



*November 28, 2021*

8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

[WWW.GPCTN.ORG](http://WWW.GPCTN.ORG)

*\*Please stand.*

*Please silence electronic devices.*

## ***GATHERING***

PRELUDE

*Creator of the Stars of Night*

Justin Heinrich Knecht

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Will Jones

CHIME INTROIT

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE (8:30) Eddie, Honour, and Xander Batey  
(11:00) Sherri and Neal Horner

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 100) (8:30) Ms. Kelly Phillips  
(11:00) Mr. Rodney Strop

Leader: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness.  
Come before our God with joyful songs.

**People: Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His.  
We are His people, the sheep of His pasture.**

Leader: Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise.  
Give thanks to Him and praise His name.

**People: For the Lord is good and His love endures forever.  
His faithfulness continues through all generations.**

\*HYMN 9

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

\*CONFESSION OF SIN (in unison)

**Holy God, on this first Sunday of Advent, have mercy on us. We often sin because we are impatient and have little self-control. In our haste, we often waste your most important gifts: relationships, truth, resources, and love. We waste opportunities to share the gospel of your grace, and we waste precious time on trivial pursuits. Please forgive our intemperate, sinful ways, and have mercy on us as we wait for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.**

*(Time of personal prayer)*

Leader: We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,

**People: Amen.**

\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

\*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

HYFRYDOL

**Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee. Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

\*SHARING OF GRACE

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## *THE WORD*

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:00) Catherine Louise Coursey  
(Daughter of Emily and Chad Coursey, and sister of Thomas and Sam)

Dr. Jones

BAPTISMAL RESPONSE (11:00)

BUNESSAN

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our King:  
Born of one Father, we are His children, joyfully now God's praise we sing.**

ANTHEM (11:00)

*E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*  
Chancel Choir

Paul G. Manz

*Peace be to you and grace from Him Who freed us from our sins, Who loves us all and shed His blood that we might saved be. Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, The Lord, Almighty God Who was and is and is to come, sing Holy, Holy, Lord! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon! E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; they need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All!*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jacob Schepman

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16 (Pew Bible pg. 645)

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (Pew Bible pg. 960)

Dr. Jones

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Advent: To See You Face to Face

Dr. Jones

## *RESPONSE TO THE WORD*

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – (from *A Declaration of Faith*)

Rev. Mike Lyle

**We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through His birth, life, death, and resurrection, He brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Susan Carter Wiggins

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY

*The Lightener of the Stars*  
Jeff Day, tenor

Robert Bucklee Farley  
ancient Gaelic text

*Behold the Lightener of the stars on the crests of the clouds, and the choralists of the sky lauding him. Coming down with acclaim from the Father above, harp and lyre of song sounding to him. Christ, thou refuge of my love, why should I not raise thy fame! Angels and saints melodious singing to thee. Thou Son of the Mary of graces, of exceeding white purity of beauty, joy were it to me to be in the fields of thy riches. O Christ, my beloved. O Christ of the holy Blood, by day and by night, I praise thee.*

\*DOXOLOGY

VENI EMMANUEL

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Lyle

## *SENDING*

\*HYMN 12

*People Look East*

BESANÇON

\*CHARGE and BLESSING

Dr. Jones

\*POSTLUDE

*Sleepers, wake! A Voice Astounds Thee*

Gustav Adolf Thomas

## ***WORSHIP TODAY***

**On the cover:** *Revisiting Starry Nights*, original painting by Germantown Presbyterian Church member Steve Nelson, 2019.

***Welcome to worship*** online and onsite with Germantown Presbyterian Church. Our sincere prayer is that you will find a place here among those who already call GPC home. We know these are difficult days, and we are so glad you can join our service in the way you feel most comfortable. We are truly glad God brought you here!

### **5th Grade Worship Leader for November**



The Fifth Grade Bridge program exists to guide children as they begin to live their lives of faith in Jesus Christ, to encourage friendships among one another, to actively participate in worship and church life, and to successfully transition to GPC youth. Throughout the year you will see 5th-graders reading scripture in worship, participating in retreats and fellowship activities, gathering to meet junior high students, mentoring younger GPCKids at VBS, and serving in the community through Mission 901. The November worship leader is Jacob Schepman. Jacob is the son of Lacey and Jared Schepman and big brother to Noah. Jacob attends school at Riverdale Elementary School.

