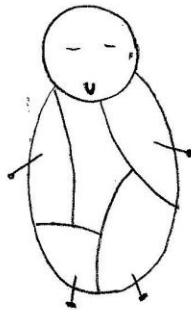
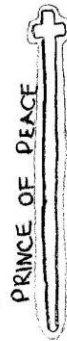

Overbrook Presbyterian Church

MIGHTY FATHER



JESUS



HOLY SON

Worship Service
Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 17, 2017
10:30 a.m.

*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:

“Joy Comes in the Morning” from *Three Morning Preludes* James Woodman

INTROIT:

Hymn no. 88, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel VENI EMMANUEL

verse 3: all

verse 4: men only; all join for “Rejoice!...”

❖CALL TO WORSHIP (*inspired by Isaiah 2:4, Isaiah 52:7*)

Leader: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those who
bring good news.

People: Who publish peace, who bring good tidings,
who publish salvation, and proclaim,
“Your God reigns!”

Leader: God will judge among many peoples,

People: And they shall beat their swords into plowshares and nation
shall not lift up sword against nation:
neither shall they learn war any more.

All: Let us lift up our voices for God’s peace.

❖HYMN No. 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Joel Pagbaya and Laura Adabia

GREETING

Pastor Bruce Gillette

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure
when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:18-25

Page 2/Pew Bible

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Pastor Carolyn Gillette

COMMISSIONING OF SHARON PARKER

INTRODUCTION

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind.

The great ends of the church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven in the world.

The call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship. Our discipleship is a manifestation of the new life we enter through baptism. Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment, an offering and a responsibility.

THE COMMISSIONING

Sharon, the grace bestowed upon you in baptism is sufficient for your calling because it is God's grace. By God's grace we are saved, and enabled to grow in the faith and to commit our lives in ways that serve Christ.

God has called you to particular service. Show your purpose by answering these questions. . .

❖ *(congregation please stand)*

Do you, members of Overbrook Presbyterian Church, confirm the call of God on our sister, Sharon, as a missionary to the people of Myanmar in the service of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Will you support and encourage her in this ministry?

We will.

COMMISSIONING PRAYER

Faithful God, in baptism you claimed us; and by your Holy Spirit you are working in our lives, empowering us to live a life worthy of our calling. We thank you for leading Sharon to this time and place. Establish her in your truth, and guide her by your Holy Spirit, that in your service she may grow in faith, hope, and love, and be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you called disciples and, by the Holy Spirit, made them one church to serve you. Let your Spirit rule your church, so that we may be joined in love and service to Jesus Christ, who, having gone before us, is coming to meet us in the promise of your Kingdom. Amen.

CHARGE

Sharon, you are commissioned to service to the people of Myanmar. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him.

BLESSING

May the God of peace make you holy in every way, and keep your whole being, spirit, soul, and body, free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Following The Commissioning students in Pre-K through Grade 2 will depart for Sunday School.)

ANTHEM

A Waiting Carol (Advent Song)
The Overbrook Junior Choir

Helen Kemp

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON “Follow the Prince of Peace” Pastor Bruce Gillette
*(Following the Sermon, students in Grades 3 through 6 and High School will depart
for Sunday School. Grades 7-8 Confirmation students are asked to stay in
worship)*

❖ HYMN *(See last page for hymn)*

All of You Who Walked in Darkness MENDELSSOHN

❖ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH-

A Declaration of Faith of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (1970)

God sends the church into the world.

God has not taken his people out of the world,
but has sent them into the world
to worship God there and serve all humankind.

God sends us to work for peace.

God has brought out of the horrors of warfare
the judgment and deliverance of nations.

Yet the Lord has condemned the atrocities of war
and warned his people not to trust in military might.

The Prince of Peace does not bring in his rule by force.

The Lord is moving toward the time
when nations will not learn war any more.

We affirm God is at work here and now
when people are ashamed of the inhumanity of war,
perceive the threat of annihilation
that hangs over the human race,
and seek other ways of settling international disputes.

We believe God sends us
to minister to people on all sides of wars:
the victims, the participants,
and those who in conscience refuse to participate.

In is our duty to attack the causes and roots of war,
to unmask idolatry that places national security above all else,
to urge all nations to devote to making peace
the resources, intelligence, and energy
that have gone to making war.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

Pastor Bruce Gillette

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

"For unto us a child is born" from *Messiah* G. F. Handel
The Overbrook Choir

❖ DOXOLOGY

HYMN No. 607

❖ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

❖ HYMN NO. 110

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

SENDING FORTH

❖ BENEDICTION

❖ CHORAL RESPONSE

Seek Ye the Lord George Thalben-Ball

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

POSTLUDE:

In dir ist Freude

J. S. Bach



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. Our pastors would welcome talking with you after today's worship service or in the future.

