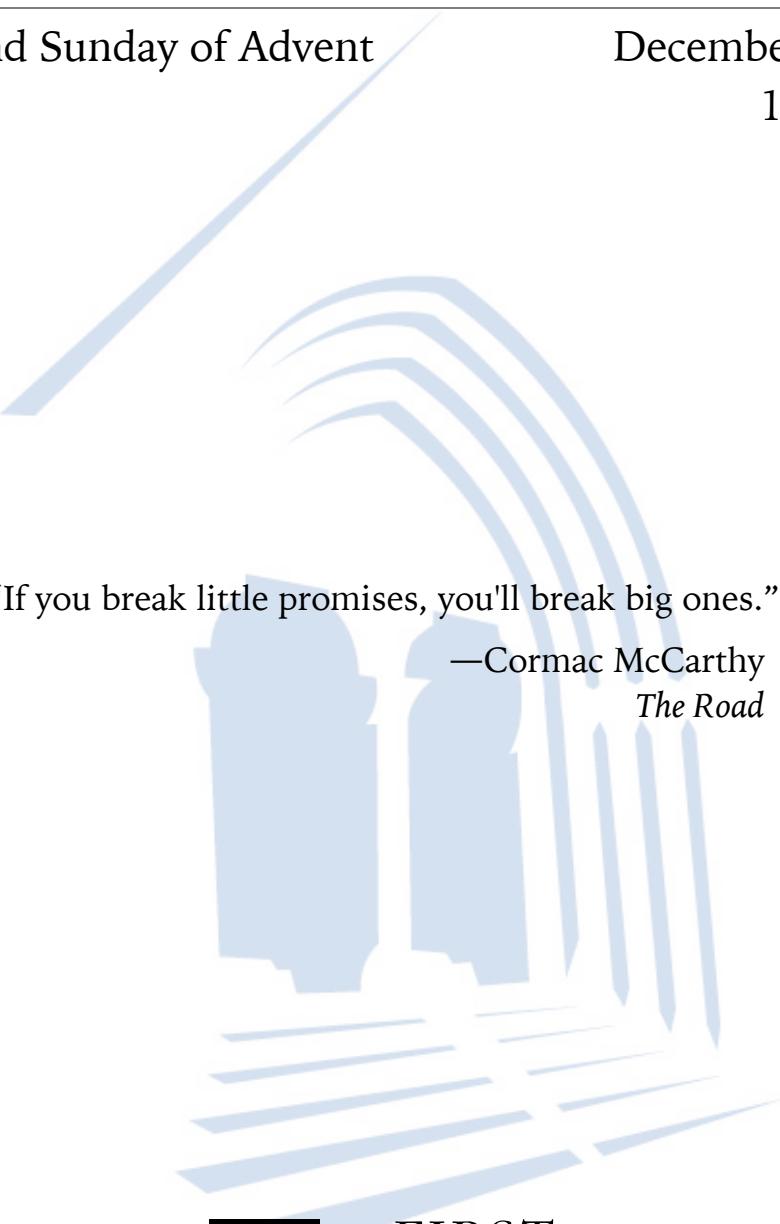


The Service for the Lord's Day

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2018

11:00 a.m.



“If you break little promises, you'll break big ones.”

—Cormac McCarthy
The Road



The FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
in PHILADELPHIA

est. 1698

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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 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 21st Street entrance.

Large print bulletins are available in the narthex.

Parking is available for worship services on the west side of 21st Street from Chestnut to Locust Streets and on the north side of Locust from 20th to 23rd. 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). 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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Improvisation

CANTICLE

Besançon Carol

Furrows be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there: give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish. People, look east and sing today: Love the rose is on the way.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Revs. Barbara Chaapel,
Herb Valentine & Ken Ross

*HYMN 601

Song of Zechariah

Kingsfold

*SENTENCES

Rev. Sarah Weisiger

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.

But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap;

he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness.

Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Malachi 3:1-4

*PRAYER OF ADORATION



WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Baron Mullis

* * *

PRAYER OF CONFESION

Holy God, You call us to active faith. You call us to tell the story, and to go in your ways. We are called to courage and conviction. Yet, too often, our lives respond to your grace haltingly. We hesitate when we are offered the opportunity to show love. We allow fear

**Those who are able may stand.*

to silence the good news; we permit anxiety to rob us of your peace. Forgive us, we pray. Call us anew to witness to your goodness, mercy, and love. Fill our hearts, and open our lips. We pray these, and those prayers offered in the silence of our hearts, in the strong name of Jesus Christ...

