
Overbrook Presbyterian Church



Worship Service
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 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: Trudy Sheau; Acolyte: Sam Wong
Dr. Christopher Gage, Director of Music

The Chancel Flowers are given to the glory of God
by Sharon Parker in memory of parents and grandparents.

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 prefer these versions.

Ushers:

Robert Harden, Jr, Davorka Sabljak, Aimerie Scherluebbe, Will Schick,
Trudy Sheau, and Kevin Davis

Opener/Closer:

Mike Rottinger

Deacons Delivering Flowers:

Alan Sigler and Angie Goodall

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. G. Walther
Gottes Sohn ist kommen (verses 3 and 4) (1684-1748)

INTROIT Eleanor Daley
My soul doth magnify the Lord (b. 1955)

❖CALL TO WORSHIP *from Psalm 80*

One: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

Many: Stir up your might, and come to save us!

One: Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven, and see;
have regard for this vine,

**Many: Then we will never turn back from you; give us life,
and we will call on your name.**

**All: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

❖HYMN No. 102 NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND
Savior of the Nations, Come

GREETING *The Rev. Raymond Bonwell*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT

CANDLE *Aqueelah and Steven Folwell*

RESPONSE: Hymn No. 88 VENI EMMANUEL
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(Verse 7, then Verse 1)

SERMON

The Rev. Raymond Bonwell

“Laboring Forth!”

(Following the Sermon, students in Grades 3-12 will depart for Sunday School.)

❖HYMN No. 83

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

Creator of the Stars of Night

❖AFFIRMATION OF FAITH-(Confession of 1967 – 9.31, The Ministry of Reconciliation – The Mission of the Church)

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God’s reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God’s message of reconciliation and shares God’s labor of healing the hostilities which separate people from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to God’s call.

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

“Ah, my Savior” from *Christmas Oratorio*
Iris Fairfax, soprano

J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)

❖DOXOLOGY

HYMN No. 607

❖PRAYER OF DEDICATION

❖HYMN (on next page)

GABRIEL’S MESSAGE

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

❖BENEDICTION

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say—

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)
 Music: *Gabriel's Message*, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943)

♩ - 66
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SENDING FORTH

❖ CHORAL RESPONSE

George Thalben-Ball

They that doeth the will of God

(1896-1987)

POSTLUDE

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

Paul Manz

(1919-2009)



☞ This Week at Overbrook Presbyterian Church ☞

Sunday, December 23	11:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour
Monday, December 24	5:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Family Service followed by dinner
	7:00 p.m.	Gingerbread House Decorating
	9:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Sunday, December 30	9:15 a.m.	Adult Forum
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
	11:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour

The cover artwork, is a relief sculpture in stone of the Magnificat at the Cathedral of Mary our Queen in Baltimore, Maryland. This picture is in the public domain, was taken by Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P., and is part of Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

☞ Looking Ahead: Adult Christian Education ☞

Wednesday, Dec. 26, No Adult Bible Study – Bible Study will continue in January. Stay tuned!

Sunday, Dec. 30, 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum – What is so special about a New Year?

☞ Looking Ahead: OPC Happenings ☞

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 is available online and during coffee hour for donations, set-up and clean-up. Any families who are interested in the Gingerbread House Decorating are asked to email office@overbrookpresb.org 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.

Sunday, December 30

Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m. Join us next Sunday, the first Sunday after Christmas, to hear the Word from Colossians 3:12-17 (New Testament Epistle) and Luke 2:41-52 (Gospel). The sermon title is “Five Golden Rings!”

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, and some just looking forward to beginning the experience.. 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 by email at newlife5125@gmail.com. We are looking forward to seeing you.

Saturday, January 5, 2019

OPC Youth New Year’s Celebration-5:00-8:00pm. Come celebrate the start of the new year with dinner, games, and a movie! We will be celebrating in the newly “refurbished” Youth Room!

Sunday, January 6, 2019

Epiphany Sunday, January 6, 2019. Epiphany traditionally marks the appearance of the Magi (wise men) and their recognition of Jesus Christ. Sunday School begins for youth at 9:15 a.m. and for adults at 9:30 a.m.; adults are invited and welcome to participate in a four-week Bible study on the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)). Worship for everyone is at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

“The Art of Advent: seven centuries of great sacred art at the Philadelphia Museum of Art” tour. All are welcome to join our very own Peter Seidel, art teacher and Overbrook member, on this tour of the art museum. We will gather on the second-floor balcony of the Great Hall in the Philadelphia Museum of Art at 1:30 p.m. Sunday at the museum is “pay as you wish.”

General Announcements:

New Start for Sunday School: 9:30-10:15 a.m. 2019 brings a new curriculum, a new year, and a new time for Sunday School! Starting on January 6, Sunday School classes for students in Pre-K through Grade 12 will be held each Sunday from 9:30-10:15 a.m. Parents and all Adults are welcome for a four-week Bible study on the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7).

Coffee Hour Hosts are needed for December 30. Instructions for coffee hour 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!

AN INVITATION TO CONVERSATION:



Below is a letter of invitation from Howard Friend, who has been hired as a consultant by OPC. Howard is a Presbyterian minister, congregational consultant, spiritual mentor and preacher. He was a called pastor for thirty years and an interim pastor for five. He is founder and lead consultant of the Parish Empowerment Network through which he has led

workshops and retreats for over 150 congregations and non-profit organizations in twenty-five states and four foreign countries. Howard is president of the Karitas Foundation that has led mission trips to Mexico, Nicaragua, Haiti, Jamaica and India and sponsors community-based empowerment-focused projects in several countries, a focus in Mexico. He calls himself a contemplative activist. Howard has written two books and many articles.

Dear Overbrook Church,

My name is Howard Friend. I am a congregational consultant, and the church has hired me to accompany you through this time of transition. I'd love to meet with you.

This has been quite a year and a half for your church. Maybe longer. Times of smooth sailing and times of turbulent waters. Transitions are never easy. Church leaders have invited me to invite you to sign up for forty-five-minute conversations: your thoughts and feelings, your ideas and suggestions, what's being easy and what's being difficult. I am a good listener. What we talk about will be confidential. You can come alone or with up to three others.

I will take notes during our conversations, gathering and then summarizing what you share, then preparing a report for the church's leadership. Copies of that report will be available upon request.

I plan to be here for the first of these conversations Thursday, Jan. 3, 2019, from 2 to 9 p.m. for on-the-hour 45-minute conversations. There will be a sign-up sheet at Coffee Hour, or you can call the church office to reserve a time. I'd love to have a full day.

I am looking forward to meeting you.

Blessings,
Howard Friend

Sermon Notes

Prayer List

- ◆ Prayers for continued recovery for Gwen Harden as she recovers from gallstone surgery.
- ◆ 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 is home recovering from hip replacement surgery.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ John Nathaniel is still recovering from a 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 COMMITTEES AND CONTACTS

Christian Education	Becky Lazo: rebeccalazo@hotmail.com
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OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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www.overbrookpresb.org

The Rev. Raymond Bonwell - *Bridge Pastor*

The Rev. David McMillan - *Pastor Emeritus*

Dr. Christopher Gage - *Director of Music*

Sharon Parker - *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.**
