



December 19, 2021

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

**Please stand.*

Please silence electronic devices.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Traditional Carols

Memphis Brass Quintet

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Will Jones

CHIME INTROIT

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Beth & Ben Brock (8:30)
Nancy & Jeff Halter (11:00)

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 18)

Mrs. Jean Carroll (8:30)
Mrs. Amy Phillips (11:00)

Leader: I love you, Lord, you are my strength.

People: The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer.

Leader: My God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.

People: In my distress I called to the Lord! I cried to my God for help.

Leader: The Lord reached down from on high, took hold of me, and drew me out of deep waters.

People: The Lord lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God my Savior!

*HYMN 31

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSHOHN

*CONFESSION OF SIN (in unison)

God of hope, we turn to you in this hour, confessing that we have turned first in other directions. Instead of relying on you, we are often recklessly self-serving. Instead of showing mercy, we show pettiness and contempt. Instead of being truthful, we deceive. Have mercy on our hapless lives, or we will self-destruct through sin. Show mercy to us in the name of Jesus, we pray.

(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

CHILDREN'S SERMON (8:30)

Rev. Susan Carter Wiggins

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:00) James Rufus Galyean, V

James is the son of Kelly and Jay Gaylean, and the younger brother of Katie

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

Angels We Have Heard on High
Chancel Choir Memphis Brass

arr. Julian Wachner

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mr. Christopher Greco

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Micah 5:2-4

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Luke 1:39-56

Dr. Jones

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as

soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

⁴⁶And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.” ⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Blessing vs. Bab Humbug

Dr. Jones

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – (from *A Declaration of Faith*) Rev. Susan Carter Wiggins

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. Mike Lyle

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

To Touch His Tiny Hand
Kerriann Otaño, soprano

Douglas E. Wagner

Gentle shepherds, tread now softly to the inn at Bethlehem, where a stable is a castle, and a star, a diadem. Come with wonder and amazement, and with sheep and oxen stand, drawing near the holy cradle, to touch his tiny hand. Alleluia.

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the babe is Lord of all. Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil 'til the morning new saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true. Alleluia, to touch his tiny hand.

***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. Wiggins

***HYMN**

Christmas Carol Sing-a-long Medley

arr. Clark Cothorn

**The first noel, the angels did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay.
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel... Born is the King of Israel.**

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky look down here he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie!
Above the deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth an everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere!
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!
While shepherds kept their watching, o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light...**

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WORSHIP TODAY

Special thanks to our guest musicians today: David Spencer and Ben Lewis, trumpets; Robert Fant, horn; John Mueller trombone; Jarrett McCourt, tuba; and Bill Shaltis, percussion.

On the cover: *Visitation*. Church of St. Elizabeth, El Salvador. From *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

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!



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 Patti & David Bradford; Elaine Cates; Cindy & Doug Geyer, Meredith; Jennifer & Michael Goodin, Evelyn & Grey; Macie Houston; Diane Stearns; Beth & Don Willingham, Allie, Katherine.

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

Sunday Evening Change: Tonight's Sunday evening worship service will be a part of the Congregational Life churchwide event in the Activity Center. The chili cookoff/dessert bakeoff begins at 5:30, and at 6:15 (while voting is being tallied) John Johnson, the evening praise team, and Pastor Mike will lead everyone in a couple of worship songs and a devotion. Come back tonight for fellowship and worship.

Germantown Presbyterian Church Announcements
Week of December 19, 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 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! We are excited to invite you to experience the last delicious and delightful evening that will be meaningful for the whole family. Join us December 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 tonight 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 tonight, 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 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 last Wednesday evening of Advent, December 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

A special shout-out of thanks to all the volunteers who helped make last week's AMPLify Program so great.

There will be no Sunday School on December 26 or January 2.

Programming Resumes: Wednesday, January 5 – Friendship Circle resumes, and Thursday, January 13 AMPLify resumes. Anyone interested in joining is welcome!

For more information, please contact Jackie Classen Williams at specialneeds@gpctn.org.

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. **Men's Lunch Devotions:** 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, 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 annflukerharbor@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

GPC Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30a.m.-4:00p.m.



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