
Overbrook Presbyterian Church



Worship Service
Communion Sunday
First Sunday of Advent
December 2, 2018
10:30 a.m.

Welcome to Overbrook Presbyterian Church

We are glad you are worshipping with us this morning!

Notes on Today's Service

If you are a visitor, we invite you to fill out a card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate.

Leading Worship Today:

The Rev. Raymond Bonwell
Lay Leader: Davorka Sabljak; Acolyte: Maya Phan
Dr. Christopher Gage, Director of Music
Molly McDonald, mezzo-soprano
The Overbrook Choir

The Chancel Flowers are given to the glory of God
by the Deas Family in loving memory of Dr. & Mrs. Thomas C. Deas.

Childcare is available during the worship service. Worship is for all ages, but should your infant or preschooler become restless during worship, excellent childcare is provided in our nursery.

Worship Kits for Children
are available at the front entrance to the Sanctuary.

Large Print Bulletins and Hymns are Available.
Please speak to one of the ushers if you have special needs.

Ushers:

Dick Williamson, Susy Brandt, Laurie Geers, Bob Kaercher,
Jonathan Kopcsik, Richard Owens, Peter Seidel and Judy Williamson

Communion Servers:

John Baker, Artia Benjamin, Elizabeth Cosgriff, Sabrina Johnson,
Larry McGhee, Caroline Skinner, Dick Williamson, & Judy Williamson

Opener/Closer:
Jeff Bowker

Deacons Delivering Flowers:
Peju Adebajo and Davorka Sabljak

Following worship today, please join us for refreshments in the Wistar Morris Room. All are welcome!

*Please enter the sanctuary in a spirit of reverence as we prepare for worship
and remember to silence all cell phones before the service.*

❖=Stand as you are able.

GATHERING IN

PRELUDE

J. S. Bach
Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645 (1685-1750)

INTROIT

George Thalben-Ball
Comfort, O Lord, the soul of thy servant (1896-1987)

❖CALL TO WORSHIP-*from Psalm 25*

One: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Many: Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

One: Lead me in your truth, and teach me,

Many: for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

All: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

❖HYMN No. 348

HELMSLEY
Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

GREETING

The Rev. Raymond Bonwell

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Jason Sheau and I-Mei Huang

❖HYMN No. 88

VENI EMMANUEL
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(Verses 1 and 2)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION- (UNISON)

God of the future,

you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.

We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,

for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.

We accept lies as truth,

exploit neighbors,

abuse the earth,

and refuse your justice and peace.

measure of their knowledge, faith, repentance, love to God and the siblings, charity to all people, forgiving those that have done them wrong; of their desires after Christ, and of their new obedience; and by renewing the exercise of these graces, by serious meditation, and fervent prayer.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

The Rev. Raymond Bonwell

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER-*Debts/Debtors*

Page 35, *Glory to God Hymnal*

SHARING OF PEACE (*"The peace of Christ be with you," "And also with you"*)

OFFERING

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come
The Overbrook Choir

Paul Manz
(1919-2009)

❖ DOXOLOGY

HYMN No. 607

❖ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

...we sing the ageless hymn of glory:

SANCTUS (sung by all)

HYMN No. 552

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ....

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

Communion will be received in the pews today. There will be gluten-free bread in the center of the tray. The Deacons and Elders will bring the trays to your pew and pass it to you, first the bread and then the cup. Take the bread when it comes to you, pass the plate on, and partake of your bread when you are ready (this demonstrates how Christ comes to each of us individually). When the trays of glasses come to you, take a glass, pass on the tray, and hold the glass until all are served. Then all will drink together (this demonstrates the unity of the Church Universal).

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God,
we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

❖ HYMN No. 93

TRURO

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

SENDING FORTH

❖ BENEDICTION

❖ CHORAL RESPONSE

The peace of God

John Yarrington
(b. 1941)

Please depart quietly for those who wish to listen to the postlude.

POSTLUDE

Bach

Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland, BWV 599

This Week at Overbrook Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 2	11:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour
	3:00 p.m.	Messiah Sing
Monday, December 3	5:15 p.m.	Junior Choir-Choir Room
Tuesday, December 4	1:00 p.m.	Worship & Music Committee
	7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee
Wednesday, December 5	10:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	5:00 p.m.	Property Committee
	7:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl-Williamson Room
Thursday, December 6	6:15 p.m.	Handbell Choir-Bell Room (2 nd fl.)
	7:15 p.m.	Overbrook Choir-Choir Room
Friday, December 7	11:30 a.m.	RPM Café
Sunday, December 9	9:15 a.m.	Adult Forum-Member Orientation
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
	11:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour
	12:00 p.m.	Deacons Meeting
	12:00 p.m.	Personnel Committee

The cover artwork is a Greek icon depicting the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. He is enthroned in the center, surrounded by angels and saints; at the bottom of the icon are the Bosom of Abraham (left) and the Good Thief (right).

🌀 Looking Ahead: Adult Christian Education

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study – Jonah! All are welcome to join us as we reflect upon this story that is so much more than “a whale of a tale.” Jonah will continue through Dec. 12, and 19.

