

Welcome to Overbrook Presbyterian Church

We are glad you are worshiping 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. Dr. Andrew H. Mann, Jr. - Interim Minister
Lay Leader: Jill Van Rawley, Acolyte: TBD
Victor Fiorillo

The Chancel Flowers are given to the glory of God...

by Gail Kaercher and family in memory of Fred Kaercher, loving father, husband and grandfather.

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.

Ushers:

Dick Williamson, Susy Brandt, Bob Kaercher, Jonathan Kopcsik,
Lori Mason, Peter Seidel and Judy Williamson.

Deacons Delivering Flowers:

Brad Biedermann and Vince Gilhool

❖Stand as you are able.

Following worship today - please join us for Coffee Hour in the Wistar Morris Room. We thank Eileen Wiggins for hosting today. If you would like to host an upcoming coffee hour, please sign up now on the sign-up board in the Wistar-Morris Room. Contact Amarilis Stricker at 484-343-0679 with questions.

Large Print Bulletins are Available -

Please speak to one of the ushers if you have special needs.



The Overbrook Quartet

Iris Fairfax	Lois Randel	Toffer Mihalka	Matthew Lulofs
<i>Soprano</i>	<i>Mezzo-Soprano</i>	<i>Tenor</i>	<i>Bass</i>

Overbrook Presbyterian Church



Christmas Day
Sunday, December 25, 2016
10:30 a.m.

OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
6376 City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151
Phone: 215-877-2744 - Email: office@overbrookpresb.org
www.overbrookpresb.org

The Rev. Dr. Andrew H. Mann, Jr. - *Interim Minister*
The Rev. David McMillan - *Pastor Emeritus*
Dennis Elwell - *Minister of Music*
Margene Biedermann - *Jr. Choir Director*
Earlene Ford - *Financial Secretary*
Lisa Faso - *Office Manager*
Leonard Robbins - *Church Custodian*

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

❖CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

❖CAROL No. 29 Go Tell It on the Mountain VENI EMMANUEL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, you search us out and know us, and all that we are is open to you. We confess that we have sinned. When we make no room for Christ, and fail to welcome him into our lives, we have sinned. When we follow shooting stars and squander our gifts in Herod's court, we have sinned. When we seek to cut down those who might rise above us, we have sinned. When we sanitize your birth place and erase from memory the poor and displaced, we have sinned. When we sing sweet sentiments over Christ's birth, and fail to rejoice over his everyday presence, we have sinned. And so we turn to you, O Christ, perfect union of Spirit and flesh and we renounce evil, claim your love, and choose to be made whole. Forgive us, Lord; be born in us this day, and every day of our lives.

SILENT CONFESSION

PROMISE OF THE GOSPEL

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:6-7 Page 54/Pew Bible

"While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."

REFLECTION ON NO PLACE IN THE INN
(*"A Full House" an Austin Family Story* from *Winter Song*)

OFFERING

CAROL SING (Congregation will pick their favorite carols. Christmas Carols can be found in our hymnal between pages 108-156.)

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2:16-18 Page 2/Pew Bible

"When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'"

REFLECTION ON CHRIST IN EVERYDAY LIFE
(*"Miracle on 10th Street" from Winter Song*)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THANKSGIVING

❖CAROL No. 25 Away in a Manger VENI EMMANUEL

BENEDICTION



"Why can't Christmas last all year 'round?"

We say this as if we think Christmas is something fragile, that when God gave us the birth of Christ, God intended it to be a fleeting moment. A wisp of time at the end of the year, calculated to give our frayed and worn calendars a glossy covering: a mere veneer of grace.

We utterly mistake the soul of Christmas if we reduce it to this. We miss the soul of Christmas is Christmas is family traditions and sentiment, however poignant, or if we have to pad Christmas in protective gauze, or bubble wrap it for storage until next year.

Christmas is not idealistic sentimentalism. It is not even "family time". It is not God's little fib about what real life is all about. It is not Dresden china figurines which cannot endure life on the end table, which must be stored lest their colors fade in daily sunlight, or their delicate filigrees be chipped and lose their beauty or their worth.

Christmas is a tough reality, muscular and strong, meant to be used as exercise to develop an athletic faith which has endurance. A faith so used to ache and burning breath and the need for determination, that it becomes used to the joy of victory, not the agony of defeat.

Christmas is a story not complete. It is a continuing tale. It is all wiry sinew, flexed in the arena of time, tested and retested, a covenant of Grace which needs no protection from us. Indeed, it is given for *our* protection. It is our guide...our strength...our reality. It is not to be stored away; it is to be lived. The Truth is that it is in the living of it that the Word indeed takes on flesh...once again...quite to our surprise...always to our delight...certainly to our refreshment...and to the vindication of our faith.

Let us sing our carols, then, and listen again to the Ancient Story interpreted by two stories from today's world. Not with misty eyed romanticism, but with the conviction that their simple truths are Truth indeed...Truth by which our lives may be ordered...Truth on which we can rely...Truth by which we can live daily in the expectation that it will transform life itself.

Let us celebrate the birth of the Infant Lord.