

*We wait ... with*  
*HOPE*



"The days are surely coming, says the LORD,  
when I will fulfill the promise I made  
to the house of Israel and the house of Judah."

Jeremiah 33:14

GEORGETOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GEORGETOWN, DE 19947

**November 28, 2021**

**First Sunday of Advent**

Notes about  
Returning to Sanctuary Worship

Worshipping indoors in the Sanctuary safely calls for careful consideration of a number of factors:

**Masking.** In light of recent CDC recommendations, we are requesting all worshippers age 2 and above to remain masked during the service, as well as when moving through the building. Some in our church family, including young children, are not yet vaccinated or cannot receive the vaccine.

**Ventilation.** The HVAC system will not be operated while people are in the sanctuary, to minimize aerosol dispersion. This means no ceiling fans. We can cool the space before people arrive and will ventilate the space after people leave.

**Attendance Register.** Because CDC requires facilities to notify all attendees of any subsequent report of COVID-19 infection, attendance will be registered. A greeter will check off names as worshippers enter and will obtain contact information for visitors.

**Sanitation.** Good housekeeping standards will be maintained. High-touch surfaces, such as railings, switches, and knobs, will be sanitized before use. Hymnals and pew Bibles can be used without a lot of concern; wipes will be available. Hand-held objects, such as offering plates, will not be passed around.

**Singing.** The mechanics of vocalization substantially increase the dispersion of aerosol droplets. Session has decided for now that worshippers will not sing, even though wearing masks. Song leaders and choir members will be masked.

**Spacing.** Household units may sit close together. As long as practicable, we will request 6 feet of spacing between household units. Movement within the sanctuary will be minimized.

**Communion.** The worship committee has some decisions to make around handling the elements during the Lord's Supper. One option is for worshippers to bring their own elements. Another option is pre-packaged communion cups. Without question we will abandon the practice of intinction in a common cup.

**Virtual link.** Zoom is here to stay. Worship will be live-streamed so that people can see and hear the service from wherever they are. A monitor facing the congregation will display the "Gallery" of worshippers online.

**Vaccination.** We will not require proof of vaccination for entry into the Sanctuary. However, as Governor Carney reiterated, "The COVID-19 vaccine is the best protection we have against the virus. Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself and those you love."

## **Words of Welcome**

### **Invocation**

Darrell Moore, Elder

### **Prelude**

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

Setting by C. Callahan

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Norman Bergstrom, Trumpet

### **Call to Worship** – Lighting of the Candle of Hope

the Perry family

Leader: For generations, the people of the Old Testament awaited the Promised Messiah. God sent prophet after prophet to deliver this message of continued hope:

**People: “I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, “Plans to give you a hope and a future.”**

Leader: “Those who hope in me will not be disappointed. Therefore, be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.”

**People: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news of the gospel, who preach glad tidings.”**

Leader: In gratitude for the prophets and for all who bring the message of hope to our world, we light this candle of hope.

**People: For yesterday’s prophets and today’s messengers who proclaim the hope of salvation to people everywhere, we give thanks.**

### **Advent Anthem**

Choir

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

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.

## **Faith Sharing with Children**

Pastor Lisa

### **Call to Confession**

#### **Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

**Loving and Merciful God,  
today we light the candle of hope,  
a beacon of light that shines in the darkness.  
Today, we confess that in dark times, we forget the  
light, and feel not hopeful, but hopeless.**

**And we confess that we have, in our darkness,  
caused others to feel not hopeful, but hopeless.  
Some feel the hopelessness of hunger because of our  
greed. Others feel the hopelessness of violence  
because of our apathy.**

**Forgive us, gracious God.  
Grant to us your mercy, O Lord, and your  
steadfast love, and help us amend our ways.  
This we pray in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

#### **Assurance of Pardon**

#### **Prayer Response**

Choir

#155 "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" v1

Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace! So says our God.  
Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.  
To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever!

#### **Old Testament Reading**

**Jeremiah 33:14-16** <sup>NRSV</sup>

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and

righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

*This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!***

## **Epistle Lesson**

**Luke 21:25-36** NRSV

<sup>25</sup> There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> 'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

*This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!***

## **Sermon**

"Hope for the Holidays"

## **An Advent Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe that God *has come* to us;  
that God brought us into being,  
giving us breath and purpose,  
that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others,  
that we have fallen short of this commandment  
but that God has nevertheless loved us  
despite our brokenness.**

**We believe that God *is coming* to us;  
that God will be made known to us  
in flesh and bone like ours,  
that Mary will soon give birth  
and Joseph will soon clap his hands in joy,  
that Jesus Christ will be born  
and our salvation made complete.**

**We believe that God *will come* to us;  
that God will have the final word  
and that Word will be good,  
that God will give us the presence of the Spirit  
to continue our work,  
that we are called to be disciples  
to all the corners of the earth,  
that the day is coming when tears and pain  
will be no more,  
and all will gather at the Table  
to sing an endless and perfect "Alleluia!"**

## **Joys and Concerns**

### **Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

## Call for the Offering

### Offertory

Choir

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Come, Thou hope of our salvation,  
Promised One by prophets foretold

With sincere anticipation, hearts like flowers before Thee unfold.

As the saints who came before us, patiently we call on Thee.

Lifting our voices, we join in the chorus  
of the faithful who long for Thee.

