

the Second Sunday of  
**Advent**

46 And Mary said,  
“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
47 and my spirit rejoices in God  
my Savior,  
48 for he has looked with favor on  
the lowliness of his  
servant.”

*Luke 1:46–48a*



**Abington Presbyterian Church**

December 8, 2024

10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship



But you hold out healing, wholeness, and hope.

**You promise to drive out despair  
and free us from debilitating fear.**

Broaden our imaginations,  
that we might conceive of communities where all people thrive  
and embody your vision of *shalom*.

**Expand our hearts,  
that we might see the extraordinary in our midst  
and embrace the everlasting joy you bring.**

Make us prophets of the world you are bringing to birth,  
**that we might prepare a way before you  
and welcome you with gladness!**

\*SUNG PRAYER *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* R. Christopher Teichler  
Chapel Choir: Ruth Sall & John Sall, co-directors

\*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

\*RESPONSE NO. 93 (v.3) *Lift Up Your Heads* TRURO

**Redeemer, come! I open wide  
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.  
Let me thy inner presence feel;  
thy grace and love in me reveal.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

### WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Ruth Sall

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Jeff Bates

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Samuel 2:1-10 Old Testament, p. 245

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

HYMN NO. 646 *Sing Out, My Soul* MAGNIFICAT (TAIZE)

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:46-56 New Testament, p. 57

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

The congregation is invited to share signs of Christ's peace, such as a handshake, with one another.

Following the Children's Message, children (through Grade 5) may follow their teachers to Sunday School or remain in worship.

Where the word is read and proclaimed, we believe Jesus Christ the living Word is present by the power of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the proclamation of the word through the reading and interpretation of Scripture is central to our worship.

\*HYMN NO. 100 *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout* STAR OF COUNTY DOWN

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From *A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in Jesus Christ,  
fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
preaching good news to the poor  
and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed  
and blessing the children,  
healing the sick  
and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts,  
forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.  
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,  
Jesus was crucified,  
suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead,  
vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.**

We respond to the proclamation of the Word by confessing the faith of the Church. Today we are using a portion of *A Brief Statement of Faith*, which was prepared after the two largest Presbyterian denominations in the United States reunited in 1983 to form the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This statement "celebrates our rediscovery that for all our undoubted diversity, we are bound together by a common faith and a common task" (*The Book of Confessions*).

## THANKSGIVING AND SENDING

### OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM      *A Parish Magnificat*      Carl Schalk  
Chancel Choir: John Sall, director

**Refrain** (Sung once by Cantor or Choir, then repeated by the congregation  
and sung after each verse)

My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my—  
spir- it re-joic-es in God— my Sav-ior.

\*DOXOLOGY HYMN NO. 93 (v. 1)      *Lift Up Your Heads*      TRURO

**Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;  
behold the King of glory waits;  
the King of kings is drawing near;  
the Savior of the world is here.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN NO. 107      *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*      REJOICE, REJOICE

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE      *Rejoice, rejoice*      Aaron David Miller

Your presence and participation in worship is an expression of self-offering. If you have not already done so, please sign the red Friendship Pad, located at the end of the pew closest to the center aisle, then pass it along the row.

We are grateful for gifts of time, talent and treasure. If you prefer to give a financial gift online, you may use the QR code below.



Please join us following worship for the Deacons' Christmas Cookie Walk in Parish Hall. Our bakers have turned out an amazing array of cookies. Cookies are \$15 per pound (cash or check, please) and proceeds benefit Abington Presbyterian Church's youth ministry programs.

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Today's Centering Prayer is verse 2 of *For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits (Glory to God, 89)*.

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Hard copies of Pastor's Sudie's sermon for the First Sunday of Advent, along with the Artist's Note that accompanies "Elizabeth," are available in the wooden racks located at each entrance to the Sanctuary.

Our community of faith strives to live by the words of the Apostle Paul: *Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep* (Romans 12:15). As you pray throughout the week, we invite you to lift up the names of those who have requested prayer. Our church family would also like to rejoice with you if you are celebrating the arrival of a child, grandchild or great-grandchild; marking an important milestone; or have another joy to share.

To add a name to the Prayer List or share a joy, please call the church office or email Susan Schied: [slschied@apcusa.org](mailto:slschied@apcusa.org).

## WORSHIP NOTES

### Sing the Story: Advent & Christmas 2024

<b>December 1</b> (8:00 & 10:00 )	The Song of Elizabeth (Luke 1:42b-45)
<b>December 8</b> (8:00 & 10:00 )	The Song of Mary (Luke 1:46-55)
<b>December 15</b> (8:00 & 10:00 )	The Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:68-79)
<b>December 22</b> (10:00 only)	The Songs of the Faithful
<b>Christmas Eve</b> (7:30 Service)	The Song of the Angels (Luke 2:14)
<b>December 29</b> (10:00 only)	The Song of Simeon (Luke 2:29-32)

### Artist's Note: "Mary" by Alice Price

Mary's Magnificat promises peace and hope to a weary world. The Lord, she sings, will feed the hungry. In anticipation of the miracles and teachings of Jesus, fish tumble out of a hand-woven net, large jugs imply abundant wine, and a great, colorful basket holds five loaves of bread. Mary also carries a basket with ripe fruit harvested from well-tended gardens and groves. As more hangings are installed, look for a change in the sources and qualities of light. In *Elizabeth*, glimmers of light push against the darkened skies and the gold stitching suggests a spiritual light that has transformed their bodies. Look how much more light fills the sky in *Mary*. The expectant mother also holds a brightly burning, pink candle, signaling joy and helping us to anticipate the move from darkness to joy. Next week the candle of joy on the Advent wreath we light during the service will match her candle. As more hangings are installed, discover who is singing—look for music notes on their faces, or hands and feet.

