

PHILADELPHIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

351 Morrow Road, Forest Park, Georgia 30297

December 21, 2025

11:00am

Fourth Sunday in Advent – Love

Choral Introit Emmanuel Bob McGee

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Not in the mighty places of power, but in little Bethlehem, in a room out back:  
The Messiah is coming.  
Not born in nobility and wealth, but of Mary and Joseph, the teenager mother and carpenter:  
The Messiah is coming.  
Not announced by priests and kings, but by two women, who were the first to know:  
The Messiah is coming.  
Nothing will be impossible for God, but when and where we least expect it, look among the straw and the stars:  
For The Messiah is coming.  
Let us worship the Lord.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath The Rohrbach Family

We are preparing ourselves for the coming days when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; when nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war anymore.  
The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.  
The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
Like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Emmanuel.  
Let us walk in the light of the Lord with love for all of God’s children.

\* Opening Hymn Love Has Come! No. 256

Call to Confession Fran Youngblood, Liturgist

Trusting in the grace of God, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbors.

Prayer of Confession

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary’s song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (All Sing) O Little Town of Bethlehem No. 250, v4  
O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray.  
Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today.

Call for the Offering  
The Lord has given us so much. Let us praise the Lord through our gifts for the uplifting of God’s kingdom.

Offering  
\* Doxology (All Sing) O Come All Ye Faithful (chorus) No. 249  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Anthem Night of Silence Kantor/arr. Ferguson

First Reading Isaiah 7:10-16  
Second Reading Matthew 1:18-25  
Sermon Birth Rev. Jeanne Simpson  
\* Affirmation of Faith

We believe that in the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways. We believe, as did the Apostles, that God has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom God made the universe. We believe the Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. We believe that he has provided purification for sins and that he sits at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. (from Hebrews 1-3)

\* Gloria Patri Glorify Thy Name (v.1) No. 9  
Father, we love you, we worship and adore you,  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.  
Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name,  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer  
\* Benediction Hymn Angels We Have Heard on High No. 278  
\* Benediction  
\* Congregational Response (All Sing) O Come, O Come Emmanuel, v.4

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind.  
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;  
Fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Please join us for a joint Christmas Eve service December 24 at 6:00 at First Baptist Church, Morrow.  
\*Please stand if you are able.