

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS\***  
**Week of December 22, 2019**

|         |         |  |
|---------|---------|--|
| Sun 22  | 3:00pm  | Cookies & Carols                           |
|         | 4:45pm  | G3 Youth Group Christmas Extravaganza      |
| Tues 24 | 7:30pm  | Christmas Eve Worship                      |
| Wed 25  |         | Church Office Closed for Christmas         |
| Sat 28  | 9:00am  | Great Valley Prayer                        |
| Sun 29  | 9:00am  | Christian Education Hour (One adult class) |
|         | 10:00am | Corporate Worship                          |

\* There are a variety of weekly Life Groups that meet in individuals' homes. Pick up a spreadsheet in Dickerson Hall or check out our website for more info.

**STAFF**

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Pastor                                 | Keith Fink        |
| Director of Ministries                 | Jim Shackleton    |
| Pastoral Associate                     | Robert Scott      |
| Director of Worship and Communications | Christopher Starr |
| Organist                               | Sharon Smoker     |
| Director of Preschool in the Valley    | Karen Erickson    |
| Facilities Supervisor                  | Christopher White |

Great Valley Presbyterian Church  
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*Great Valley is a member congregation of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2019**

*What Child Is This?*

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Prelude                         | Joy to the World – Handel-Ashford                    |
| Welcome and Announcements       |  |
| Call to Worship                 |  |
| Advent Reading                  | Craig and Karen Erickson                             |
| Songs                           | Angels We Have Heard on High – #93<br>Glorious Light |
| Confession of Sin               |  |
| Unison Assurance of Forgiveness | Acts 10:43   |
| Song                            | Here I Am to Worship                                 |
| Prayers of the People           |  |
| Offertory                       | Unto Us Is Born a Son                                |
| Doxology                        | Praise God from Whom All Blessings – #556            |
| Prayer of Thanksgiving          |  |

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Song (children dismissed)                                 | Reformation Hymn                      |
| Old Testament   | Leviticus 16:29-34 – Elizabeth Walton |
| Message   | Rev. Keith Fink                       |
| <b>The One Who Loves Us and has Freed Us from Our Sin</b> |                                       |
| Revelation 1:4-6  |                                       |

**WE DEPART TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD**

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Song        | The First Noel (verses 1,2,4 & 6) – #94 |
| Benediction |   |
| Postlude    | The Angels – Lorenz                     |

**ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE**

It is a joy and a privilege to gather together to praise our God. May you sense His presence here today in worship and fellowship (Heb. 10:25).

**Families** – Please see the cards in the pew racks for an explanation of family worship at GVPC. Children are welcome to stay with you during the worship service or participate in the following ministries:

**Infant Care** (*up to 18 months*) in the Nursery. Today's caregiver: Lynne Shackleton.

**Rompers Church** (*18 mos. – K*) in Room 1 of the Children's Wing. Today's leader: Patty Fink.

**Jr. Church** (*1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> graders*) in the Library. Children are dismissed from the service during the song before the Scripture reading. A parent or older sibling should pick them up after the service. Today's leader: Peggy Gould.

**5<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> graders** in the **Library Lounge Area**. They are dismissed from the service during the song before the Scripture reading, and study the sermon text for the day. Today's leader: Cinda Marturano.

**Greeters** – Today's greeters are Dale & Carolyn Sanville.

**Public and Private Prayer** – The yellow cards in the pew racks are for praise or prayer requests to be read during the Prayers of the People. Fill one out and pass it to the center aisle for the prayer leader to collect during the second song. If you prefer your request to be private, please meet Bob Wert in the Prayer Room following the service.

**Deacons on Call** – In December, our deacons Marcia Papson and Rick Constable are on call for assistance.

**Following the Service** – Please join us in the chapel after the service for Coffee Fellowship.

**Bearing One Another's Burdens** (Gal. 6:2) – If you have or know of special needs, concerns, or illnesses among our church family, please call the church office at 610-644-1995.

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

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### Cookies and Carols

**December 22**

All are welcome to attend the annual Great Valley family gathering of *Cookies and Carols* this afternoon at 3:00pm in the Chapel. This is a wonderful, informal time of singing Christmas Carols together and enjoying some delicious treats. Come with old acquaintances and meet some new friends as we celebrate Christ's birth in song!

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### Christmas Eve Worship

**December 24**

Great Valley's take on the traditional Lessons & Carols service, this year we will celebrate with a message from Mark 10:45 entitled "Welcome to Our World," plus readings from God's Word, a variety of solo and ensemble musical presentations, plenty of carols, and Silent Night sung by candlelight.

Interested in assisting with childcare at this service? Contact Jim Shackleton.

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### PHR Winter Fundraiser

You can serve Philadelphia's homeless by supporting PHR's Winter Fundraiser! Christmas floral arrangements for your home, created by Irene Zan, can be purchased in the Chapel; all proceeds go to funding special needs of PHR. Enjoy decorating while helping to serve the homeless. Your generosity will go a long way in helping us engage with the homeless population in Philadelphia as we show the love of Christ through our words and deeds.

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### Heard from the Mission Field

Lynn Newhouse, Novo – Lynn writes in her November 22nd letter about transitions and the opportunities for growth in the midst of change. Cross-cultural workers tend to experience a lot of transitions that can be wearing and confusing. In Lynn's work with missionaries taking her "Journey Deeper" seminars, she spends a significant amount of time addressing the cycles of a transition and how God can use them to form us into His image. Her material is based on a book (*Stuck! Navigating Life and Leadership Transitions* by Terry Walling) that is available on Amazon.

Lynn also reports that the retreat just held in Cambodia was amazing and asks that we pray for the participants to fully understand and apply what they learned. After the retreat, she and husband TK traveled together in Phnom Penh. Praise God for a few fun and productive weeks together in their "old stomping grounds." Read her letter in full posted in Dickerson Hall.

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### Bond or Stock Contributions

If you are considering a bond or stock certificate gift to Great Valley, we recommend two things: 1) contact the church office (610-644-1995) for the instructions to follow in making a contribution, and 2) leave adequate time for the process (we suggest at least a week).

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### Financial Report

We need \$112,000 in December to meet our unified budget goal of \$670,000 for the year. Praise God for another very generous offering this past Sunday, December 15th. Here is where we stand with two Sundays remaining in the year:

|                             |                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| December Contribution Goal  | \$ 112,000       |
| Received thru December 15   | 61,989           |
| Remainder to Reach Our Goal | <u>\$ 50,011</u> |

May we honor the Lord and further his kingdom with our tithes and offerings as we close out a year of blessing.





## 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

UNISON: Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down.  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
All Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love Thou art.  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (Hymn #74)*

Leader: But when the time had fully come, God sent  
His Son, born of a woman, born under law,  
to redeem those under law, that we might  
receive the full rights of sons.

*Galatians 4:4-5*

Lighter: As we light this fourth Advent candle,  
we are reminded that Christ came for a  
purpose – our redemption.

UNISON: Ponder the achievement of God. He doesn't  
condone sin, nor does He compromise His  
standard. He doesn't ignore our rebellion  
nor does He relax His demands. Rather than  
dismiss our sin, He assumes our sin and,  
incredibly, sentences Himself.

God is holiness honored. Our sin is punished...  
and we are redeemed. God does what we cannot  
do so we can be what we dare not dream: perfect  
before God."

*from In the Grip of Grace by Max Lucado*