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## PRAYER LIST

We hold in prayer those who are grieving the death of **Judith Meissner** (August 8, 1934-November 30, 2024).

We offer special prayers of comfort and sympathy for the Gildner family on the death of Janet's father, John Ross Burrell.

Suzy Paravla (daughter of Susan Davis), Will Pompilli (son of Teresa Pompilli), Wayne Gibbons, Jr., Judy Meissner, John and Phyllis Frazier, Robin Cupo, Laura Lafferty, Emil Kupper, Sally Hardy, Ted Hyczko, Valerie Steigerwalt (niece of Marlyn Whyte), John Connelly (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), Mary Ann Wherry, Victor V. Johnson, Jr, Richard Decembrino family, Olive Biggs, Stephen Krewson, Carmina Gagliardi (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), David Cardwell (brother of Bob Cardwell), Barbara Burke (friend of Jeff Bates), Donald Wolf, Linda Doyle, Amy Gould, Marlyn Whyte, Sharon Robson (friend of Kimberly Browne), Ernie Arnold, Carol Boles (mother of Christine Sacco), Marilyn Ming (sister of Carolyn Ming), Eugenia Velazquez (Iris Long's mother), The Weir Family, Amanda Hebert (friend of Amanda Pompilli), Katie Link (APNS parent), Holland Lutzow (APNS student), Clinton Mench (APNS parent), Tracy & her son Gabriel Edwards (family members of Craig & Carole Jean Nicholson), Karen Jones, John Caldwell, Jackie Thurlow, Fred Cipriano (father of Fred Cipriano).

## TODAY AT ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

- 8:00 a.m.**    **Simple Gifts Worship Service** in the Sanctuary
- 8:45 a.m.**    **Education Opportunities for Youth and Adults**
- **Adult Forum (Singing the Story)** in the Parlor
  - **Confirmation Class** in Malachi Jones Room
  - **Middle School Sunday School** in Richard Treat Room
- 9:50 a.m.**    **Nursery Care** for infants and toddlers in Rooms 110 & 112  
**Preschool Sunday School** in Room 221
- 10:00 a.m.**    **Celebration Worship Service** in the Sanctuary
- Children’s Message (approx. 10:20 a.m.)**
- Education Opportunities for Children:**  
**Sunday School for Kindergarten—5th** in the Youth Lounge
- 11:00 a.m.**    **Deacons’ Christmas Cookie Walk** in Parish Hall  
**Circles of Trust Group 3** in Chapel  
**Festive Youth Ringers** in the Bell Room
- 4:00 p.m.**    **Youth Fellowship** in the Youth Lounge
- 5:30 p.m.**    **Youth Dinner** in the Parlor
- 6:00 p.m.**    **Chapel Choir** in the Choir Room
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## NEXT SUNDAY AT ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### **Adult Bible Study— December 15 & 22 at 8:45 a.m. in the Parlor.**

The study of the New Testament book of Hebrews is for anyone who has ever felt their faith challenged to its very core. With a solid and convincing grounding in the Old Testament, the author of Hebrews presents the most comprehensive argument in Scripture for who Christ is and what he accomplished for our salvation and eternal security. Even if you have not attended earlier sessions, you are encouraged to join us in this engaging and dynamic dive into the book of Hebrews.

### **Christmas by Candlelight—December 15 at 4:30 & 7:00 p.m.**

Gather in candlelight to hear and sing carols and anthems reflecting the joy and peace of Christmas. Children and Youth Choirs join the Oratorio Choir together with organ and the Abington Symphony Orchestra in this beloved annual program.

## Stay connected with our community of faith!

You Tube:  
[@AbingtonPresbyterianChurch4784](#)

Facebook:  
[@Abington Presbyterian Church-APC \(Public Group\)](#)  
[@Abington Presbyterian Church Youth Fellowship \(Private Group\)](#)

To read about all the exciting things happening at Abington Presbyterian Church, please pick up a copy of “Abington Presbyterian Life” from an Usher or subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter. To be added to the distribution list for the E-Blast, please call the church office or email Susan Schied: [slschied@apcusa.org](mailto:slschied@apcusa.org).

## ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

### PASTORAL STAFF

The Rev. Sudie E. Niesen Thompson, M.Div., Th.M.  
Chaplain Tia McCoun, M.Div.

Pastor/Head of Staff  
Congregational Care Associate

### MUSIC STAFF

John Sall, M.M.  
Ruth Sall, B.M.  
Shirley Keiter, M.A.R.

Director of Music Ministries  
Children & Youth Choir Director  
Interim Organist, Interim Director of Handbells

### EDUCATION STAFF

Ruth Sall, B.M.  
Justin Feil  
The Rev. Ashley Rossi, M.Div.

Director of Christian Education  
Youth Fellowship Coordinator  
Youth Fellowship Coordinator

### SUPPORT STAFF

Fred Cipriano  
Susan Schied  
Jackie Thurlow

Facilities Manager  
Secretary  
Bookkeeper



### Abington Presbyterian Church | Founded 1714

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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.