



And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid,
for behold, I bring you good news of a great
joy which will come to all the people, for to
you is born this day in the city of David a
Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude
of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

**GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST HEAVEN,
AND ON EARTH PEACE
AMONG THOSE WHOM HE FAVORS!**

Abington Presbyterian Church

8:00 p.m. December 24, 2025

Christmas Eve Communion Service

Centering Prayer

Creating God
hold this moment
made of every time
and may we breathe along
with all those
who have been here before
to the heartbeat of hope
and know this moment
so full of expectation
is as sacred as they get
for contained here
is all the hope of the future
and the fulfilling of ancient
longing.

In the snarl of silence
as the universe bends with
the weight of anticipation
where the worry is greatest
and the moment
most urgent
here is where we meet you,
O God, in flesh.

The people **gather** in re-
sponse to God's call to
worship our Creator with
thanksgiving and praise.

The whole congregation
joins together in speaking
(or singing) the text in **bold**
print. At the asterisk (*)
please stand in body or rise
in spirit. Purple *Glory to
God* hymnals are located in
the pew racks. Please join
in singing!

Hearing Assistance Devices
are available in the Narthex
(at the back of the Sanctu-
ary). Please see an Usher
for Assistance.

Children's Worship Bags
are available at each en-
trance to the Sanctuary.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Christmas Eve | 8:00 p.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear* arr. Diane Bish

CALL TO WORSHIP

The glory of the Lord shines around us.

The angels tell the story:

Do not fear; for see—

I am bringing you good news of great joy.

A child has been born for us, a son given to us!

He is named Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God,

Everlasting Father,

Prince of Peace.

Glory to God in the highest heaven!

And peace to all on earth!

Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place.

Let us glorify the One who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Come, let us adore him! Let us worship God!

*HYMN NO. 133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FIDELES

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE The Leong Family

We have lit candles for hope, peace, joy and love,

as we've waited in winter's gathering darkness,

for the babe who brings these promises to fulfillment.

Tonight, our waiting is over!

To us is born a Savior—Christ the Lord!

The Christ Candle is lit.

The light shines in the darkness,

and the darkness will never overcome it!

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.

We respond to the proclamation of the Word by confessing the faith of the church. This evening we are using the *Nicene Creed*, which was adopted in 381 C.E. by the Council of Constantinople and is the earliest creed included in *The Book of Confessions* of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Because it is our most ecumenical confession of faith, the *Nicene Creed* is traditionally used when celebrating the Lord's Supper, the joyful feast that unites us with the faithful of every time and place.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-20

New Testament, p. 58

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson

*HYMN NO. 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *And the Glory of the Lord* (from *Messiah*)

G.F. Handel

Christmas Choir: John Sall, director

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed. And all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. (Isaiah 40:5)

*DOXOLOGY (No. 143, v. 4) *Angels From the Realms of Glory* REGENT SQUARE

**All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT 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.

It is good to give you thanks, O God ...

... who forever sing to the glory of your name:

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.



This is not a Presbyterian table; it is the table of our Lord. All who trust in Christ, regardless of age, are invited to partake of this sacrament.

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!

Thank you for Jesus ...

... Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,
 Christ is risen,
 Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts ...

... Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 we worship you, O God,
 in songs of everlasting praise.

Amen.

And now, with the confidence of the children of God,
 let us pray:

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.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Let us keep the feast!

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION HYMN NO. 128 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* WIE ZLOBIE LEZY

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (SUNG)

HYMN NO. 115 (v. 3) *Away in a Manger* CRADLE HYMN

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

*HYMN NO. 122 *Silent Night, Holy Night!* STILLE NACHT

**Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!"**

**Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from Thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth! Jesus, Lord, at Thy
birth!**

**Silent night! Holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing
"Alleluia" to our King:
"Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born."**

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

Please come forward to one of the communion stations, take a piece of bread, and dip it into the cup of grape juice. The bread at the station nearest the lectern (front of the sanctuary, "house left") is **gluten-free**. Individually **packaged elements** are available at the station in the center of the sanctuary (the intersection of the aisles).

Worship assistants will share the light from the Christ Candle by lighting the candles of those sitting at the end of each pew. You are invited to pass your light to whomever is sitting next to you. Remember: when sharing the light, please hold the **lit candle upright** and **tilt the unlit candle**. There will be containers at the exits to return your candle following worship.

SENDING

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*HYMN NO. 134 (v.1, 4) *Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

POSTLUDE

Ding Dong Merrily on High

arr. Robert Lau

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The Centering Prayer is from “Here is Where We Meet You” by Roddy Hamilton, published at re-worship.blogspot.com. The Great Thanksgiving is from the *Book of Common Worship* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2018).

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WORSHIP NOTES

About the artwork:

Sculpted angels from cathedrals in Europe hover around an angel from the Basilica of Saint-Michel Archange in Menton, France who holds a candlestick and announces the birth of the Savior in the city of David. Shepherds from Henry Oshawa Tanner's 1910 painting, *Angels Appearing before the Shepherds* can be found in the lower right corner, dwarfed by the heavenly host and their proclamation.

