



**GEORGETOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
GEORGETOWN, DE 1997**

December 8 , 2024
10 a.m.

**INDICATES THAT THE CONGREGATION IS INVITED TO STAND IF ABLE; OTHERWISE PLEASE STAY SEATED; THE SPIRIT WILL BE WITH YOU EITHER WAY.*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

INTROIT *“I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT”*

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

REV. LISA SALITA

PRELUDE *“LORD, LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE ON US”*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

CAROL ANN STONE, WORSHIP LEADER

We come from a world of darkness.

Into Christ’s world of light

We come from a world of conflict and distress

Into God’s steadfast love and peace.

We come from a trembling world.

Into the Spirit’s strength, to remember and to look ahead for the coming of Christ.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel
God with us, revealed in us. His name is called Emmanuel*

Reader One: The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God’s coming salvation. “For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness” (Malachi 3:2b-3).

Congregation: In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God’s peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God’s grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God’s love throughout the earth.

Reader Two: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel
God with us, revealed in us. His name is called Emmanuel*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*OPENING HYMN **"O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL"**

#154

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(UNISON)*

Refining God,
it is not easy for us to admit we are not a blameless people.
We trust the promises of powerful people,
but have trouble believing the ones you have made.
We find ourselves captive to emotions and wants,
but doubt you can save us.
We prefer the shadowy streets of the world,
rather than walking in your Light.

Forgive us, Faithful One.
May the Light of Christ show us your way;
may the Love of Christ overflow from our lives to others;
may the Life of Christ be our model as we seek to be your people.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Do you feel it? God's tender mercy rests on you, heals you, transforms you.
Do you see it? God's Light breaks into our lives, and shows us the way.
Renewed and made whole, we see the path God has prepared for us—the way of peace, the way of hope, the way of grace, the way of service. Thanks be to God. Amen.

RESPONSE**“THROUGH IT ALL”**

#452

*Through it all, through it all, I've learned to trust in Jesus,
I've learned to trust in God.*

Through it all, through it all, I've learned to depend upon his word.

FIRST READING**LUKE 1:68:79** (NRSV)

NT, P. 54

ANTHEM**“PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD”**

CHOIR

SECOND READING**LUKE 3:1-6** (NRSV)

NT, P. 56

SERMON

REV. LISA SALITA

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

It is not true that creation and the human family
are doomed to destruction and loss—

This is true:

**“For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting
life;”**

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination,
hunger and poverty, death and destruction—

This is true:

**Jesus said “I have come that they may have life, and that
abundantly.”**

It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word –

This is true:

**“Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given,
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
his name shall be called wonderful councilor, mighty God,
the Everlasting, the Prince of peace.”**

So let us enter Advent in hope,
and let us see visions of peace.

We can see it! Thanks be to God,

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world and the Prince of Peace.

JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ***"BREAK FORTH, O BEAUTEOUS HEAVEN LIGHT"***

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

#34

"PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW"

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.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the king of Israel.

*DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

CLOSING HYMN** ***"LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH"

#614

*BENEDICTION

Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the One who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.... And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – TODAY

after worship. The congregation will vote on By Law changes and the election of Elders for the Class of 2027 and the Board of Deacons.

Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

The Nominating Committee submits the following slate:

Elders, Class of 2027 to Session:

Sallie Horner, Vicki Moore, Norm Bergstrom

Board of Deacons:

Class of 2025: Linda Wolfe

Class of 2026: Caroline Gulab & Carol Ann Stone

Class of 2027: Emil & Connie Schneider

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Assurance of Pardon. Written by Thom Shuman, and posted on **Lectionary Liturgies**. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>.

Affirmation of Faith. Adapted from 'Advent Credo' written by Daniel Berrigan, S.J. in *Testimony: The Word Made Flesh*, Orbis Books, 2004.



**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE LIFE
OF OUR CONGREGATION?**



Calendar of Events

December 8	Caroling to Shut-Ins after Worship
December 11	Not Just for Lunch Bunch/Deacons Luncheon
December 11	Songs of Many Nations (Princeton Trip)
December 12	Advent Study: Hallelujah—Handel's Messiah
December 15	PC(USA) Special Offering: Christmas Joy!
December 19	Advent Study: Hallelujah—Handel's Messiah
December 22	Choir Cantata, <i>Night of Miracles</i> @ 10 a.m.
December 24	Christmas Eve Service @ 5 p.m.
December 29	Communion Around the Table @ 10 a.m. in Hall. Bring a Brunch item to share!
January 5	Epiphany Sunday with Communion

If you have not already done so and in gratitude for God's Blessings and Continued Presence, please submit your Commitment Cards as soon as possible.





Opportunities to WORSHIP



Sunday Services	10 a.m. in person, Zoom or Facebook Streaming	
December 1	Advent 1 <i>HOPE</i>	10 a.m.
December 8	Advent 2 <i>PEACE</i>	10 a.m.
December 15	Advent 3 <i>JOY</i>	10 a.m.
December 22	Advent 4 <i>LOVE (Cantata, Night of Miracles)</i>	10 a.m.
December 24	Christmas Eve	5 p.m.
December 29	Communion Around the Table	10 a.m.