Leading Worship Today:

The Revs. Bruce and Carolyn Gillette - Co-Pastors

Lay Leader: Amos Paul, Acolyte: Everett Whalen

The Overbrook Junior Choir

The Overbrook Choir

Dr. Christopher Gage, Director of Music

Today's bulletin cover was drawn by Aria Fiorillo.

The Chancel Flowers are given to the glory of God
by Nickie Stokes in memory of Madelon Codgill

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:

Max Mason, Noble Brigham, Ken Carroll, John Mason,
Mary Scott, Jason Sheau, Alan Sigler, Nickie Stokes and Adepeju
Adebanjo

Deacons Delivering Flowers:

Davorka Sabljak and Elienne Paul

Following worship today - please join us for refreshments in the Wistar Morris Room. Thank You to the Lainie Blodgett, Leah Mayne and Judy Williamson. 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.

This Week at Overbrook Presbyterian Church

Sunday, Dec. 17 th	11:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour
	12:00 p.m.	College Luncheon-Chapel
	12:00 p.m.	M&O -Williamson Rm
Monday Dec. 18 th	7:00 p.m.	Advent Bible Study
Wednesday, Dec. 20 th	1:00 p.m.	Advent Bible Study-Chapel
Thursday Dec. 21 st	7:00 p.m.	Longest Night Service (NOTE NEW TIME)
Sunday, Dec 24 th	9:15 a.m.	Advent Bible Study
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
	11:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour
	4:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Family Service followed by Dinner and Gingerbread House (NOTE NEW TIME)
	9:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Commissioning of Sharon Parker Today during our worship service we will include the commissioning of Sharon Parker for her upcoming overseas mission service. With the endorsement of Rev. Barry and Shelly Dawson, Presbyterian Church (USA) Liaisons for Southeast Asia Missions, the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar has called Sharon to serve as a teaching missionary at Tahan Theological College in Kalaymyo. Her role will be to teach English to clergy and seminarians. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, she is hopeful that she will be able to be of service to the broader Chin tribal community. Sharon will leave for Myanmar on January 2 and expects to return to Philadelphia on February 10. We will be setting up a daily prayer sign-up for Sharon and posting updates from her on Overbrook Church's web site and Facebook.



Just a reminder this is the last Sunday for the Christmas poinsettia sign up. It is in the Wistar Morris Room, sign up for your Christmas plant donation. Pay what you wish. Monies can be dropped off or mailed to the Church office.

Overbrook's Advent Devotional: More than 20 Overbrook Presbyterians have written daily devotionals for us all to enjoy during this special season. Copies of this devotional booklet are available in the Wistar Morris Room during coffee hour, in our church office and can also be found on our church web site, www.overbrookpresb.org.



Service of the Longest Night—The holidays can be difficult for us all: the stresses and strains of trying to offer a time of celebration take their toll. Many people find they have trouble feeling “in the spirit” of things, whether because of the recent death of a family member or friend, the end of a marriage, the loss of work, or other trying change. This year we will gather on Thursday *December 21st at 7:00pm (NOTE NEW TIME)* for A Service of the Longest Night. Is it so named because of its proximity to the winter solstice, the longest night of the year. But the name is also fitting because despite the wrappings of gifts, special meals, and Christmas carols the season can be darker than “normal” times of the year for those who struggle.



Advent Bible Study Of Handel's Messiah: This is the last week to join Overbrook Church members and friends for a Advent celebration of **The Messiah**. Even if you were unable to make prior sessions, you are still welcome to join us. **The Bible study will be offered at three different times, beginning on *Sundays at 9:15 A.M.; Mondays at 7:00 P.M.; and Wednesdays at 1:00 P.M.*** (note new time for the Wednesday Bible study)



Christmas Eve Family Service, Dinner & Gingerbread House Decorating Immediately after the 4:00 p.m. Family Service on Christmas Eve, we will be serving a simple supper of sandwiches, soup, veggie sticks and cookies. Gingerbread houses will be ready for decorating at 6:00 p.m. **PLEASE NOTE NEW TIMES.** This evening's plans are a long-time OPC tradition. Serving a simple meal (we will be collecting a free will donation) helps the cooks in your home

get a much needed break from the hectic holiday schedule. Grown OPC “children” come back year after year for the gingerbread house decorating. Any families interested in the Gingerbread House Decorating, please email the office@overbrookpresb.org or call the church office (215-877-2744) to reserve a house. Everyone is welcome. The Christmas Eve candlelight service will follow later in the evening at 9:00 p.m



