



December 26, 2021
11:00A.M.

**Please stand.*

Please silence electronic devices.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Sussex Carol
While By My Sheep

arr. Christina Harmon

Kyle and Melissa Millsap, trumpets

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Will Jones

CHIME INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Mike Lyle

Leader: Our souls magnify the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior;

People: For He has looked with favor on the lowliness of His servant.

Leader: Surely, from now on all generations will be called blessed;

People: Our souls magnify the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in Jesus our Savior;

Leader: For the Mighty One has done great things for us, and holy is His name.

People: His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.

*HYMN 22

Angels From the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

*CONFESSION OF SIN (in unison)

Rev. Lyle

Gracious God, in the swirl and tumult of the holidays we confess that at times we lose sight of the purpose for the season. As you mercifully entered into our world, we have still been reluctant to open our hearts and minds towards you. We have given gifts, but refused the gift you offer by allowing your love to change and transform us from the inside out. Lord, have mercy on us. And receive our desire to desire you.

(Time of personal prayer)

Leader: We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,

People: Amen.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*SHARING OF GRACE

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

People: And also with you.

THE WORD

TIME WITH YOUNGER DISCIPLES

Dr. Jones

MEDITATION IN MUSIC

I Wonder as I Wander
Jeffrey Day, tenor

John Jacob Niles
arr. Stephen DeCesare

*I wonder as I wander out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die.
For poor on'ry people like you and like I... I wonder as I wander out under the sky.
When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall, with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall, and the promise of ages it then did recall.
If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing, a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing, He surely could have it, 'cause He was the King.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Lyle

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:41-52 (*Pew Bible pg. 833*)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Amazed & Astonished

Rev. Lyle

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – The Apostles' Creed

Dr. Jones

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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

Love Came Down at Christmas
Chancel Choir

David Ashley White
poem by Christina Rossetti

Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine; love was born at Christmas: star and angel gave the sign. Worship we the Godhead, love incarnate, love divine; worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign? Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine, love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.

*DOXOLOGY

GREENSLEEVES

**So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Lyle

SENDING

*HYMN 29

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

*CHARGE and BLESSING

Dr. Jones

*POSTLUDE

I Saw Three Ships

arr. David Marlatt

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WORSHIP TODAY

On the cover: Hofheinz-Döring, Margret, 1910-. *Holy Family*, 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.

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 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 Allegra Brown; Lindsey & Joseph Butler, Adelaide, Chandler; Christopher Greco; Francesca & Mike Lyle; Bayne & Jackie Classen Williams; Peggy Whitaker.

Germantown Presbyterian Church Announcements ***Week of December 26, 2021***

Engaging Our Potential (EOP): 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

GPCConnect - Coming Soon!

~A fantastic evening for the whole family~

We are so excited to share that starting this January, GPC is launching a newly revamped experience that is fun and relaxing for the whole family - GPCConnect. This program has evolved over the years as 'Parent's Night Out', and most recently as 'Breathe'. But it's a new day and a new year, and so too we have recast this experience to more inclusively support the unique demands of young families today.



One evening a month, from 6pm-9:30pm at the church, GPCConnect is a time for children, kids, and students up to the age of 12, to enjoy a fantastic evening that includes dinner, themed crafts and activities, Bible-based story time/lessons, and a movie. Pickup and drop-off will take place at the preschool entrance under the overhang. And that's only half of the experience.

For parents, this is an opportunity to intentionally connect with one another in deep and meaningful relationships. With all the demands on parents today, it can be so hard to find the time and energy to build lasting friendships. So, we offer these evenings as an opportunity for parents to connect and enjoy a great faith-filled night out together, with the comfort and confidence of knowing your child is well cared for.

Watch for dates and more specifics starting next week.

Congregational Life

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).

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.

Missions

GPC's Christmas Eve offering challenge encourages you to match the money you spent on gifts for family and friends with a donation to the church. This year's Christmas Eve gift will go to benefit Binghampton Christian Academy and Rising Together Foundation. If you were unable to give on Christmas Eve, you can still participate in this meaning offering to celebrate and support GPC's local mission partners in the community.

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.

2363 S. Germantown Road

Germantown, TN 38138

(901) 754-5195

WWW.GPCTN.ORG