



GERMANTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN
C·H·U·R·C·H



DECEMBER 12, 2021
8:30A.M. & 11:00A.M.

**Please stand.*

Please silence electronic devices.

GATHERING

PRELUDE *Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People* Sigfrid Karg-Elert

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Dr. Will Jones

GPC ADULT EDUCATION SPECIAL RECOGNITION Rev. Mike Lyle

HANDBELL INTROIT *Do You Hear What I Hear?* arr. Calcote

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE
Morgan & David Paris,
Darcy, Jean, Rebecca, & Roy (8:30)
Alexa & Garrett Guynes, Gabby & Garner,
Lisa & Kevin Patterson, Mary Lee Toler (11:00)

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 12:2-6) Mrs. Elaine Cates (8:30)
Ms. Jill Crocker (11:00)

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon the holy name of the most high God.

People: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

Leader: Proclaim the mercy of the One who comes as one of us.

People: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

Leader: Trust and do not be afraid.

People: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

Leader: With joy you will draw water from the wells of peace.

ALL: We will draw from the wells of peace – we will trust and not be afraid.

We come to worship the Holy One who dwells among us.

Hallelujah! Let us worship God!

*HYMN 478 *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* LAUDA ANIMA

*CONFESSION OF SIN (in unison)

O Holy One, you've told us over and over again to be anxious for nothing, and yet, we know in our hearts that we fail to trust in you and become anxious about many things. And even worse, we pretend that our faith is strong and that we are not worried, when in fact we are very worried, and our anxiety spills over into our relationship with you and with others. This is one of our greatest failings, for when we are anxious, we are distrustful, judgmental, and speak harshly against others. We know very well that this is not your will for our lives, and we humbly ask your forgiveness.

Draw near to us and teach us again to keep our hearts and minds fixed on the One who proclaims the good news for the sake of all the world, and then, we pray, bless us with your peace.

(Time of personal prayer)

Leader: We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,

People: Amen.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

ALL: Thanks be to God!

*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

CHILDREN'S MUSIC

Away in a Manger

Advent Children's Choir

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Susan Carter Wiggins

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 12:2-6 (Pew Bible pg. 558)

EPISTLE SCRIPTURE READING: Philippians 4:4-7 (Pew Bible pg. 955)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

May Peace Abound

Rev. Wiggins

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison) from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

Rev. Lyle

Leader: In life and in death we belong to God.

People: **Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.**

Leader: Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

People: **preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

Leader: In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives.

People: **With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Christmas Eve Offering

Mr. Judd Peters

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Jones

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

My Soul Doth Magnify (from *Christmas Oratorio*)
Althea, Russell, and Christina Crouse, trio

Camille Saint-Saëns

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoic'd in God, for mine eyes have seen Thy glory.

*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 13

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG

*CHARGE and BLESSING

Rev. Wiggins

*POSTLUDE

Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People

Johann Christoff Oley

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WORSHIP TODAY

On the cover: *Jesus Mural of Faith, Hope, Love, and Peace*, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

Welcome to worship online and limited 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!

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



Interested in joining GPC? *You are welcome here!* For more information on how to join, please contact Amy Phillips at (901) 647-6433 or 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 again. If you missed helping this month, see the future dates and put them on your planner –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 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 Carolyn & Taylor Cates, Amelia, Campbell, Thomas; Debbie & Noel Florendo; Sherrie & Neal Horner; Marjorie Reynolds, Chancellor, Kate, Rees; Erwin Westmoreland.

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

Germantown Presbyterian Church Announcements
Week of December 12, 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.

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 two Wednesdays of Advent, December 15 and 22, for dinner and a wonderful 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 19. 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 19. Once again this favorite seasonal GPC activity returns. Come to the Activity Center at 5:30pm 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 12, Sunday – 2:30pm, Activity Center – AMPlify Winter Concert (the music part of the GPC Special Needs Ministry)

December 18, Saturday – 3:00pm, historic Evans Chapel – Blue Christmas Worship Service (for those grieving during the season)

December 19, Sunday – 3:30pm, AC Lobby – leave 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 this afternoon! 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.

Missions

Memphis Food Bank Mobile Pantry has 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 this 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: 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

Mike Lyle, Associate Pastor for Evangelism & Discipleship

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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