-Eric Gildner

PRAYER LIST

In need of special prayers this week:

In need of ongoing prayers: Bernadette Barnhurst (mother of Marie Barnhurst), Olive Biggs, Bruce Bishop (brother of David & Sandy Bishop), Carol Boles (mother of Christine Sacco), Walter Boutcher, John Connelly (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), Robin Cupo, Linda Doyle, Beth Ellert, Heather Ferretti (Daughter of Trish Miller), John Frazier, Phyllis Frazier, Carmina Gagliardi (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), Wayne Gibbons, Jr., Farah Kahn Gill, Lindsay Harbold (APNS parent), Sally Hardy, Joanne Hawkson (mother of Nick Cupo), Ted Hyczko, Stephen Krewson, Emil Kupper, Caroline LaRose (nee Seeholzer), Laura Lafferty, Family of Katie Link (APNS parent), Holland Lutzow (APNS student), Mary Anne McMillan, Clinton Mench (APNS parent), Joan Meyers, Gail Mignogna, Suzy Paravla (daughter of Susan Davis), Will Pompilli (son of Teresa Pompilli), Joe Risi (friend of Cindy Willis), Sharon Robson (friend of Kimberly Browne), Valerie Steigerwalt (niece of Marlyn Whyte), Jackie Thurlow, Eugenia Velazquez (Iris Long's mother), Shirley Waters, Barbara Weber, The Weir Family, Marlyn Whyte, Cindi Willis, Callum Wright (friend of Barbara-Ann Schwartz, APNS teacher).

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: sschied@apcusa.org.

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: sschied@apcusa.org.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

- 4:50 p.m.** **Nursery** opens for infants and toddlers in Rooms 110 & 112.
- 5:00 p.m.** **Christmas Eve Family Service** in the Sanctuary.
- 7:20 p.m.** **Christmas Choir (All Welcome to Come)** in Choir Room.
- 7:50 p.m.** **Nursery** opens for infants and toddlers in Rooms 110 & 112
- 8:00 p.m.** **Christmas Eve Traditional Service** in the Sanctuary.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Worship during the Season of Christmas

On **December 28**, the first Sunday after Christmas, we will have one worship service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. On **January 4** we will return to our regular Sunday morning schedule, with worship services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and educational opportunities for all ages. All are welcome!

New Year’s Day Group Trail Walk | January 1 at 9:00 a.m.

Congregational Life would like to extend an open invitation to join its members for a walk on New Year’s Day starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Welsh Road entrance of the Rail Trail in Huntingdon Valley. Start 2026 off right with some exercise and fellowship! Strollers and dogs are welcome! No walk if it rains/snows. Contact Zene Colt at Zene.Colt@gmail.com with any questions. Hope to see you there!

Adult Forum | Sunday, January 4 at 8:45 a.m. in the Parlor.

We have learned that we Christians must stand actively with the vulnerable and the stranger and that we should refuse the temptation of silence or passivity. But does the world know *why*? How can we articulate our theological vision of human dignity and our understanding of ourselves as God’s children as they shape our approach to politics, civics, and institutions? Join us January 4th, 2026 at 8:45 am in the Parlor for a discussion of the *Christian Century* article “This political moment demands theology”. <https://tinyurl.com/3dnu6k9h>

MAA Concert: Children’s Concert | Sunday, January 25 at 12:30 p.m.

Bring a lunch to stay following worship for a “winter picnic” at 11:30 in Parish Hall with space on the floor for picnic blankets AND some tables for older picnickers! THEN, stay for a half-hour concert exploration especially welcoming for children. Led by John Sall and the Abington Symphony, **Tubby the Tuba** is center stage in Parish Hall for this program with dramatic works to introduce the orchestra. An “instrument petting zoo” follows!

We are grateful for donations given in memory or in honor of loved ones, which have helped our congregation glorify God during the Advent and Christmas seasons by beautifying the sanctuary with flowers and seasonal decorations and enriching our worship with special music. Our thanks to:

Don & Kim Brooks ~ In Memory of Bill, Skip & Casey Brooks.

Zene & Jennie Colt ~ In Memory of our mothers, Diana Sowers, Bianca Gay and Janet Sowers.

Mary DeVan ~ In Memory of Michael V. DeVan.

John & Judy Dwyer ~ In Memory of our parent Bess & Ed Dwyer and Art & Ginny Crouthamel.

Paul Forrest ~ In Memory of William & Carolyn (Parents), David (Brother), and Laura (Wife).

Bill Gustafson ~ In Memory of Linda McCray Gustafson.

Marilyn Hagy

M-M Harris & the Scott and Wayne Harris Families ~ In Memory of Herb Harris and Ellen Hoag and

In Honor of the birth of Dorothy Anne Harris.

Benjamin & Karen Hoyle ~ In Memory of David Hoyle.

Barbara & Marty Krempasky ~ In Memory of our parents and in Honor of our 4 grandchildren.

Joan & Charles Lane ~ In Honor and celebration of the birth of Charles Joseph Parsons.

David & Judy Magill ~ In Honor of the Rev. Dr. John Magill & Louise Magill

The McMahan Family ~ In Memory of Claire & Thomas Morrin and Herb & Lois McMahan.

Edie Sautter Miller ~ In Memory of my mother, Elizabeth Sautter.

Cindi Willis ~ In Memory of my mother & sister.

Bonnie H. Zetick ~ In Memory of my parents Mildred & T. Jackson Harper.

Donations received by 12/22/2025 by Noon

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
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Youth Fellowship Coordinator

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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.