



SUNDAY WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church of West Chester

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021 9:00am

Chimes and Prelude

Away in a Manger
arr. Jason W. Krug

Candle Lighting / Call to Worship

This morning we light the fourth candle of Advent.

Every year we are drawn through these days, waiting for your arrival. At times we are pulled quickly, other times each day feels like an eternity. On this morning, we bring all that we are carrying to God, knowing that it is in the journey that we find Christ.

**Shine on us, O God of justice;
Guide our path through gloom of night;
Bear within us Wisdom's glory;
Come to us, O Christ the Light.**

The Holy Spirit meets us as we travel through place, years, and hearts, helping us to encounter you along our journeys. We come to worship asking God to tune our hearts to see the divine in the movements of our lives.

Let us worship the Lord!

*Hymn #147

The First Nowell

*Prayer of Confession

We confess to you, O God, that we are not prepared to welcome your way of righteousness, justice, and peace. You call us to repentance, but we resign ourselves to evil. You call us to be reconciled, but we remain divided and afraid. Forgive us, God of grace. Pour out your Spirit in our lives so that we may be forgiven and set free. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain made low. The rough will be made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

*Response

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy.

Oh tidings of comfort and joy.

Passing of the Peace

Children's Message

*After the Children's Message, children are invited to join their teachers for Sunday School.
Parents can pick their children up after service in Room 214b (2nd floor).*

Response

Waiting

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Welcome & Ministry Updates

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

Anthem

Masters in This Hall
arr. David Willcocks

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

...Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**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.**

Special music

All Is Well
arr. Joel Raney

*Prayer of Dedication and Doxology

Old 100th

**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. Amen.**

*Hymn #121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*Prayer for Illumination

**Speak to us this day, O Lord. Visit us with your wisdom, overshadow us with your
Spirit, and let it be with us according to your Word. Amen.**

Reflection

Karin Molgaard Khan

**While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.**

Reflection

Karl Schroeder

**While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.**

Reflection

Sara Pantazes

**While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.**

*Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God,
creator and lover of the earth,
origin and destiny of us all.**

**We believe in Jesus the Christ—
God coming to us, in the fragile promise**

of a baby yet unborn—
who emerges as the herald of hope,
God’s laughter in the face of despair.
Plunged into death and hell,
he broke free the captives,
and is leading the way
to the land of promise
where justice and peace will flourish.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who implants the seed of truth,
brings us to birth as the body of Christ,
and empowers us to confront and transform
all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.

We believe in the coming reign of God.
Announced by the Baptist,
it has drawn near to us in Jesus,
and will be consummated
in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven,
when all who have passed through
the world’s deep sorrow
will be raised from the waters,
robed in righteousness,
and gathered into the joyous fulfillment
of God’s desire.

For the coming of that day on this day,
we work and pray: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

*Hymn #136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

*Blessing and Choral Response

Postlude

Go, Tell It on the Mountain
arr. Richard Elliott

**You are invited to stand as you desire.*

Leading us in worship today are Rev. Caroline Cupp, Executive Pastor;
David Stone, Liturgist; Sandor Kadar, Director of Music; Kira Boros, Choir Accompanist;
The Chancel Ringers; The Chancel Choir. Our candle lighter is Judy Reynolds.

Worship notes: Affirmation written by Nathan Nettleton.

Cover Art: Hugo van der Goes ‘Mary and Joseph on the Way to Bethlehem’ (1475)