**\*HYMN** (*insert*)

**My Soul Cries Out**

*Canticle of the Turning*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

**Improvisation**

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*We thank the Parish Choir for leading worship this morning. Anyone interested in singing with the Parish Choir may contact Andrew Senn in the church office.*

The liturgist today is the Reverend Sarah Weisiger. The Greeters are Kay and Marvin Keenze, and the ushers are Miles Davis (Captain), Fred Barfoot, Mary Elizabeth Greeley, Doug O'Malley, and Stella Tsai.

The Chancel flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God.

### MEETINGS THIS WEEK

There are no meetings this week.

### CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The church office will be closed on the afternoon of Monday, December 24 (Christmas Eve), Tuesday, December 25 (Christmas Day), and Wednesday, December 26. The office will also be closed on Monday, December 31 and Tuesday, January 1.

### LESSONS & CAROLS

Please join us for a service of Lessons & Carols TODAY at 4 p.m. A prelude begins at 3:40 p.m. A reception will follow in Old Buttonwood Hall. On-street parking is available with placard.

### CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Tomorrow, December 24<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the birth of the Christchild with services at 4 p.m. and 11 p.m. On-street parking is available with placard.

### TWENTIES & THIRTIES (T&T) GROUP

There will be no T&T gathering this Wednesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>; Merry Christmas! For more information on the Twenties & Thirties Group, contact Annie LeCluyse ([youngadults@fpcphila.org](mailto:youngadults@fpcphila.org)), and join the Young Adult fellowship group on Facebook.

### MOVING FIRST FORWARD - GROWING IN GRATITUDE

Pledge update (as of December 18): we have received 111 pledges for a total of \$397,782 for 2019 Annual Giving. This compares with 107 pledges for \$392,181 for 2018 as of 12/19/17. Thank you to all who have pledged! If you have not yet submitted your pledge for 2019, there's still time! Please complete a pledge card, available in the pews or in the church office. You can also pledge online at [www.fpcphila.org/make-a-pledge](http://www.fpcphila.org/make-a-pledge).

### ADULT EDUCATION PLANNING MEETING

If you are interested in Adult Education at First Church, please attend a meeting on Sunday, January 6, during the 9:45 hour in the MacColl room for the purpose of developing a Sunday school program for adults at First Church.

## INTERESTED IN FIRST CHURCH?

If you would like to learn more about First Church and how you can be a part of the life and ministry of the church, you're invited to our new member class on January 20<sup>th</sup>. The class is informal and will explore what Presbyterians believe, what membership means, and how to get involved at First Church. Contact Sarah Weisiger ([sarah.weisiger@fpcphila.org](mailto:sarah.weisiger@fpcphila.org)) or Baron Mullis ([baron.mullis@fpcphila.org](mailto:baron.mullis@fpcphila.org)) for more information.

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## SUNDAYS @ FIRST

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### CELEBRATION!

*Celebration!* is a worship service that engages Christians of all ages through singing, interactive Bible lessons for children, prayer, preaching, and the Lord's Supper. Join us in Old Buttonwood Hall at 9 a.m.

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

A Sunday School class for young children and their families is held at 10 a.m. in the Cochran Room. Contact Sarah Weisiger ([sarah.weisiger@fpcphila.org](mailto:sarah.weisiger@fpcphila.org)) for more information.

### INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Each Sunday immediately following 11 o'clock worship our Deacons lead a brief period of intercessory prayer in Dr. Mullis's office. To request prayers, fill out one of the prayer requests and place it in the offering plate or join the Deacons for the prayer time after worship.

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## THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN PHILADELPHIA

201 South 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215-567-0532  
[www.fpcphila.org](http://www.fpcphila.org)

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The Reverend Dr. Baron A. Mullis, *Pastor and Head of Staff*

The Reverend Megan LeCluyse, *Celebration Team Leader*

Mr. Andrew Senn, *Director of Music and Organist*

Ms. Suzanne Riemann, *Church Administrator*

The Reverend Jerry K. Foote, *Minister for Congregational Care*

The Reverend Sarah Weisiger, *Minister for Membership and Faith Formation*

Mrs. Patti Sassoli, *Director of Communications*

Ms. Annie LeCluyse, *Young Adult Leader*

The Reverend Barbara A. Chaapel

The Reverend Kenneth J. Ross

The Reverend Herbert D. Valentine

*Parish Associates*