



<sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

*Luke 2:16–19*

## Abington Presbyterian Church

January 1, 2022

10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

First Sunday of Christmas

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas

January 1, 2023

### GATHERING

*The people gather wherever they may in response to God's call, offering praise in words of scripture, prayer, and song. The people acknowledge their sinfulness and receive the good news of God's forgiveness.*

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP *A time for quiet preparation before worship*

Light of life, you came in flesh, born into human pain and joy, and gave us power to be your children. Grant us faith, O Christ, to see your presence among us, so that all of creation may sing new songs of gladness and walk in the way of peace. Amen.

PRELUDE

Greensleeves

*arr. Richard Purvis*

### LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather this first day of the year to worship the One for whom and through whom all things exist.

**We celebrate the One who took on human vulnerability to show us who God is.**

We look for God's guidance as we seek to follow the pioneer of our salvation.

**We don't always know where the Lord of life will lead us, but we live in trust.**

The One who reigns over all is at work in our world, inviting us to join in those efforts.

**Our Alleluias continue because God's steadfast love goes on forever!**

\* HYMN 147

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**As we move into this new year, O God, we confess:  
the ways in which we have been caught up  
in the frenzied spirit of the holidays  
and turned away from Your Spirit of Peace;  
the times we have focused so much on our own lives and desires,  
that we have neglected the voices of your children  
who cry out for what is just and right;  
our loss of focus during this season when  
we have turned away from the hurting people  
and broken places in our world in need of healing;  
our words and actions that fall short of recognizing  
your reign over our hearts and lives.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Unto us a Child is born;  
unto us a Son is given.  
His name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.  
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

\* HYMN OF PRAISE 137

He Came Down

HE CAME DOWN

\* THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*Greet one another with the sign of peace.*

The Peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## WORD

*God's Word is read and its message is proclaimed in scripture, music and interpretation.*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 2:10-18

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:13-23

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*The Rev. Ashley Rossi*

\* HYMN 158

Born in the Night, Mary's Child

MARY'S CHILD

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*From A Declaration of Faith*

**God called all he had made good.**

**We declare that the universe of matter, energy, and life  
is God's good creation in all its parts.**

**Even though evil has emerged within God's creation,  
we may work and play in it**

**and explore it with wonder and joy.**

**Evil is whatever works against the loving purpose of God  
for human beings and all creation.**

**Natural forces may have evil effects.**

**Sinful human choices produce evil results.**

**Evil may become institutionalized in our social structures.**

**The power of evil to hurt and destroy,  
to cut off the possibilities of full human life,  
calls into question the power and goodness of God.**

**Whether we understand evil personally or impersonally,  
we cannot explain how it originated in a world made good.**

**But we can affirm that evil is God's enemy as well as ours.**

**In Christ, God shared our agony over evil  
and broke the back of its power**

**by bearing the worst it could do.**

**God works continually to overcome evil.**

**In the end it will be utterly defeated.**

**Therefore we have courage to endure evil,  
to learn from it, and combat it.**

## THANKSGIVING & SENDING

*After the proclamation of God's Word, we respond with gratitude prepared to go  
into the world where we are called to live according to God's will.*

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

(You can leave your offering in the plates at the exits or use the QR code to go to APC's giving page or you  
can mail your gifts to the church office.)

### OFFERTORY HYMN 123, v. 1, 3-5 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

**1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King":  
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.**

**3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;  
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;  
and we at war on earth hear not the tidings that they bring;  
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!**

**4 And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:  
O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.**

**5 For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.**

### \* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

### THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

### HYMN

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might

Sing ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and might, —

Heav'n and earth your glo - ry show, Ho - san - na in the high - est,

Bless-ed is the one who comes in the name\_ of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the heights! — Ho - san - na in the heights!