Scan the QR code to sign into the online Friendship Pad.



***Interested in joining GPC?*** *You are welcome here!* **The next New Member joining day is Sunday, December 12.** For more information on how to join, please contact Amy Phillips at (901) 647-6433 or [amybirdwellphillips@gmail.com](mailto:amybirdwellphillips@gmail.com).

***GPC's pastors*** can always be reached in an emergency or crisis. Please call the church, 901-754-5195, and then press 1 to reach the on-call pastor.

***Name Tags:*** We used to wear our name tags on Sunday. Do you know where yours is located? Let's start wearing them and if you can't find yours make a note on the Friendship Pad on Sunday and we'll make a new one for you that will be available in the narthex the next time you attend.

***Room in the Inn:*** After a long break, GPC will host their first guests through [Room in the Inn](#) overnight on Saturday, November 13. We will host one time monthly for a total of 5 months. You can sign up to volunteer your time or talents here: <https://buff.ly/3qbs1sg> Alternatively, you may scan this code with your phone or email [SFienup@HobsonRealtors.com](mailto:SFienup@HobsonRealtors.com) or text 901-860-5086.



***Church Family Prayer Program:*** Members of the congregation are randomly selected each week to be lifted up. This week please pray for Patsy & Jim Carson; Alinda & Charles Fahrenkopf; Erin & Thomas Powell, Hayden; Jean & Bill Priestler; Wes Robinson; Martha Stanley; Marty & John Wheeler.

***In November, please pray for these churches in the Presbytery:*** First Presbyterian Church, Clarkton, MO, First Presbyterian Church, Kennett, MO.

### **Germantown Presbyterian Church Announcements Week of November 28, 2021**

***Engaging Our Potential (EOP):*** Commitment Sunday was last week, but every Sunday is really Commitment Sunday. This year GPC is combining our regular annual funding campaign with a debt-retirement campaign into one consolidated effort called *Engaging Our Potential*. Over the last four Sundays you heard about different areas of focus in GPC's strategic plan for ministry and mission – connecting, growing, caring, and sharing. *Engaging Our Potential* is a two-year financial stewardship campaign to fund our annual operations budget and to eliminate the remaining \$1.5 million of capital debt. If you haven't made your commitment yet, you still can, either by mailing your commitment card in or filling one out online. Please prayerfully consider your commitment to *Engaging Our Potential* that will encompass both your annual giving for two years AND your commitment to debt retirement. Questions? Call Fred Turverey or Alex Ivy at 901-754-5195.

### ***News & Events***

#### **Wednesday Evening Advent Offerings for Adults & Kids**

**Wednesday Evening Advent Devotional Series *A Season of Preparation & Celebration*.** Over the last 18 months, we have had so few opportunities to spend some good quality time

together as a family of faith. And that's crucial for the deepening of our relationships with one another and with Jesus. But that all changes this Christmas! This Advent, we are excited to invite you to experience four delicious and delightful evenings that will be meaningful for the whole family. Join us during the four Wednesdays of Advent, December 1, 8, 15 and 22, for dinner and a wonderful new devotional series called *Come, Lord Jesus, Come*.

Participants will be given three ways to enjoy this devotional together:

- women's group led by Candace Askew & Susan Shirley Hurt,
- men's group led by Jay Galyean & Garrett Guynes,
- joint group led by Pastor Mike Lyle.

So come join us this Advent season as we celebrate the birth of the King of kings together!

### 2021 Wednesday Evening Advent Devotional Schedule –

- Dinner: 5:30pm - 6:00pm in Warren Hall
- Adult Advent Devotional: 6:00pm - 6:55pm
- Children's Lessons & Carols: 6:00pm - 7:00pm
- Closing Prayer: 7:00pm

**Christmas Caroling in December.** This favorite seasonal GPC activity is back. Meet in the Activity Center Lobby and be ready to leave by 3:30pm to go out Christmas Caroling to GPC members in their homes and retirement communities. The buses should return to the church by 5:30pm.

**Chili Cook-off/Dessert Bake-off.** Once again this favorite seasonal GPC activity returns. Come to the Activity Center at 5:30 with your \$1 bills and plan to vote on your favorite pot of chili and your favorite dessert. Adults will make the chili, and kids will present their best dessert. Winners will be announced at the end of the evening. The proceeds this year will go to Binghampton Christian Academy. Online and in-person registration is open now!