Sunday, Dec. 9, 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum – Member Orientation. Are you curious about Presbyterian theology? What Christian distinctive that Overbrook Presbyterian embraces?

🌀 Looking Ahead: OPC Happenings

Today, December 2:

Advent Devotional Booklets: All OPC households will receive a copy of *God Lifts the Lowly*, the PC-USA Advent devotional. This season's devotional focuses on the gifts that God has bestowed on each of his children. The beautiful illustrations and poems were created by Andrew Weatherly, a faithful Presbyterian with Down syndrome. The co-authors are both pastors with special needs family members. *God Lifts the Lowly* is provided as a ministry of the Worship and Music Committee. May this devotional be an Advent

blessing to each of you. You will receive your booklet as you leave the sanctuary following worship.

Last Day for the Fair Trade Market! Be sure to stop by during Coffee Hour and cross off items from your shopping list. The Fair Trade Market will be open until 12:30 p.m.

Messiah Sing, 3 p.m. Don't miss this beloved tradition featuring Paul Fleckenstein, organist; Christopher Gage, conductor; and the Overbrook Quartet (Iris Fairfax, Molly McDonald, Toffer Mihalka, and Matthew Lulofs). This event is open to the public. There is no charge for admission, but a free will offering to benefit the music ministry at Overbrook is greatly appreciated.

Friday, December 7

RPM Café, 11:30 a.m. Although the snowy bluster of November kept us from meeting, we're ready to thaw the soup and try again! The R.P.M. (retired person's ministry) Café will be open for business, and our business is good-humored fellowship, shared learning, and fine food! B.Y.O. sandwich or salad... the Café will be offering a choice of soups (chicken corn noodle or country ham and bean), homemade desserts, and beverages. Our featured program will be "The Impact of Gratitude on Health and Well-being." The RPM Café is a ministry of the Congregational Life committee; there is no cost to attend. Advance registrations are appreciated. Please sign-up in the Wistar Morris Room following Worship, or RSVP to Sharon Parker (sparker614@gmail.com).

Sunday, December 9

Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m. Join us next Sunday to hear the Word from Malachi 3:1-4 and Luke 3:1-6. The sermon title is "Construction Ahead."

Sunday December 16

Special Congregational Meeting, immediately following worship. The purpose of this meeting will be to receive the report of the Nominating Committee posting their slate of nominees for Elder, Deacon and the At-Large Members of the 2019 Nominating Committee. Since it is a Special Congregational Meeting, no other business may be conducted except the business at hand.

Sunday, December 30

Pre-College (11th and 12th grade) and College Students' Lunch and Conversation, 12:30 pm. If you are home for winter break, come and meet up with other students—some already in college, some just finishing their first semester, some preparing to make the decision to go or not to go, and some who have

recently finished college. Share your stories or just enjoy the lunch. Check our church website, <http://www.overbrookpresb.org/>, for more information. If you can attend, please let Artia Benjamin know by text at 215-266-8758 or email at newlife5125@gmail.com. We are looking forward to seeing you.

☞ Looking Ahead: OPC Youth Happenings:

Hangin' of the Greens December 22 10:00 AM-1:00 PM All youth and friends are encouraged to participate in the Hangin' of the Greens... *and more*. During this time, we'll also be helping with the Christmas Pageant costumes and scenery. Lunch will be provided.

Christmas Caroling at Simpson House December 22 1:30 PM All ages are invited to join in the Christmas Caroling. Yes...once again, we'll have great spirit and festive hats! (Drivers are needed for the caroling.)

Christmas Eve Family Service December 24 5:00 PM Youth leadership will be needed for worship...as ushers, artists, pageant participants, and readers. Please contact Sharon Parker if you are available to serve on Christmas Eve. Student musicians who are interested in playing for worship at this time, or during other seasons the year, are asked to contact Dr. Chris Gage.



Coffee Hour Hosts are needed for the following Sundays in December: 23 and 30. Instructions for this easily accomplished, highly valued ministry are available on the OPC web site and in the church kitchen (on the microwave). For more information, please contact Raelyn Harman at 610-331-8972 or Artia Benjamin. Thank you!



Just a reminder: The Christmas poinsettia sign-up sheet is now in the Wistar Morris Room. You can sign up anytime for your Christmas plant donation. Pay what you wish; monies can be dropped off at or mailed to the Church office.

☞ Donations and offerings may be made online at www.overbrookpresb.org. Click on the yellow "Donate" button.

Looking Ahead: Advent and Christmas at OPC

Friday, December 21

Service of the Longest Night, 7:00 p.m. The excitement of the holidays can also bring challenges for each of us; the stresses and strains of preparation and celebrations can take their toll. Many people find that they have trouble feeling “in the spirit” because of the loss of a loved one, illness, an unsettling workplace environment, marital discord, or lingering sadness. Recognizing the emotional unevenness of the holidays, we will continue the practice of gathering in worship for The Service of the Longest Night. The service is so named because of its occurrence on the winter solstice, the longest night of the year. At this time of darkness, we will gather in worship, asking God’s blessing on our lives and seeking His loving guidance in our lives. May peace be a gift to all.