You are holy, O God of majesty...to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service:

**Christ has died,**

**Christ is risen,**

**Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit ...praying now as our Lord Jesus has taught us saying:

## 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

## RECEIVING OF ELEMENTS

## PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

\* HYMN 265

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

DUKE STREET

\* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

*arr. Gordon Young*

**Worship Leaders:**

**Preacher:** The Rev. Ashley Rossi

**Liturgist:** Kathy Messina

**Organ:** Shirley Keiter

**Bulletin Cover Art artist statement**

Ponder

by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Luke 2:15-21 | Paper lace with watercolor

The hope that Mary was pondering inspired the concept and flow in this watercolored paper lace work. Are you, as I am, most taken by the sense that Mary has given birth to the hopes and dreams of a people who are hurting?

During the pandemic, as I watched the news, I saw so much creativity bubbling up. I saw people imagining a world that could be, a world that should be. The hope that was emerging was palpable. Then, as a teacher, I went back to the classroom this year. Hope seemed absent among my students, among the faculty, among the parents. I began to research the science of hope. Perhaps it's teachable, I wondered. It turns out, there is a whole department at the University of Oklahoma dedicated to the study of hope. I watched a TED talk by their lead professor, Chan Hellman, entitled, "The Science And Power Of Hope." The next TED talk I watched was, "Hope is the Most Powerful Force in the World," by Somnieng Houern who runs a school for girls, putting concepts of the science of hope into action. He says that he focuses on one person. There is no other way. One person focusing on one person at a time, creating space for hope. One person in a family was given a scholarship to a girl's school. She reached back and pulled her siblings forward into higher education as well. The ripple effect of hope was the power of which he spoke.

I was already putting this one-person-at-a-time focus into action before I saw these TED talks, however, understanding more about the science of hope has helped me realize that my work is making a difference. I am beginning to believe that the one-on-one moments I am making time for every few minutes all day long are having a ripple effect on my students. Relationships are improving, students are reconnecting with their studies, students are speaking up about their needs. It is hard to see the benefits of this last one because there is so much need, so much pain among them now. It feels like constant failure, but there is hope in hope. I want to be able to teach hope. The students need to know how to generate it, how to create it, how to expand hope into their daily lives—one person at a time.

In the midst of a difficult life, "Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart" (Luke 2:19). One of these treasures was the hope that her womb had brought forth for the world to return to again and again—and to pass on, like a ripple, one person at a time.

—Hannah Garrity

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**In need of special prayers this week:** Doris Boerner, Ira Greenbaum (nephew of Marlyn Whyte), Helen Porter (mother of Joe Porter), Suzy Paravla (daughter of Susan Davis), Linda Maisenhelder, Christine Kim (wife of Stephen Kim), Will Pompilli (son of Teresa Pompilli), Wayne Gibbons, Jr., Susan Arnhold (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), Judy Meissner, Susan Johnson, John and Phyllis Frazier, Robin Cupo, Laura Lafferty, Emil Kupper, Erma Yerkes, Joseph May, Victor Johnson III (Pete Johnson's nephew), Laurie Betts, Sally Hardy, Katie Link, Kevin Alexander (Betsy Alexander's son), Jennifer Edward (friend of Nick Cupo), Karen Dirks, Marilyn DeBacco (mother of Barb Foy), Ted Hyczko, Peter Mason (John Waters' nephew), Shawn London (William Coles' daughter), Rusty Thurlow (Jackie Thurlow's husband), Bill Kostik (Shelia Jackson's brother), Ian Beck, Gordy Hawkinson (Nick Cupo's Uncle).

**For Pastoral Care:** To notify the church of an illness, hospitalization, death, or to request prayer, contact a minister or call your Deacon or the Church Office at (215) 887-4530.



Abington Presbyterian Church celebrates God's infinite love and believes all people are equal in the eyes of God. We welcome all to worship and serve with us. We seek to work together to oppose intolerance, racism, and injustice that threaten the unity of humankind.

**ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**Founded 1714**

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**The Reverend Dr. Kirby Lawrence Hill, *Head of Staff***

**Ruth Ideen-Sall, B.M., *Interim Director of Christian Education***

**John Sall, M.M., *Director of Music Ministries***

**Eric Meyer, *Organist***

**The Rev. Ashley Rossi & Justin Feil, *Youth Fellowship Coordinators***