**Advent Schedule for Your Planner:** 8:30am/11:00am/6:00pm – special Christmas music in all GPC worship services.

December 5, Sunday – 8:30am/11:00am, sanctuary – selections from Handel's *Messiah* by GPC Chancel Choir Ensemble, Soloists, String Quartet, Trumpets, Flute, Organ  
2:30pm, sanctuary – *Sounds of the Season* with Kallen Esperian, accompanied by Gary Beard, GPC Chancel Choir Ensemble, Soloists, Strings, Horns, Organ

December 12, Sunday – 2:30pm, Activity Center – AMPlify Winter Concert (the music part of the GPC Special Needs Ministry)

December 18, Saturday – 4:00pm, historic Evans Chapel – Blue Christmas Worship Service (for those grieving during the season)

December 19, Sunday – 3:30pm, AC Lobby – meet to go Christmas Caroling  
5:30pm, Activity Center – GPC Chili Cook-off/Dessert Bake-off

December 24, Friday – Christmas Eve Worship Services  
3:30pm, sanctuary – Family-oriented Worship  
5:30pm, sanctuary – Traditional Worship  
11:00pm, historic Evans Chapel – Christmas in the Chapel

### Families

**Children’s Wednesday Evening Advent *Lessons & Carols!*** We are so excited to welcome our children, ages 3-5th grade, during the four Wednesday evenings of Advent, December 1,8,15 and 22, to learn and experience the true meaning of Christmas! Children will not only grow in their faith through stories, crafts, and well-loved carols, but will also have the exciting opportunity to share the carols they’ve learned as they help lead worship during GPC’s 3:30pm Christmas Eve Service. Full nursery care will be provided for all infants and toddlers. More detailed information to come. Registration is super helpful but not required.

### Special Needs

**Special Needs Program Save the Date!** Sunday, December 12 at 2:30pm GPC’s AMplify group, the musical program in the Special Needs Ministry, is presenting their Winter Concert in the Activity Center. This is always an amazing event, and you won’t want to miss it. Come, tell your friends, bring your neighbors, and celebrate Christmas in this most special way. For more information, please contact Jackie Classen Williams at [specialneeds@gpctn.org](mailto:specialneeds@gpctn.org).

### Missions

**Memphis Food Bank Mobile Pantry** has set up a mobile food donation site at Idlewild Presbyterian Church, and more volunteers are needed to sign up and help Idlewild volunteers distribute food. The volunteers staff this site two (2) times a month on Wednesday mornings from 8:00am-10:30am; at least 25 volunteers are needed. Go to this website [here \(https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084eaac22aafa7-idlewild\)](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084eaac22aafa7-idlewild) to sign up to help give out food to our hungry neighbors.

**Mentors for Memphis Athletic Ministries:** MAM is searching for men and women who will commit to mentor a high school student for this upcoming school year. Mentors will be matched with students accepted into our Mentoring Program. Students are hand selected and hired by MAM to work in our sites and gain college and career training. Mentors will help these students set goals and take the steps to reach those goals and prepare them for life after MAM. For more

information or to sign up, go to: [www.mamsports.org/volunteer](http://www.mamsports.org/volunteer).

### **Congregational Life**

**GPC is searching for a new Director of Ministry to Children.** This is a full-time job, and a position description may be found on the church website. There are also copies available on tables outside the entrances to the sanctuary. For more information, please contact September Eason at [children@gpctn.org](mailto:children@gpctn.org).

**Audio Visual Help Needed with Worship Services:** GPC is looking for volunteers who want to join an ongoing team that will form the core group who works with the audio-visual process of the livestream during Sunday morning and evening worship services. The people already participating will be happy to train you, and all you have to do is learn the user-friendly system. It's all very easy, and yet vitally important to our expanding Internet presence. Please consider volunteering, and if you are interested you can contact the church office at [communications@gpctn.org](mailto:communications@gpctn.org).

**Women at GPC:** Presbyterian Women (PW) Circles meet the first Tuesday of each month - Day Circles meet at 10:00am, and the Night Circle meets at 6:45pm. Gatherings are every other month and will feature a guest speaker or service project. We are all strongly encouraged to wear a mask. Our study for 2021 - 2022 is *What My Grandmothers Taught Me - Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus*. Books are \$10. New members that are interested in joining or have questions, contact Bonnie Algee - [bbalgee@bellsouth.net](mailto:bbalgee@bellsouth.net) or Brenda Jeter - [bjeter3044@gmail.com](mailto:bjeter3044@gmail.com).