Saturday, December 22

Hanging of the Greens, 10:00 a.m.-1 p.m. All are welcome to participate in this annual event and help decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas! We’ll be making window sill decorations, pew swags, hanging festive garlands, and decorations for the Sanctuary Christmas tree. There will be special craft activities for children in the Chapel, and they will be invited to decorate the tree in the Wistar Morris Room. A chilly day will call for a chili lunch... and warm fellowship for all who participate. For those who would like to continue the festivities, Simpson House welcomes us to come caroling at 1:30 PM. Please sign up in the Wistar Morris Room.

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve Family Service, Dinner, and Gingerbread House Decorating, 5:00 p.m. This evening is a longtime OPC tradition. After the service, we will serve a simple supper of sandwiches, soup, veggie sticks, and cookies—giving the cooks in your home a much-needed break from the hectic holiday schedule (a free-will offering will be collected). Gingerbread houses will be ready for decorating at 7:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet will be available online and during coffee hour for donations of cookies, soup, veggie tray, set-up and clean-up. Grown OPC “children” come back year after year for the gingerbread house decorating. Any families interested in the Gingerbread House Decorating, please email office@overbrookpresb.org or call the church office (215-877-2744) to reserve a house. Everyone is welcome.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 9:00 p.m. This traditional service presents lessons and carols to celebrate the birth of Christ. The Overbrook Quartet, along with organist Christopher Gage, will present a half-hour of Christmas preludes beginning at 8:30 p.m.

Sermon Notes

Westminster Confession 6.182: Of the Last Judgment

As Christ would have us to be certainly persuaded that there shall be a day of judgment, both to deter all humanity from sin, and for the greater consolation of the godly in their adversity; so will he have that day unknown to men, that they may shake off all carnal security, and be always watchful, because they know not at what hour the Lord will come; and may be ever prepared to say, Come Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen.

Prayer List

- ◆ Ernestine Harris, mother in law of Lynn Pompa, is undergoing several cardiac procedures.
- ◆ Dick Williamson is undergoing medical testing.
- ◆ Luis Wong is now in the Salvation Army Rehab center in Roxborough.
- ◆ The Rev. David McMillan is recovering from knee surgery.
- ◆ Terri Carter's hip replacement surgery went well, and she is moving to rehab.
- ◆ Wayne Gage, Chris Gage's father, is recovering from a heart procedure.
- ◆ Jessica Canning, a friend of Eileen Wiggins, is in hospice following brain surgery.
- ◆ Diane Kaercher, Gail Kaercher's sister-in-law, is hospitalized in Indiana for a ruptured colon.
- ◆ We offer prayers of thanksgiving for Christopher, Peggy Boatwright's grandson, who has now returned to his elementary school.
- ◆ John Nathaniel is still recovering from a recent stroke.
- ◆ Ellen Burr is experiencing ongoing medical concerns.

Please contact Mike Rottinger for any pastoral concerns or to add names to the prayer list. Mike can be reached by email (mike.rottinger@comcast.net). You can also leave a message with the Church Office.

OPC SESSION MEMBERS

Sara Davis, Clerk of Session;
Kate Shackelford & Stephanie Morris, Co-Treasurers

Jeff Bowker, Rachel Carnahan, Edelenne Carroll, Kevin Davis, Raelyn Harman,
Anil "Bob" Kothari, Becky Lazo, Deborah Rottinger, Jane Rozmiarek,
Kate Shackelford, Aimerie Scherluebbe, Will Schick, Sean Whalen,
Eileen Wiggins and Karen Wong.

OPC DEACONS:

Mike Rottinger, Moderator-Board of Deacons,
Brad Biedermann, Treasurer, Jill Van Rawley, Secretary
Adepeju Adebajo, Artia Benjamin, Brad Biedermann, Suchita Fiorillo, Angie
Goodall, Terri Hunter, Sabrina Johnson, Stephanie Morris, Davorka Sabljak,
Alan Sigler, Nickie Stokes, Carol Tulba, and Ellen Valudes.

OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6376 City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151

Phone: 215-877-2744 Email: office@overbrookpresb.org

www.overbrookpresb.org

The Rev. Raymond Bonwell - *Bridge Pastor*

The Rev. David McMillan - *Pastor Emeritus*

Dr. Christopher Gage - *Director of Music*

Sharon Parker - *Acting Director of Christian Education*

Lisa Faso - *Office Manager*

Carol Rozmiarek - *Financial Secretary*

Leonard Robbins - *Church Custodian*

The Overbrook Quartet:

Iris Fairfax, *soprano*; Molly McDonald, *alto*;

Toffer Mihalka, *tenor*; Matthew Lulofs, *bass*

***Overbrook Presbyterian Church
is a welcoming and diverse Christian community
that actively seeks to love and serve God,
each other and the world.***
