



Service of the Lord's Day
Second Sunday in Advent, December 5, 2021

God's People Gather

*With glad hearts, we welcome you to worship among this community of believers! Masks are required for everyone 3 and older. Some pews with social distance *spacers* have been designated on the lectern side near the front for those who are more comfortable with some distance.*

Greetings and Announcements

Prayer of Preparation

Holy One, through your Holy Spirit, instruct us by the light of your prophets. Illumine our hearts, that we may hear your call to become your path into the world. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

Prelude **Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring** -- Bach/arr. Hayes Piano Duet: Cindy Foust and Julie Kovach

Introit **Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**

***Call to Worship**

L: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord!

P: **God has promised a new creation where righteousness and peace will be at home.**

L: Blessed is the Holy One, who has sent a mighty Savior to redeem and save us:

P: Blessed be the name of the Lord!

***Hymn 100 Canticle of Turning** (verses 1 and 2)

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. *(Refrain)*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Chandler Family

Response: Come, come, Emmanuel, come Emmanuel

(The choir will sing the refrain once, then the congregation will join the choir to sing the refrain two times.)

Prayer of Confession

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not prepared for your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, disregard neighbors, abuse the earth and refuse your justice and peace. *(silent confession)* In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to embrace your way, and seek the things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

L: Friends, believe the good news:

P: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

L: May the grace we have received shine through us into the world.

*Response

Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel!

God's Word is Heard

Time With Children

Anthem Longing for Light -- arr. Raney

Chancel Choir/Sarah Pinard, flute

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your world alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your loving voice.

Refrain:

Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others shared until all are fed. *(Refrain)*

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another. making your kingdom come. *(Refrain)*

Scripture Readings Malachi 3:1-4, 13-18; Luke 3:1-6

Sermon

Rev. Karen Pidcock-Lester

God's People Respond

***Giving Our Gifts**

Offertory **Prepare Thy Self, Zion** *from the Christmas Oratorio* -- Bach/arr. Shackley
Piano Duet: Cindy Foust and Julie Kovach

***Doxology (144)**

What can I give him poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb; If I were a wise man, I would do my part; Yet what I can I give him: Give my heart.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving (see back of bulletin)

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

***The Peace of Christ**

God's Sends Us Out

***Hymn 100 Canticle of Turning** (verses 3 and 4)

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn; there are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. (*Refrain*)

Refrain:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast: God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp. This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. (*Refrain*)

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response Wait For The Lord**

***Postlude Good Christian Friends, Rejoice** -- arr. Hayes

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

The sanctuary flowers are in memory of our special angel, Kathi Lurie, who is always in our hearts, given by momma, Betsy Brown.

Being the Church this week

Today	11:45 a.m.	Session (after worship)
	11:45 a.m.	Kitchen Committee Meeting (after worship)
	5:00 p.m.	Confirmation
	6:00 p.m.	Jr. Seekers (6-7:30pm)
Monday	9:00 a.m.	HENS (9am-1pm)
	4:30 p.m.	Music/Rec (4:30-5:45pm)
	7:00 p.m.	Cubs/Troop
Tuesday	7:30 p.m.	Theology Reading Group (Zoom)
	8:00 a.m.	Yoga (Community Room)
	9:00 a.m.	Church Library open during Office hours
	10:00 a.m.	Staff meeting
Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Lectio-Divina
	8:00 a.m.	Yoga (Community Room)
	9:00 a.m.	HENS (9am-1pm)
	5:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts
	6:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
Thursday	7:30 p.m.	Deacons
	9:00 a.m.	Church Library during office hours
	9:30 a.m.	Sisters of the Way Bible Study (Community Room)
	5:00 p.m.	Community Meals (lower parking lot)
	5:00 p.m.	Girls Scouts
	6:15 p.m.	Chancel Handbells Rehearsal
Friday	7:15 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	8:00 a.m.	Yoga (Community Room)
	9:00 a.m.	HENS (9am-1pm)
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
	11:45 a.m.	Sr. Seekers Christmas Party (after worship)
	5:00 p.m.	Confirmation
	6:00 p.m.	Jr. Seekers Christmas Party



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

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Rev. W. Carter Lester, Jr. & Rev. Karen Pidcock-Lester, Co-Pastors

Jaylee Ferreri, Director for Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

Debra Voytko, Organist, Cynthia K. Foust, Director of Music

Dawn Skelly, Parish Nurse

Jo Ann Bathurst, Children's Choir Director

Marie Kayati, Administrative Assistant -- Thomas Spitko, Sexton

Becky Bostwick, HENS Director, (610) 326-3690

Check out the church's website www.fpcpottstown.org

Sermons are available.

"Like" us on Facebook and "follow" us on Twitter.

As we celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, we invite you to come down the center aisle and receive the bread. The cup will be served from tables by the font and the pulpit. All servers will be masked and gloved. We will eat the bread and drink the cup together after all have been served. If you wish to remain in the pew, an elder will bring the elements to you. Gluten free bread is available.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you O Lord our God. In every time and in every place, it is right that we should give thanks and honor, for you shelter your people from age to age. When we were living in deep darkness, you sent us your light—a child called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. All authority of heaven and earth rests upon his shoulders.

You came to us as a brother and a friend, in a likeness we could recognize as one of our own, showing us the face of the Most High God. Through the centuries your witnesses have taught and proclaimed your Word giving shape to the truth that your promises are sure and your presence everlasting.

In communion with all the saints, with angels and shepherds, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy God, author of time, one among us, breath of our bodies, you are as close to us as skin, and infinite as stars. You came to us as Jesus of Nazareth, carpenter and rabbi, who on the night he was betrayed, took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying "Take and eat, this is my body given for you, do this for the remembrance of me." Whenever we break this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim today the Lord's blessing, present in our time, just as in ages past, building the communion of saints, even from our own bodies.

Bless us with your presence, and give us here a foretaste of the feast to come. Let your Holy Spirit infuse our hearts and minds with joy so that we may live to praise you, O God, Holy Trinity, now and forever.

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