**Men at GPC:** Men's Breakfast: Men's Breakfast meets Friday mornings at 6:30am in Warren Fellowship Hall (with occasional exceptions for holidays). Breakfast starts at 6:30am (bring \$3) and Bible study at 7:00. Different men lead each week's study using Scripture from the lectionary. Come one, come all! Currently the meetings take place in a hybrid format, so you can attend in person or via Zoom. All men are invited to come as you can on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, 12:00pm. The group is currently discussing readings from the book *Mornings with Bonhoeffer*. Currently this group is meeting in person in Warren Fellowship Hall. Keep watching the newsletter for updates. Part of GPC's Men's Ministry, the contact person for this bimonthly lunch study is Anthony Duke ([Anthony.Duke@ipaper.com](mailto:Anthony.Duke@ipaper.com)).

**Thursday Morning Bible Study Invites You to Join!** This group meets at 10:00am in room UL-216 on the second and fourth Thursdays. They are studying 1st, 2nd Peter and Jude by N.T. Wright. After the Bible study, for those that are interested, they become a prayer group using the prayer sheet in the "Window" newsletter. They also share and pray for one another. Everyone is invited, and the group is always excited to welcome new members. If interested, please contact Jean Carroll at [jeancarroll1@comcast.net](mailto:jeancarroll1@comcast.net) or (h) 901-755-6950 or (c) 901-674-6950.

**Eat, Pray, Read Women's Book Group:** Come as you are for fellowship, prayer, and study - Eat, Pray, Read is a study group for those interested in expanding their faith and spiritual growth through Christian books and Bible study. This women's group meets on the second Monday of the month in the church parlor unless otherwise specified from 10:00am-11:30am. Participants take turns leading the discussion, prayer, food, and fellowship. Each person is responsible for purchasing her own book and reading it before the day of discussion. Everyone is invited! Come for one, come for some, come for all! The schedule for the rest of the year is: December - *Gift From the Sea*, Anne Morrow Lindbergh; January - *The Second Mountain - The Quest for a Moral Life*, David Brooks; February - *Dietrich Bonhoeffer - Writings Selected with an Introduction by Robert Coles*, Robert Coles; March - *We Need to Hang Out - A Memoir of Making Friends*, Billy Baker; April/May - TBD. If interested, please contact Ann Harbor at [annfluckerharbor@aol.com](mailto:annfluckerharbor@aol.com) or 901-258-5010.

### Congregational Care

**Grief Support Ministry:** The Grief Support Group has begun meeting regularly again on the second Thursday of every month from 6:00-7:30pm in the parlor. For more information, contact the church office (901-754-5195) or [office@gpctn.org](mailto:office@gpctn.org).

“Advent” means “coming” or “arrival.” During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. In its historical origins, the season of Advent was patterned after the season of Lent, a six-week period of penitence and preparation for Easter. Similarly, the four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination, as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ’s return.

**An excerpt from the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Geneva Press, 2003, 96)**

In Advent we expectantly wait for the One who has already come. We anticipate the promised justice of God’s new world, yet we praise God who raised the “righteous branch” to rule with justice and righteousness. We hope for the restoration of the afflicted, the tormented, and the grieving, yet we delight that healing has come in Christ. We long for the beating of swords into plowshares, yet we rejoice that the Prince of Peace has appeared. We yearn for the barren deserts of our inner cities to flourish, yet we laud the desert Rose that has bloomed. We dream of the land where lions and lambs live in harmony, yet we acclaim the child born to lead us into the promised land.

Christ has come! Christ is risen! Christ will come again! In Advent, we are living between the first and the second coming of the Lord. The dialectical tension of *maranatha* [alternately translated “Come, our Lord!” or “Our Lord has come!”] — placing us between memory and hope, past and future — may strengthen our Advent liturgies. Perhaps we need to cling to the ancient cry of *maranatha!* and its paradoxical meanings so we may freely embrace “the new thing” prophesied by Isaiah (Isaiah 43:19) that God is doing among us right now. The tension and paradox we find in Advent shapes our celebrations during the season.



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