

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE
December 22, 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 4th ADVENT CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER

***HYMN:** “Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

Hymn No. 273

***CONFESSION**

***Invitation**

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

Lord God, your goodness, beauty, and power are too much for us to fully comprehend. Your ways are higher than our ways, and your thoughts higher than our thoughts. But in our pride and self-importance, we attempt to impose our ways and thoughts on you. We try to force your nature into a box, to reshape you into our broken image. Forgive us for thinking too highly of ourselves and too little of you. Thank you for the immeasurable grace and mercy displayed in Christ’s coming to us, for giving us a way to truly know the Father through the Son. By your Spirit, root out our pride and shape us into Jesus’ likeness. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:**

*“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: 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 – 5TH 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:** “Love Has Come!”

Hymn No. 256

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1: 46-55, page 1589

SERMON

“A Gift of Love”

Dr. Heather Rice

***HYMN:** “What Child Is This?”

Hymn No. *(see insert)*

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE:**

Hymn No. 281

“This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shep-herds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.”

***POSTLUDE**

**Those who are able are asked to stand*

NEW PRAYER FOCUS

- Beverly Hernandez's brother-in-law Willie had surgery on 12/16 for blood clots and clogged veins in his heart.
- Caleb, the 8 yr. old son of Ann Mulholland's friend fell off a cliff into water remaining there for 2 hrs. Caleb is in a coma in CHOP.
- Bridget Riordan, Amy Ferretti's daughter-in-law, having Mohs surgery on 12/27 removing skin cancer from between her eyes.



MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

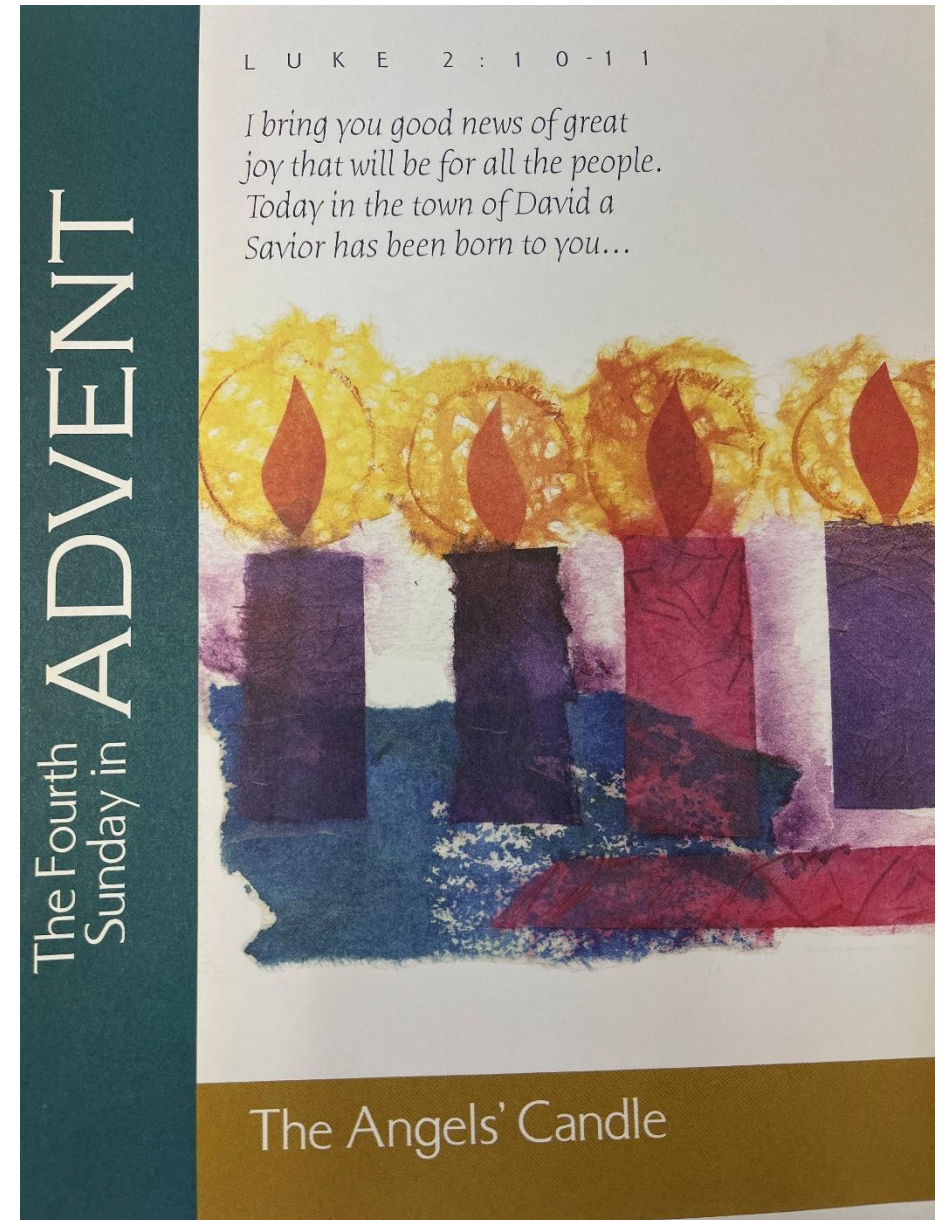
Bob Emberger – getting TEE test on artificial aortic valve 12/18
Ann Mulholland – various health issues
Pat Salemno
Lois Wanushek – health issues

*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	10:00AM	Office Hours until 3:00PM
WEDNESDAY	MERRY CHRISTMAS	
THURSDAY	10:00AM	Office Hours until 3:00PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY	Potluck Luncheon
December 24 th	Christmas Eve. Candlelight Service 6:00PM



ANNOUNCEMENTS



WELCOME TO THE PULPIT, DR. HEATHER RICE. Born and raised in Philadelphia, Heather is the Director of the Whosoever Gospel Mission in Germantown where she has served for 29 years, sharing the love of Christ with homeless men since she was a freshman

at Central High School. She's a graduate of Cairn University, Westminster Theological Seminary, and holds a doctorate in urban mission from Biblical Theological Seminary (now Mission Seminary). Heather is passionate about helping others find and drink deeply of God's grace in Christ through her relationships, her work at the Mission, and her preaching and teaching ministry throughout the Greater Philadelphia area. She lives in Northeast Philadelphia with her cat, Pickles, and loves gardening, camping, and spending time with her friends and family.

LUNCHEON. Please plan on staying after service **today** for our potluck luncheon. This is a time of fellowship and to share good food with our church family.



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.

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 worshipping with us in the past year, please contact the church office (215-342-2112 or 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.

Please also include your month and day of birth for our birthday list.

