



GERMANTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN
C·H·U·R·C·H



December 5, 2021

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

**Please stand.*

Please silence electronic devices.

GATHERING

PRELUDE *Messiah: Overture* Georg Frideric Handel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Dr. Will Jones

CHIME INTROIT

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE Jay, Will & Anna Chandler (8:30)
David & JoEllyn Slott (11:00)

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 103) Mrs. Melinda Russell (8:30)
Mr. Renn Eason (11:00)

Leader: Praise the Lord, my soul. All my inmost being, praise His holy name.

People: Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all His benefits

Leader: The Lord forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.

People: God redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion.

Leader: Praise the Lord, all you heavenly hosts, you servants who do His will.

People: Praise the Lord, all creation everywhere in His dominion. Praise the Lord!

*OPENING HYMN 8 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* (vs. 1 and 2) TRURO

MESSIAH Recitative: *Comfort ye* Handel
Jeff Day, tenor

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, That her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness; prepare ye the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Isaiah 40: 1-3)

Air: *Every Valley*
T. J. Turner, tenor

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry moutain and hill made low; the crooked straight and the rough places plain. (Isaiah 40: 4)

*CONFESSION OF SIN (in unison)

Lord, have mercy upon us. We are your people, and you have showered us with grace and goodness. And yet...we still sin and choose ways that are not yours. We are often powerless in the face of sin, and we often act as if we are our own god. Please forgive our

sinfulness, and look upon us with compassion, we pray. In your mercy, renew us today and always.

(Silence for personal prayer)

Leader: We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,

People: Amen.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Chorus: *And the Glory of the Lord*

Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. (Isaiah 40:5)

*SHARING OF GRACE

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

People: And also with you.

(Please remember others in our church family that you cannot be with today. As you think of them, please pray for their health and well-being. Please contact them later today and offer your love.)

THE WORD

TIME WITH YOUNGER CHILDREN

Dr. Alex Benford

MESSIAH

Recitative: *Thus Saith the Lord*

Handel

Air: *But Who May Abide the Day of His Coming*

Mike Anderson, baritone

Thus saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts: Yet once a little while and I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. And I will shake all nations; and the desire of all nations shall come. (Haggai 2: 6-7)

The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the Covenant, whom you delight in; behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of His coming, and who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire. (Malachi 3: 1-2)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dr. Jones

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Philippians 1:1-11 (Pew Bible pg. 953)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Advent: The Gift that Keeps on Giving

Dr. Jones

MESSIAH

Recitative: *There were shepherds abiding in the field*
Recitative: *And lo! The angel of the Lord came upon them*
Recitative: *And the angel said unto them*
Recitative: *And suddenly there was with the angel*
Chorus: *Glory to God*

Handel

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." And suddenly there was with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men." (Luke 2: 8-14)

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES

Rev. Mike Lyle

OFFERTORY

Air: *Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion*
Christina Crouse, soprano

Handel

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, thy King cometh unto thee; He is the righteous Saviour, and He shall speak peace unto the heathen. (Zechariah 9: 9-10)

*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. Amen.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Rev. Lyle
Rev. Susan Carter Wiggins

Invitation to the Lord's Table
Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer
Sharing of the Elements

Communion Music

Recitative: *Behold, a virgin shall conceive*
Air and Chorus: *O Thou that Tellest Good Tidings*
Brianna Reilly, mezzo-soprano

Handel

*Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Emmanuel, God with us.
(Isaiah 7: 14; Matthew 1: 23)*

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain. O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, behold your God! (Isaiah 40: 9)

Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. (Isaiah 60: 1)

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

*CLOSING HYMN 8 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* (v. 3) TRURO

*CHARGE and BLESSING Dr. Jones

*CHORAL RESPONSE Chorus: *Hallelujah!* Handel

Hallelujah: for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. (Revelation 19: 6)

The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever. (Revelation 11: 15).

King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. (Revelation 19: 16)

*POSTLUDE Chorus: *Hallelujah* (instrumental reprise) Handel

We thank our Chancel Choir and soloists for today's special music.

We also extend our gratitude to our guest musicians:

Barrie Cooper and Lenny Schranze, violins; Jane Schranze, viola; Iren Zombar, cello;
David Spencer and Ben Lewis, trumpets; GPC member Laura Brown, flute.

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WORSHIP TODAY

Welcome to worship today at Germantown Presbyterian Church. Our sincere prayer is that you will find a place here among those who already call GPC home. We are so glad you can join our service today, we are truly glad God brought you here!

On the cover: Vogeler, Heinrich, 1872-1942. *Annunciation to the Shepherds*, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

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



Interested in joining GPC? *You are welcome here!* The next New Member joining day is next Sunday, December 12. For more information on how to join, please contact Amy Phillips at (901) 647-6433 and my email is 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.

Poinsettia donations: If you'd like to donate a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone, please fill out the envelope in the pews or around the church or go online [here](https://germantownpres.org/poinsettia-dedication/) (<https://germantownpres.org/poinsettia-dedication/>).

Room in the Inn: After a long absence, we are hosting RITI guests once a month for the next 4 months – December 11, January 8, February 12, and March 12. 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 SFienu@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 Beth & Gray Carter; Ann DeVere; Kelly & Jay Galyean, James & Katie; Joyce Henry; Sydney & Bob McLean; Becky Stanley; Peggy Whitaker.

In December, please pray for this church in the Presbytery: New Hope Presbyterian Church, McKenzie, TN.

Germantown Presbyterian Church Announcements
Week of December 5, 2021

Engaging Our Potential (EOP): 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*. As GPC moves into the Advent season let's look at how we can focus on the different areas of 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 next three Wednesdays of Advent, December 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 on December 19th. 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 on December 19th. 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 Binghamton 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-friendly Worship
5:30pm, sanctuary – Traditional Worship with Communion
11:00pm, – 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 three Wednesday evenings of Advent, December 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 Winter Program is coming up! 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.

Help is needed before and after the show. There are several opportunities to help us. I've created a Sign Up Genius for the most important assignments: [Special Needs - AMPLify Performance: Volunteers Needed \(signupgenius.com\)](#)

If you are not able to help with decorating or hosting, you can also participate by donating foods and/or beverages for the short reception following the show.

For more information, please contact Jackie Classen Williams at 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 \(https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084eaaac22aafa7-idlewild\)](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084eaaac22aafa7-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.

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.

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.

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 or Brenda Jeter - 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).

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 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 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.

GPC Staff

Alex Benford, Organist/Music Associate

Amber Miller, Accounting Secretary

Angie Richardson, Curriculum Coordinator to Children's Ministry

Ann DeVere, Church Secretary/Receptionist

Anna White, Director of Family Ministry

Carl Woods, Maintenance Assistant

Christopher Greco, Director of Youth Ministry

Fred Turverey, Business & Facilities Administrator

Jackie Williams, Director of Special Needs Ministry

Jennifer Gentry, Director of Preschool

Jerold Teachey, Director of Music Ministry

John Johnson, Worship Leader, Musician

Karen Schowalter Cooper, Coordinator of Children's Choirs

Laurie Henderson, Director of Communications

Randy Smith, Maintenance Technician

Susan Carter Wiggins, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Nurture

Tara Marbury, Nursery Supervisor

Tom Sauer, Associate Pastor for Senior Adults

Will Jones, Pastor



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