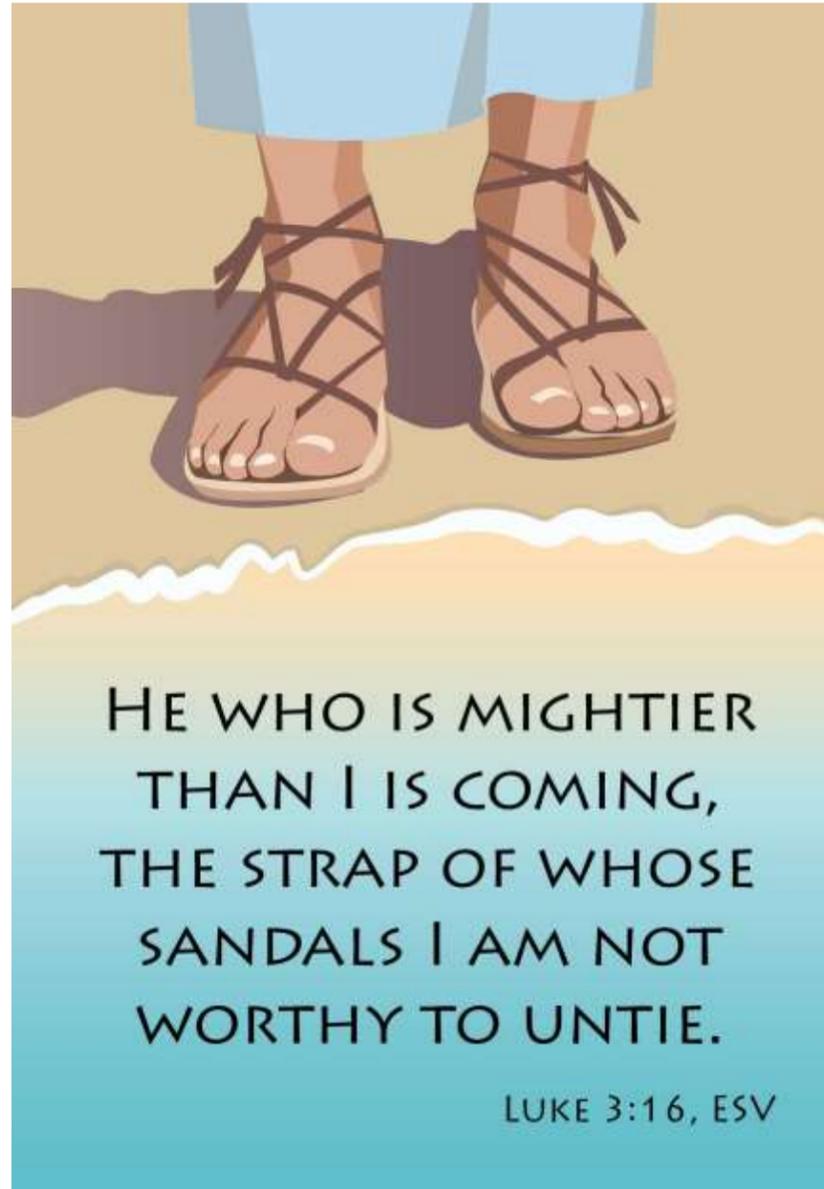


Gwynedd Square Presbyterian Church



The Reverend RJ Leek, Head of Staff
837 Sumneytown Pike Lansdale, PA 19446
215 699-9159 www.gwyneddsquare.org
*A welcoming place to discover where you belong
in the family of God*



December 16, 2018

8:30 a.m.

December 16, 2018

10:45 a.m.

We Gather in God's Name

Songs Hosanna (Emmanuel)
Shout to the Lord

Time for Greeting/Passing of the Peace
Advent Candle

We Remember God's Work in Our Lives

Song Who You Say I Am
(Please bring prayer cards forward during this time)

Confession

Prayers of the People

Song Holy Spirit

We Listen to God's Word

Scripture
First Reading Philippians 4:4-7
Second Reading Luke 3:7-18

Message Sharing Is Caring Rev. RJ Leek

We Answer God's Call

Song The Lord's Prayer

Offering *(Please bring offerings during the song)*

Benediction
One: Go in peace.
All: We will go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Hearing Impaired: Worshipers who need amplification devices may obtain them from the ushers prior to the service. Please return them to an usher after the service.

Large Print bulletins and hymn books are available in the narthex. Please see an usher.

SILENT MEDITATION "He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree." ~Roy L. Smith

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign the Signature of Friendship pad. Pass it along and back, noting and greeting those worshipping with you and especially the stranger in our midst. Also please wear a nametag, so that members and guests alike may greet one another by name following worship.

ADVENT CANDLE

PRELUDE On This Day Earth Shall Ring arr. Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP (Unison)

Laboring God, with axe and winnowing fork you clear a holy space where hurt and destruction have no place, and a little child holds sway. Clear our lives of hatred and despair, sow seeds of joy and peace, that shoots of hope may spring forth and we may live in harmony with one another. Amen.

* **Hymn** What Child Is This #53

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (unison)

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ. We believe that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We believe that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker. We believe that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy God, we confess that we do not walk in your light. We hurt and destroy one another and neglect the poor and hungry. We let evil grow among us and fail to bear good fruit. Forgive us, God of grace. Awaken us to your Word, so that we may be ready to welcome you with joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: Amen. . . Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!
All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

* **THE PEACE**

"May the peace of Christ be with you" . . . "and also with you."

- * **RESPONSE OF PRAISE** Emmanuel
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us! His name is called Emmanuel.
- OFFERING**
OFFERTORY Do You Hear What I Hear? arr. Nowak
- * **DOXOLOGY** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow #592
*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.*
- * **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**
- PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*Using debts and debtors*) Page 16
- * **HYMN** Comfort, Comfort You My People #3
- TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS**
Children age 3 through second grade may leave for Children's Church after the message.
- ANTHEM** A Shoot Shall Come Forth Horn
- FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON** Philippians 4:4-7 page 955
One: The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.
- SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** Luke 3:7-18 page 834
One: The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.
- SERMON** Sharing Is Caring Rev. RJ Leek
- ANTHEM** Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
- * **BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE**
One: Go in peace.
All: We will go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.
- * **POSTLUDE** Gesu Bambino arr. Ployhar
A Carol Festival arr. Forsblad

Worship Notes:

Participants in the Service, December 16, 2018: 8:30 a.m.: Worship Leader: Bill McGarvey; Usher: Bill Duncan; Welcome Center Host: Sharon Bisio; Advent Candle Lighters: TBD. 10:45 a.m.: Lay Assistant: Clyde Roberts; Children's Sermon: Liz Staber; Children's Church Leader: Jessie Bradica; Ushers: Tom Howe, Anne Tappen, Marge Kuhn, Ruth Austin, and TBD; Welcome Center Host: Ruth Linn; Advent Candle Lighters: Eppers family; Sound Room Attendant: Sam Thornton.

Participants in the Service, December 23, 2018: 8:30 a.m.: Worship Leader:

N/A; Usher: N/A; Welcome Center Host: N/A; Advent Candle Lighters: N/A. 10:45 a.m.: Lay Assistant: June Rushmore; Children's Sermon: Liz Staber; Children's Church Leader: Jessie Bradica; Ushers: Paul Bisio, Ruth Austin, Jim Horn, TBD, and TBD; Welcome Center Host: Harry Tweedie; Advent Candle Lighters: Cole family; Sound Room Attendant: Jim Watters.

Our Staff: Rev. RJ Leek, Head of Staff (rjleek@gwyneddsquare.org); Donna J. Stewart, Secretary (office@gwyneddsquare.org); Jeff Varner, Interim Organist (jvarnerod@comcast.net); Jeremy Varner, Interim Choir/Band Director (jvarner@gwyneddsquare.org); Jessie Bradica, GSPC Youth & Family Ministry Leader (jbradica@gwyneddsquare.org); Fred Blankenburg, GSPC Youth & Family Ministry Co-Leader ; (fblankenburg@gwyneddsquare.org); Lisa Cable, nursery attendant; ex officio: Louise M. Gerdemann, Minister of Music Emerita.

Opportunities for Service and Giving:

Noisy Offering: The Noisy Offering will be collected next week during worship at both services. Collections will go toward various mission projects such as the Heifer Project, 3 cents a meal, and The CROP Walk, just to name a few.

Sound System update: Thanks to the generosity of many in the congregation, the sound system improvement from earlier this year is almost paid for. Please consider making one more donation before the end of the year. There are green envelopes in the pews. In 2019 we are looking at filming our worship services and making them available for shut-ins.

Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate: As the holiday season approaches, remember to buy some of the Fair Trade coffee or chocolate bars from the shelves in the library. See the new orange chocolate bar. This project offers a special link between our congregation and communities around the world. Through fair trade, farmers in Latin America, Africa, and Asia work together in a cooperative to sell their coffee directly to international middlemen. The farmers receive a fair price for their efforts and needs, and they use environmentally friendly growing practices. Our participation ensures that more of the money we spend on coffee reaches the hardworking farmers who actually grow it.

Deacons' Angel Tree: Our 2018 Angel Tree is drawing to a close. A heartfelt thank you to all who have brought in gifts so far. If you took an angel and haven't brought in your gift yet, gifts for Hope Prison Ministries are due by today, Dec. 16. For any questions or issues please talk with Sharon or Paul Bisio.

Alternative Gift-Giving Mart for Family and Friends

This year's Alternative Gift-Giving Mart (AGGM) final day will be today, December 16, and will benefit six local and international organizations. You may pick up a booklet describing each organization in the narthex. The AGGM will be open for purchases after each Sunday worship service through today, December 16.

Habitat Faith Build Day- Join us at Gwynedd Square's Faith Build Day on Saturday, January 12. We will be working indoors on Habitat's twin houses on Bush St, Bridgeport, and will carpool from the church parking lot that morning.

Sign up on the church bulletin board by the water fountain; bring a friend- the more the merrier!

Our Church Family:

Pastor RJ's Bible Challenge Question: What was the second city Joshua destroyed? If you know the answer, please email Pastor RJ. There will be a new question each week to test your knowledge.

Christmas Luncheon: Christmas Luncheon: Sunday, December 23, following the combined worship service, please join us in Weber Hall for a luncheon. There will be tickets to purchase (\$5/person, max \$20/family, under 6 are free) out in the narthex. Manna on Main Street's new catering service, Common Grounds, will provide the sandwiches. Choices of sandwiches will include: Italian cold cuts, turkey with bacon and onions, grilled vegetables, and roast beef. There will be various toppings available. The choice will be rolls or for gluten-free diet, there will be some wraps. We are asking everyone to bring a salad, fruit, or a dessert. Drinks provided.

Annual Report Reminder: All boards, committees, and fellowship groups should prepare a written report of their group's work and activity during 2018. Due date is Saturday, January 5, so start planning ahead!

Family Mailboxes in Library: The December Spire has been distributed to mailboxes around the church (or mailed to those without mailboxes.) Check your mailbox. Verify the name on the mailbox, as the location of each family mailbox may move as new members are added or others deleted per their request. Remember the names are UNDER each mailbox. Don't forget to regularly check your family mailbox.

Youth and Family:

All events listed here are open to our whole church family

Youth volunteers needed to dress up as shepherds and kings for the 7 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Let Jessie or Pastor RJ know if you are interested.

GSPC Youth and Family Ministry – Christmas Movie and PJ's Party on Friday, December 21, from 7-9 p.m. in Weber Hall. Wear your coziest pajamas; snacks will be provided. Join us for a movie, snacks, and reindeer games. Please RSVP to Jessie Bradica at jbradica@gwyneddsquare.org All ages are welcome!

Martin Luther King Day sock challenge and service project. Please donate white athletic socks and/or individually wrapped snack bars or crackers to donate to the homeless. Join us Sunday, January 20, for a crazy sock stuffing party at Earl Bowl. Time to be announced.

Our Church This Week

Sunday, December 16

Church Office closed

8:30 a.m. – Worship service

9:35 a.m. – Adult Forum in the Calvin Room

9:35 a.m. – Sunday School

10:45 a.m. – Worship service with GSPC Concert Band
2:00 p.m. – Korean Open Door Church

Monday, December 17

Church office hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 18

Church office hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 19

Church office hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m. – Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary

Thursday, December 20

Church office hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

6:45 p.m. – Band rehearsal in the sanctuary

7:45 p.m. – Sonrise rehearsal in the sanctuary

Friday, December 21

Pastor RJ's day off

Church office hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

8:00-10:00 p.m. – Korean Open Door Church in the sanctuary

Saturday, December 22

Church Office closed

7:30 a.m. -1 p.m. – Lansdale Korean School in various parts of the building

Sunday, December 23

Church Office closed

8:30 a.m. – NO Worship service

9:35 a.m. – NO Adult Forum in the Calvin Room

9:35 a.m. – NO Sunday School

10:45 a.m. – Combined worship service

12:00 p.m. – Christmas luncheon in Weber Hall

2:00 p.m. – Korean Open Door Church



Upcoming Fall Events

Youth volunteers needed to dress up as shepherds and kings for the 7 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Let Jessie or Pastor RJ know if you are interested.

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MOPS 6:30-7:30 p.m.; meet second Thursday of every month

Keep a look out for Youth and Family Ministry events throughout the year!

For Sunday School info, please contact Trisha Leek. Contact Jessie Bradica, jbradica@gwyneddsquare.org or Fred Blankenburg, fblankenburg@gwyneddsquare.org if you need assistance with any GSPC youth or family event.

Gwynedd Square Presbyterian Church Activities

Alternative Gift-Giving Mart

Today is the last day to participate in this year's Alternative Gift-Giving Mart (AGGM) and will benefit six local and international organizations. You may pick up a booklet describing each organization in the narthex. The AGGM will be open for purchases after each worship service.

Combined Worship December 23 at 10:45 a.m.

GSPC youth will be performing and there will be a live nativity

Christmas Luncheon immediately following in Weber Hall

purchase your ticket today in the narthex and sign up to bring a side dish

Christmas Eve Services

7 p.m. – Christmas Eve Youth and Family Service with candle lighting

10 p.m. – Christmas Eve service with communion and candle lighting

