First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem
Second Sunday of Advent
Traditional Service
December 5, 2021



The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Choral Prelude on "Vom himmel hoch" — Sigfried Karg-Elert

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING — Choir Altos

Leader: As we reflect on the foundation of our faith in our lives,
we gather together around the candle of peace.
People: The home we long for is a home that knows peace—
Leader: peace that rests between us and our grief,
People: peace around our anxiety,
Leader: peace between us and our self-criticism,
People: peace amidst our relationships,
Leader: peace at the core of our being,
People: peace hovering through and in our world.
Leader: The home we long for is a home that knows peace.
People: So today we light the candle of peace—as a reminder and as a prayer.
Leader: Let it be so. Amen.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING RESPONSE — #9

O Come, O Come Emmanuel — VENI EMMANUEL

2 O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

OPENING HYMN — #2

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus — HYFRYDOL

1 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.

2 Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, when John was Born, Zechariah leaned down and whispered words of love into his ear. We know that you do the same for us, day in and day out, yet we fail to hear it. We forget that in the beginning we were made good. We doubt that we could possibly be enough. We hustle for our self-worth and wear ourselves out aiming for perfection. We deflect words of praise. We hide behind shiny first impressions. Forgive us. Trusting your peace is the hardest job. Open our ears as you open our hearts, so that we might rest on the foundation of goodness you have laid for us. Gratefully we pray, amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Luke 1:57-80 Jeanette Claessens

Leader: The word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON The Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton

"Prepare the Way: A Foundation of Peace"

WE RESPOND

HYMN #100

My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout CANTICLE OF THE TURNING

Choir Verse 1, Congregation Verses 2, 3, & 4 (See Insert)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH ***Confession of Belhar***

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ. We believe that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells. We believe that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL FOR OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory There Is a Rose — setting Ruth Elaine Schram

Chancel Choir (see insert)

*Response - #592 — OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him, above ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

*Prayer of Dedication

WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give thanks and praise.
Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise…
As our Savior Christ has taught us, so now we pray:

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

"Pastorale" from Messiah — George F. Handel

CLOSING HYMN #12

People, Look East BESANCON

1 People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.
.

3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Postlude on "BESANCON" setting J. Daryl Hollinger

Worship Note: Liturgy by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Flowers under the cross are in memory of
Theresa and Andrew J. Levari and
Arline and Robert F. Hunsicker,
Parents of Jean and Bob Hunsicker

If you would like to make a secure online donation to FPCB, you can visit fpc-bethlehem.org/donate, or use this QR code to go directly to that page (on your mobile phone, open the camera and point it at the QR code – it will take you to this website page).

First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem
2344 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18017
610-867-5865 fpc-bethlehem.org
Your attendance at church events constitutes permission to use your image (photos and video) in church communications. Questions about our policy:
info@fpc-bethlehem.org

Sermon Hymn **#100**

My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout **CANTICLE OF THE TURNING**

Choir Verse 1, Congregation Verses 2, 3, & 4 See Insert

1 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 one who waits.
You fixed your sight on the 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.

2 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 those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

3 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;
These are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

4 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 forbears heard
is the promise that holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. (Refrain)

Offertory

There Is a Rose **setting Ruth Elaine Schram**

Chancel Choir

There is a rose, a perfect rose,
The prize of heaven's garden;
Sent down to earth as a tiny Child
To secure our pardon.

There is a rose, a perfect rose,
The King of heaven's angels;
Wrapped in the humblest of swaddling cloths,
Sleeping, in a manger.

Though the path that lies ahead
Is strewn with thorns before You,
Here, in Your manger bed
We worship and adore You.

Beautiful Rose of Bethlehem,
The crown of heaven's splendor;
Jesus, our Savior, Perfect Rose,
Bloom in our hearts forever.

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming.