

**MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**December 15, 2024 11:00 A.M.**

“The mark of a great church is not its seating capacity,  
but its sending capacity.”  
~ Mike Stachura

**PRELUDE**

**LIGHTING OF THE 3<sup>rd</sup> ADVENT CANDLE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**OPENING PRAYER** *(Written by Rosanna Khan)*

Our Heavenly Father, we pray to you today. We thank you for this new day that you have given us, and for all the many blessings. And we thank you for giving us the strength to worship together. Help us to understand your Word, apply it to our daily lives, and share it with others. Please protect our loved ones and those who struggle around the world. We ask this in Jesus' Holy name, Amen.

**\*HYMN:** “Joy to the World!”

Hymn No. 270

**\*CONFESSION**

**\*Invitation**

**\*Prayer of Confession:** *in unison*

Precious Lord, we frequently live our lives with such small mindsets. We confess that we walk in dark places, trapped deep in our interior worlds of fear and failings. Meanwhile, we miss the coming King, poised to bring hope to the earth. Forgive us for being stuck in our comfortable and dormant routines. Bring us into a life full of your presence. Illuminate our vision, so that we can once again behold our greatest love. We wait in eager anticipation for Jesus, the assurance of our salvation. Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

**\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:**

*“An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.’”*

*Matthew 1: 20-21, page 1497*

**RESPONSE:**

Hymn No. 813

“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
World without end.” Amen, Amen.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WORSHIP WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**\*Doxology:** “Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise Him all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.” Amen.

**\*Offertory Prayer**

**CHILDREN 4 YEARS – 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ARE DISMISSED TO JR. CHURCH**

**THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**\*HYMN:** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hymn No. 277

**SCRIPTURE READING**

1 Peter 1: 10-12, page 1887

**SERMON**

“How to Amaze an Angel”

Rev. Robert Emberger

**\*HYMN:** “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Hymn No. 278

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*RESPONSE:**

Hymn No. 249

“O come, let us adore Him!  
O come, let us adore Him!  
O come, let us adore Him—  
Christ, the Lord!”

**\*POSTLUDE**

*\*Those who are able are asked to stand*

## NEW PRAYER FOCUS

- Praises and continued prayer for Karen Toner's niece's, baby boy, Paxton who had a successful surgery but is still at CHOP.
- Bridget Riordan, Amy Ferretti's daughter-in-law, having Mohs surgery on 12/27 removing skin cancer from between her eyes.
- Dan Berger Jr., having his 2<sup>nd</sup> surgery for hearing loss.
- Chelsea Wise, friend of the Blau family, mother of 5, diagnosed with Graves disease.
- Marianne & Ed Walker, sister & brother-in-law of Don McGettigan, several health issues.



## MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

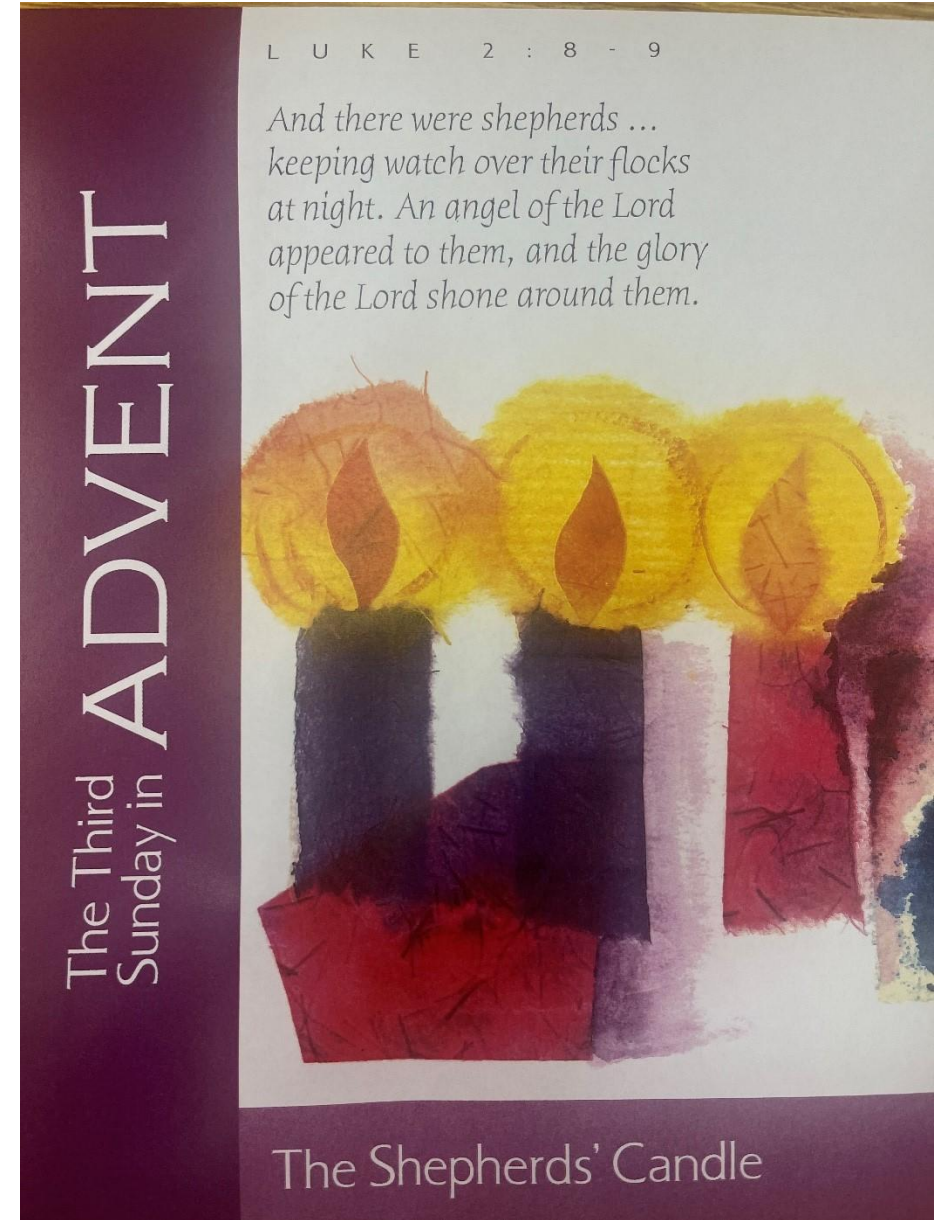
Bob Emberger – approved for less invasive heart surgery, high risk  
Joe Hauptmann – recovering from kidney stone surgery  
Susan Jorett – diagnosed w/gastroparesis  
Enid Milligan – recovering from a stroke  
Ann Mulholland – various health issues  
Pat Salemno  
Lois Wanushek – health issues