Choir Practice takes place immediately after worship.

Advent Devotions are available on the Welcome Table!





Opportunities to GROW



Sunday School & Youth—Christmas Eve Service

Service will be at 5 p.m. with the children and youth journeying to Bethlehem and witnessing the birth of Jesus. Join us early to prepare this journey in costume!

Youth

Still looking for items on our wish list for the youth room: board games, lighting (lamps, Christmas lights, room lights, etc.), books (youth devotionals, Christian fiction, Christian teen self-help, etc.), and bean bag chairs. Please drop off your items at the church on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday when Nancy is in the office. Please let us know if you want the item returned to you. Thanks for supporting our Youth!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING TODAY!

The carolers will have soup and sweets in Tunnell Hall before traveling to sing to our shut-ins.



Adult Bible Study -- Advent

Norm Bergstrom continues leading us in an Advent Study: Hallelujah – Handel’s Messiah. Hope you are able to join us on this Advent journey on Thursdays at 11 a.m. in the Gathering Room: December 12 and December 19.



Opportunities to SERVE



First Fruits Cart

This month we join Wesley Pantry with the Reverse Advent Calendar. Unlike most Advent calendars, which give us a piece of chocolate or reveal a special picture each day, the Reverse Calendar asks us to give to others. In this case, we are asked to share from our bounty with others who struggle to put food on the table every day. Please consider buying food for one or two days - or perhaps fill every day of the Advent season with a gift of food. (Refer to the Reverse Advent Calendar for suggestions.)

Hanging of the Stockings

Look for the clothes lines throughout the church for the Hanging of the Stockings! We hope to fill these lines with warm winter socks for our Shelter guests. Socks are the most requested item. Hang up the socks you are gifting when you arrive each week.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Code Purple Emergency Shelter

Our Emergency Shelter opened on December 1. The men were grateful to have a safe and warm place to sleep as the temperatures this week plummeted into the 20s! We still need Overnight Chaperones for Mondays and Wednesdays. We also need Intake Workers for Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Other volunteers include folks to help with Re-set each morning and to do laundry. Please prayerfully consider helping or sharing this request with someone who may be available. You can sign up at <https://www.loveincofmiddelmarva.org/code-purple>. See Sharon Lawrence, Darrell Moore, or Linda Wolfe for more information.

Toys for Children



Support the Christmas party for children on December 14. Each child will be given a toy. **TOYS ARE NEEDED!** Please bring your toy offerings to the church office (during normal office hours) or make arrangements with Linda Wolfe for a time. This is a wonderful way to bring joy to a child for Christmas. Let's be generous.



Opportunities to **CONNECT**



Not Just For Lunch Bunch/Deacons

All are invited to lunch at the Baywood Clubhouse Restaurant, 32267 Clubhouse Way, Millsboro, DE 19966, on December 11, at 12 Noon. Bring a friend as we celebrate this Holiday season together! Contact Alice Nagle for more information and to reserve your seat, 215-901-6542.

Dec 14	Elijah Gulab	Dec 27	Richard Hubbard
Dec 18	Rev. Lisa Salita	Dec 28	Shawnee Armstrong-Hilliard
Dec 19	Justin Gulab	Jan 1	Kay McCarthy
Dec 24	Justin Illian	Jan 7	Krystal Mall
Dec 14	Earnest & Jamila Gulab	Dec 23	Bill & Carol Celander
Dec 14	Ashley & Ted Proseus	Jan 17	Mike & Beth Garvilla
Dec 19	Joseph & Margarie Booth	Jan 23	Barbara & Lee Turek

IF YOU ARE VISITING WITH US— WE ARE GLAD YOU’RE HERE!

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US EACH SUNDAY MORNING AT 10:00 FOR WORSHIP.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP, CONNECT, GROW, AND SERVE, OR FOR JOINING OUR FELLOWSHIP, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (302) 856-6842.



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Chartered January 27, 1860

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BETTY KASPERSKI

EMERGENCY SHELTER DIRECTOR

JOSH HELLARD

SESSION

CLERK OF SESSION

KAREN BERRY

CLASS OF 2024

MICHELE FLETCHER

CLASS OF 2025

SHARON LAWRENCE

BETH GARVILLA

KASHER GULAB

LINDA C. WOLFE

ANDY SALITA

CLASS OF 2026

DARRELL MOORE

NORMAN SEEGER

AUSTIN SHORT

BOARD OF DEACONS

ALEX DONNAN

DORA GEORGE

CAROLINE GULAB

BARB CHUDAKEWICH

KAY MCCARTHY

BOB CHUDAKEWICH

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

AUSTIN SHORT

TREASURER

THEO LAWRENCE