

4th Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2020
John Willingham preaching, Pauline Sexton assisting

Prelude "Christmas Joy Fanfare" Douglas E. Wagner
Festival Ringers

Words of Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Hymn 88 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" VENI EMMANUEL
(verses 1, 2, 4-6)

Prayer of Confession

**Your love is good news for the oppressed, O Lord,
and you bind up the brokenhearted.
Forgive us, O God, when we think that your good news is only for us.
Forgive us, O God, when we twist your gospel into something
that fits comfortably into our lives.
By your light, let us see you leading us beyond ourselves
and into the world you love.
By your grace, forgive us, and free us to try again.**
(Moment of Silent Reflection and Confession)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel. **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Old Testament Lesson: Malachi 4:1-2

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Anthem "There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob" Felix Mendelssohn
Chancel and Ecumenical Choirs and Orchestra

Time with the Children

New Testament Lesson: Luke 1:67-79

Sermon "A Convergence of Hope"
"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us." —Luke 1:78

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (Traditional)

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.

Offertory "In dulci jubilo" arr. Valarie W. Stephenson
Festival Ringers

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn 119

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

Benediction

Postlude

“Präludium in C Major, BWV 547”

J.S. Bach

The **sympathy of the congregation** is extended to the loved ones of Charles Rushton on his death on December 12. We hold this family in prayer in their time of loss.

Lighting the Advent Wreath this morning are Zachary, Laura, Bradley, Owen and Amanda Low. Laura is currently serving as an Elder and on the Children’s Education Committee and Matthew 25 Task Force. She also teaches Sunday School. Bradley and Owen have participated in the music and Sunday School programs. Zach and Laura have been members for 11 years.

Special thanks to Doug Barnett for serving as Lay Leader today and to the members of Festival Ringers for sharing their musical gifts with us.

Liturgy notes. Today’s prayer of confession is taken from *Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching and the Arts*, volume 54.1, p. 22.

DPC Food Collection today! The need for food assistance has risen dramatically since the start of COVID. To respond to these needs, DPC will be holding a food collection for the Bucks County Housing Group on the third Sunday of each month. You may drop items off in the alley behind Andrews Hall from 10:30 to 11:30 am today, **December 20**.

Christmas Joy Offering. Today’s offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. To donate, please mail a check to the church office designated as “Christmas Joy.”

Christmas Eve Offering. This year’s Christmas Eve offering will support the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has brought hardship to people living all over the world. For more information or to make an additional donation, visit <https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/covid-19/>

DPC’s Advent Mission Market is still live online! Visit bit.ly/2Trkm7s to learn about all the ways you can help those in need during this Advent season!

Join us online for our special Christmas Eve and Lessons and Carols services! **Christmas Eve Family Pageant** (starring DPC children) and **Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service**; available to view **December 24 at 9:00 am** and anytime later. **A Virtual Service of Lessons and Carols** featuring all of our wonderful musical ensembles; available to view **December 27 at 9:30 am** and any time later. Visit www.dtownnpc.org to join in celebration of Jesus’ birth.