**\*Urgent Prayer Needed**

**+Just added this week**

## MINISTRY TEAM

Amy Ferretti, Administrative Assistant  
Olena Haviuk-Sheremet, Organist  
Amy Blau, Clerk of Session  
Jesse Acosta, Joel Allen, Sexton



## WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH

We extend a warm welcome to all who worship with us today. We pray by the hearing of His Word, you find your burdens lighter, your heart encouraged, and your soul refreshed.

“Be exalted, O Lord, in your strength; we will sing and praise Your might.”  
Psalm 21:13

### THIS WEEK AT RPC

|           |                 |                           |
|-----------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| TODAY     | 11:00 AM        | WORSHIP                   |
| MONDAY    | NO OFFICE HOURS |                           |
| TUESDAY   | 10:00 AM        | Office Hours until 3:00PM |
| WEDNESDAY | 10:00 AM        | Office Hours until 3:00PM |

### UPCOMING EVENTS

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>TODAY</b>              | Joint Officers Meeting<br>Angel Tree gifts due |
| December 24 <sup>th</sup> | Christmas Eve.<br>Candlelight Service 6:00PM   |



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**TO THE PULPIT, DR. ROBERT EMBERGER.** Bob was born and raised in Philadelphia. He is a graduate of Cairn University, Biblical Theological Seminary, and holds a doctorate in pastoral counseling from Westminster Theological Seminary. Bob has served as the

Executive Director of the Whosoever Gospel Mission since 1989. The Whosoever Gospel Mission introduces homeless men to the loving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, provides for their basic needs, and equips them with the skills and resources they need to achieve productive, independent living. He has been married for 46 years to Marcia who works full-time as a registered nurse. Bob and Marcia have four adult children and nine grandchildren. He enjoys camping, reading, stamp collecting, gardening, traveling and pizza.

**THANK YOU.** Thank you all who donated food, paper goods and cash to our Disciples Basket Pantry. Because of you, we had plenty of food to help feed 3 families at Thanksgiving. May God bless you for your kindness and generosity in supporting this much needed mission. Please continue giving for our families in need at Christmas. In God's Work, Nancy Rakus.



**ANGEL TREE.** This year, we will continue to support the Whosoever Gospel Mission through our annual Angel Tree gifts. Please refer to the wish list that has been inserted into the bulletin for a list of gift suggestions. All donations are due back to church **TODAY.**

**OFFERING ENVELOPES.** Your 2025 giving envelopes are now available in the back of the Narthex. If you regularly gave this past year, *whether you are a member or not*, you have envelopes assigned to you for next year. Note: Some of the envelope numbers have been re-numbered. If you have questions, please reach out to Amy Blau or the church office.



**ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED...**



**CHRISTMAS MAILBOX.** Want to send your church family holiday cards? Don't pay for postage! Use our Christmas mailboxes instead! Drop your Christmas cards in the alphabetized bins located in the Narthex and don't forget to check for cards addressed to you. We will not be mailing any cards that are left over after the New Year.

**WHOSOEVER GOSPEL MISSION.** Is looking for volunteers to help set-up and wrap gifts for their homeless men living at the Mission *this* Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:30AM – 4:00PM, when the men at the Mission will be holiday shopping for their loved ones. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated.

The address is: 101 E Cheltenham Ave, Phila., PA 19144.



**2025 DIRECTORY.** We are updating our directory to be handed out in the new year. If you have moved, gotten a new phone number, or have begun worshiping with us in the past year, please contact the church office (215-342-2112 or [rpc19111@gmail.com](mailto:rpc19111@gmail.com)) so that we can add you to our directory. There will also be a directory change clipboard on the table in narthex you can fill out. If you have begun worshiping with us in the past year, please also include your month and day of birth for our birthday list.