☞ **Reminder:** There will be no Sunday School or Confirmation Class next Sunday, December 24th or Sunday December 31st,

Prayer List

- ◆ Emily Amerman and Jim Vagnoni’s son Will is going through transitions
- ◆ Peter Seidel having back issues
- ◆ Dick Williamson having back issues
- ◆ Andrea Gosfield recovering from a car accident
- ◆ Lynn Pompa continuing with health issues
- ◆ Jane Bevan continuing health issues
- ◆ Ellen Burr ongoing health issues

Please contact Pastors Bruce or Carolyn to add names or concerns to this list. Bruce and Carolyn can be reached by email, cell phone, or by leaving a message in the Church Office, or by speaking with one of them in person.

☞ **Please Remember to Sign the Prayer Cards:** These cards are located on the raised table in the Wistar Morris Room. We ask all church members and friends to please sign these cards before or after worship each Sunday. “You were remembered this Sunday in the prayers of the people of the Overbrook Church in Philadelphia” is the message found on prayer cards. Please contact our pastors or church office if you would like us to send a prayer card to someone.

☞ **Pastoral Care & Feedback Welcome:** We are grateful to people who let us know about pastoral needs in our church and community. We welcome visiting people in their homes, at work, in the hospital and at the church. We welcome the opportunity to bring home communion to anyone who would like to receive the sacrament. Please contact us by email: pastors@overbrookpresb.org, bruce@overbrookpresb.org or carolyn@overbrookpresb.org or call us (Office: 215-877-2744 or Bruce’s Cell: 302-528-1796 or Carolyn’s Cell: 302-528-1797) if you, or someone you know, would like a visit from an Overbrook pastor. Your ideas, feedback and prayers help us all serve better together. Please see our contact information above so we can have a conversation with you. Thank you. Pastors Bruce & Carolyn Gillette.

All of You Who Walked in Darkness

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Mendelssohn

Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

arr. W. H. Cummings, 1855

1. All of you who walked in dark-ness who have known the fear of night—
2. Still Christ comes to save God's peo - ple, still he comes to those op - pressed.
3. In this time of ce - le - bra - tion, may we show what life can be,

Now re - joi - ce and sing with glad - ness; come and see the won - drous light!
To the folks who toil and strug - gle, God has sent the ve - ry best.
As we care for God's cre - a - tion, as we serve the Prince of Peace.

God has turned your tears to songs, lift - ing bur - dens, right - ing wrongs.
To the young and to the old, to the home - less, tired and cold,
Seek - ing jus - tice ev - ery - where, lift - ing bur - dens oth - ers bear,

God sent us a ti - ny boy bring - ing hope and peace and joy.
To the lost, to those who mourn, to the world, a child is born.
May we glad - ly serve and pray— know - ing why we live this way:

In one lit - tle ba - by's birth, God knelt down to love the earth.

OPC Session Members/Committee Members:

Sara Davis, *Clerk of Session*, *Pastors Bruce & Carolyn Gillette*, *Moderators*

Jeff Bowker, *Co-Chair-Property*, Rachel Carnahan, *Chair-Worship/Music*, Edelene Carroll, *Chair-Personnel*, Raelyn Harman, *Chair-Congregational Life*, Ron Homer, *Chair-New Members*, Anil “Bob” Kothari, *Chair-Finance*, Deborah Rottinger, Jane Rozmiarek, Kate Shackelford-*Treasurer*, Aimerie Scherluebbe, *Chair, Mission & Outreach*, Will Schick, *Chair-Stewardship*, Jason Sheau, *Chair-Christian Education*, Sean Whalen, *President, Board of Trustees*, Eileen Wiggins, and Karen Wong.

OPC Deacons:

Mike Rottinger, *Moderator-Board of Deacons*

Artia Benjamin, Brad Biedermann, Suchita Fiorillo, Angie Goodall, Terri Hunter, Sabrina Johnson, Larry McGhee , Stephanie Morris, Elienne Paul, Mike Rottinger, Davora Sabljak, Nickie Stokes, Nicole Stokes-Robinson, 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 Revs. Bruce and Carolyn Gillette - *Co-Pastors*

The Rev. David McMillan - *Pastor Emeritus*

Dr. Christopher Gage - *Director of Music*

Lisa Faso - *Office Manager*

Carol Rozmiarek-*Financial Secretary*

Leonard Robbins - *Church Custodian*

Every Church Member – *Minister*

The Overbrook Quartet

Iris Fairfax-*Soprano*, Lois Randel-*Mezzo-Soprano*,

Toffer Mihalka-*Tenor*, Matthew Lulofs-*Bass*