## Dedication of Offerings

### Closing Hymn

Hymn #154, with chimes

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (vss. 1 & 4)

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!
4. O come, Desire of nations,  
bind all peoples in one heart and mind.  
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease,  
Fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

## Benediction

*The choir’s anthem and offertory selections come from Candles & Carols, arr.  
By M. Hayes, narration and lyrics by P. Martin*

*All music reprinted and live-streamed under OneLicense.net A-718752.*

*Prayer of Confession and the Advent Affirmation of Faith are adapted from  
liturgy written by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing - [www.stephenmfearing.com](http://www.stephenmfearing.com)*

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### First Fruits Cart

The Wesley pantry provides food to needy families living in Georgetown. During the month of November, Wesley needs canned vegetables, canned tuna, jelly, and cereal. Please leave your donations in the food cart in the foyer or drop them off at the office during the week. Last month we donated 5 bags of food. Can we make it 10 bags for November?



### Sunday School

During the worship service, childcare will be provided in the Nursery for those children birth through Kindergarten. This week, November 28<sup>th</sup>, Sara Davis will be caring for the children.

The Sunday School children will be using the Advent study "Close to Home" by A Sanctified Art each week at the church and on-line from 9:30-10:00.

Michele Fletcher will be the in the Prayer room at 9:30 sharing with anyone who would like to gather as we prepare for Advent. She will be using the Devotional Booklets "Close to Home" that are available to all. You may stop by and pick the Devotional up at the church or call the office and let Barbara know you need one delivered. This is an exciting Advent devotion with Artwork, poetry and even music you can hear by scanning the code. I hope you will enjoy this, and it will prepare your heart for the birth of Christ.

### LIVE Christmas Eve Service

We would like to have a LIVE Christmas Eve service at 5:00 pm in the Park similar to last year. If you would like to make this possible by being a character, reading or handing out candies, please contact Sharon Lawrence as soon as possible. You can reach Sharon at email address [t.lawrence@mchsi.com](mailto:t.lawrence@mchsi.com) or cell 302.236.5752.

## **Stewardship 2022-Can one congregation make a difference in the world? Georgetown Presbyterian does.**

Pledges received as of November 16 (i.e., 17 commitment cards totaling \$44,468.00) were blessed during worship on November 21.



Each fall, members and friends of GPC are asked to fill out pledge cards for the upcoming year. These are extremely important to planning the budget. Please put your pledge card in the offering plate or get it to the office. God has blessed each of us in different ways. Financial support of the church is a way of showing thanksgiving, as well as continuing the ministry of GPC in our community.

GPC sent 68 Stewardship letters with commitment cards. As of November 24, 2021, GPC has received 20 commitment cards (29.4% return rate), with \$52,868.00 in total annual pledged contributions.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

*Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2).*

We strive to lead people to a deep and continuing relationship with Christ as we seek to become more Christ-like ourselves. We serve Christ by serving others.

Georgetown is the county seat and close to coastal and recreational areas. Retirees and those seeking social and legal resources gravitate to our growing area. We seek to reach the Georgetown community to share Christ's love, grace, and forgiveness. The pillars of our ministry are Christian Education, worship, fellowship, mission and prayer. We trust in God's grace to help us proclaim the good news of Christ that is so relevant today. We are an inclusive, welcoming and responsive congregation, who are good followers of the leaders God brings us. We recently renovated all of our facilities and share them with community groups.

We are a *Four for Four* congregation. We have delivered clean-up buckets, bought farm animals, filled meal packets for Rise Against Hunger, and participated in mission trips. During COVID, we balanced the needs of our worshipping community with the needs of our surrounding community. We embraced new ways to continue our ministry through online and outdoor worship services, virtual Sunday School, fellowship calls and prayers. We expanded our winter Emergency Homeless Shelter with to-go meals. From our congregation, in the past 10 years, we have produced two women pastors, a CRE and a Young Adult Volunteer.

## **VISION STATEMENT**

*Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did to me.” (Matthew 25:35-37, 40)*

We are committed to being a Matthew 25 church. As Jesus’ disciples, we want to be a beacon of His light to reach our members and shine into all corners of the Georgetown area. We focus on worship and spiritual growth, as well as having a heart for mission. We pray to be responsive to the needs of others and to reflect Christ’s love, both within our close church family and our neighbors.

In the past our calling has been for children, elderly and the homeless; yet, we know just outside our doors are those who are lonely, unemployed, immigrants, returning from incarceration, and poor. We are a vital worshipping community that desires to grow so we can extend our mission and ministries to our neighbors through personal and virtual communication and connections. We also strive to continually nurture one another to grow spiritually as individuals and as a congregation, as well as encourage and support those feeling called into ministry. We respect the heritage of our elders and the dreams of our youth.

In partnership with a pastor, we desire to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and become a congregation that embraces the diversity of Georgetown’s growing Latino and Haitian communities. We envision being ready for Christ’s coming by never being complacent and by sharing God’s love amongst *the least of these*.

## Staff and Officers

Pastor	Rev. Lisa Salita
Co-Directors of Music	Sallie Horner, Linda Wolfe
Office Manager	Barbara LaPlante, 302-856-6842 (T,W,TH)
Prayer Chain Captain	Betty Kasperski, 302-855-9477
Clerk of Session	Karen Berry, 302-542-4634

### Board of Deacons

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Christena Umsted	(302) 645-7013, <a href="mailto:umsted2@msn.com">umsted2@msn.com</a> Newsletter
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