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.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Brothers and sisters, believe the good news.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

ANTHEM

Audivi Vocem de Coelo

Thomas Tallis

*Audivi vocem de caelo venientem:
Oleum recondite in vasis vestris,
dum sponsus advenerit.
Media nocte clamor factus est.
Ecce sponsus venit.*

I heard a voice from heaven saying:
Lay up the oil in your vessels
when the bridegroom cometh.
At midnight there was a cry made:
Behold the bridegroom cometh.

* * *

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.

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

(p. 58)

EPISTLE

Philippians 1:3-11

(p. 192)

GOSPEL

Luke 1:68-79

(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

By the Tender Mercy of Our God

Dr. Mullis

"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, 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 1:78-79

***HYMN 10**

On Jordan's Bank

Winchester New

***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

This is the Record of John

Orlando Gibbons

This is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias? And he said, I am not. Art thou the prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, What art thou, that we may give an answer unto them that sent us? What sayest thou of thyself? And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord.

*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 17

Sleepers, Wake

Wachet auf

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Wachet auf

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

* * *

SUNDAYS @ FIRST

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) 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.

The liturgist today is the Rev. Sarah Weisiger. The Greeter is Larry Slagle, and the ushers are Jon Rogers (Captain), Philip Amoa, Reginald Amoa, João Magalhaes, and Dave Nave.

The chancel flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and to the lives and many blessings of Tom and Mary Anna Massey, by Cade Massey.

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Thursday, December 13

Membership & Evangelism

5:30 p.m.

ADVENT LUNCH

The annual Advent luncheon, hosted by the Deacons, is TODAY following worship in Old Buttonwood Hall. All are welcome!

ADVENT ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES

Every Sunday in Advent there are activities for all ages following the Celebration! service. Come at 10 a.m. to join in the fun with our youngest members. Next week we'll enjoy hot cocoa, cookies, and a holiday sing-along as we decorate the Christmas tree!

GROUP SPIRITUAL DIRECTION IN ADVENT

On the four Sundays in Advent (December 2, 9, 16, and 23) the Rev. Barbara Chaapel will lead an experience of group spiritual direction from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. in the Whitefield Room. If you have questions, contact Barbara Chaapel (barbara.chaapel@fpcphila.org).

TWENTIES & THIRTIES GROUP (FORMERLY YOUNG ADULTS)

This Wednesday, December 12th, at 7:30 p.m. we will gather at First Church (enter on the 21st Street side) for fellowship and discussion surrounding the Advent/Christmas season. For more information on the Twenties & Thirties (T&T) Group, contact Annie LeCluyse (youngadults@fpcphila.org), and join the Young Adult fellowship group on Facebook.

THE GIVING TREE

The Twenties & Thirties Group has set up a "Giving Tree" in Old Buttonwood Hall in support of Valley Youth House. Select an ornament from the tree and purchase the item listed on the ornament; place new, unwrapped items with the ornament attached under the tree on or before Sunday, December 16. Contact Annie LeCluyse (youngadults@fpcphila.org) for information.

BAND OF BOOMERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Band of Boomers Christmas party will be held on Friday, December 14th, from 7-9 p.m. at the home of Diane & Jon Rogers. The main course will be provided; guests should bring an appetizer, salad, or dessert and their beverage of choice. Please RSVP to Shellie Unger (boomers@fpcphila.org).

(continued)

CHEER! A CHRISTMAS POPS CONCERT

Come celebrate the season next Sunday, December 16th, at 2 p.m. for a concert by First Church choir member Calli Graver and friends.

A SERVICE OF LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Advent and Christmas 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 next Sunday, December 16th, at 6 p.m. All are invited.

RIVERSIDE CHRISTMAS PARTY

All are invited to join First Church in bringing holiday cheer to the residents of Riverside Presbyterian Apartments (23rd & Race Streets) on Wednesday, December 19th, at 7 p.m.

Volunteers are needed for entertainment and to provide food. Please contact Jordana Woodford (jordana.woodford@fpcphila.org) or the church office (office@fpcphila.org).

MOVING FIRST FORWARD - GROWING IN GRATITUDE

Pledge update (as of December 4): we have received 103 pledges for a total of \$380,052 for 2019 Annual Giving. This compares with 98 pledges for \$378,513 for 2018 as of 12/10/17! 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.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN PHILADELPHIA

201 South 21st Street

Philadelphia, PA 19103

215-567-0532

www.fpcphila.org

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 Development*

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