



“Transforming Lives Through the Good News of Jesus Christ”

ARDMORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ardmore, Pennsylvania

10:30 A.M., DECEMBER 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

We welcome you warmly to Ardmore Presbyterian Church where we strive to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

We are especially thankful for visitors. If you have a **prayer request**, please email it to Rev. Jason Grimes at jgrimes@ardmorepres.org or call 610-642-6650x100.

A recording or live streaming of **Sunday's service** will be posted online at www.ardmorepres.org and on our YouTube page.

Please spread the word to those who are interested in viewing our virtual worship.

In the tradition of the **Presbyterian Church USA**, our church is governed by a group of elders called the Session. Elders are elected by the congregation, and serve for specific terms of service. Together with our pastor, elders are called to exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline, and have responsibilities for the life of the congregation, as well as the whole church.

SESSION

Class of 2024

Chip Cobb, Jr.
Harry Hannigan
Robie Lawlace
Jim Rowe

Class of 2025

Pat Corl
Barry Jeffries
Frank Miller
Ben Yurchak

Class of 2026

Shirley Fishburne
Randy Lawlace
Gary Lovett
Kathy Toal

Donald Poorman,
Clerk of Session

Likewise, our congregation elects members to serve on the diaconate. The ministry of a deacon is first and foremost one of care. Care for those both within and beyond the community of faith. Our deacons visit with members, organize support for those in need, and assist in the care of our church property.

DIACONATE

Class of 2024

Dan Del Duca,
Co-Moderator
Carol Fritz
Sarah Schreiner

Class of 2025

Stephanie McGrory,
Co-Moderator
Jim Coath
Jan Terwiesch

Class of 2026

Kofi Owusu
Barb Wood
Barbara McNutt

*Standing for those who are able.

People's response in bold type.

GATHERING THE PEOPLE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Angels We Have Heard on High

Dale Wood

The LOVE of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

Rev. Jason Grimes

PRAYER OF ADORATION

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Romans 16)

Frank Miller

The mystery of the ages is now revealed.

To God be the glory forever! Amen.

*HYMN 12

People, Look East

BESANÇON

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Whitney, Eva, and Grace Drukier

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

The Lord will give you a sign.

Look, the young woman is with child.

She shall bear a son,

and name him Emmanuel: God is with us.

LIGHTING OF THE LOVE CANDLE

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Christ is our Peace. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION (Matthew 1)

The angel of the Lord said to Joseph, "Mary will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Confident of God's grace, let us confess our sin and the sin of this world.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your lovingkindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit so our hearts might magnify you, our Lord. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Isaiah 35)

The wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will blossom. The people of God will return with joy and singing.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE (Isaiah 11)

“The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.”

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*RESPONSE, Hymn 36, v. 3

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim,
Thronged the air;

But His mother only,
In her maiden bliss,
Worshiped the beloved
With a kiss.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, our love and strength,
by the power of your Spirit
prepare the way in our hearts
for the coming of your Word,
so that we may see the glorious signs
of your promise fulfilled;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING, Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

If the Assyrians come into our land
and tread upon our soil,
we will raise against them seven shepherds
and eight installed as rulers.

SECOND READING, Luke 1:39-56

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.”
And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

This is the word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

“Whole-Self Worship”

Rev. Jason Grimes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

A Christmas Celebration

Henry Mollicone

1. *Angels from the Realms of Glory*
2. *Lullaby*
3. *Glory to God*
4. *See Amid the Winter’s Snow*
5. *Where Is He?*
6. *O Eastern Star*
7. *Come Unto Him*
8. *All Creation Join in Praising God*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Philippians 2:5-11)

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

PREPARING TO MAKE OUR OFFERING TO GOD (Luke 1)

Let us magnify the Lord,
rejoicing in the one who scatters the proud,
lifts up the lowly, and fills the hungry with good things.

OFFERTORY

In the Bleak Midwinter

William Haller

*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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS

*HYMN 23

Angel We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

People Look East

Kristina Langlois

Christmas Eve Worship
Ardmore Presbyterian Church

December 24th

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Worship Service

10:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols Christmas Eve Service



Christmas Cantata

A Christmas Celebration by Henry Mollicone

Jason Grimes, *Narrator*

Rebecca Simon, *Flute*

William Wozniak, *Percussion*

Shirley Fishburne, *Organ*

Gary Garletts, *Conductor*

Angels From the Realms of Glory

(J. Montgomery, 1771–1854)

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye, who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
*Come, come and worship Christ,
The newborn King of Israel!*

Shepherds in the fields abiding
Watching o'er your flocks by night;
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant Light:
*Come, come and worship Christ,
The newborn King of Israel!*

All creation join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising
To the Eternal Three in One:
*Come, come and worship Christ,
The newborn King of Israel!*

Lullaby

(Anonymous)

Lullay, lullay beloved child,
So fair, so mild, so meek,
The angels stand around thy bed
To watch thy gentle sleep.

O blessed child of Mary fair,
Our hope our faith, our light.
Thou com'st to earth to save the world
Upon this blessed night!

Glory to God

(Luke 2:14)

Glory to God in the highest!
Peace on earth to all men of good will!

See Amid The Winter's Snow

(E. Caswall 1814–1878)

See amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on earth below,
See, the Lamb of God appears,
Promised from eternal years.
*Hail, hail, thou ever blessed morn!
Hail, hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing, sing, through all Jerusalem:
Christ our King is born in Bethlehem!*

Sacred infant all divine,
What a tender love was thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss,
Down to such a world as this!

Hail, hail, thou ever blessed morn!
Hail, hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing, sing, through all Jerusalem:
Christ our King is born in Bethlehem!

Teach, O teach us, holy child,
By thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble thee
In thy sweet humility.

Hail, hail, thou ever blessed morn!
Hail, hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing, sing, through all Jerusalem:
Christ our King is born in Bethlehem

Where Is He?

(Matthew 2:2)

Where is he, the newborn King of Israel?
For we have seen the Eastern Star
and come to worship him.

O Eastern Star

(Anonymous)

O Eastern Star whose beacon light
A gleam on shepherds threw,
To Bethlehem that wond'rous sight
Arabia's sages drew.
On thee in thought we love to gaze
From Western lands afar,
And think upon thy wond'rous rays,
Thou lovely Eastern Star!

O fair the star of eve that sheds
Her light of peace and rest,
And fair the morning star that leads
The day in glory drest;
But still more fair thy form arose,
And lovelier to behold,
Of which a more serene repose,
A brighter glory told.

O Star appointed to adorn
The savior of the world,
The promised child to Judah born
In Bethlehem unfurled;
In whom the peaceful kingdom sealed
Should more and more increase;
In Him the mighty God revealed,
The glorious Prince of Peace!

Come Unto Him

(Matthew 11:28-29)

Come unto Him all ye that labor
and are heavy laden,
and He shall give you rest.
Take His yoke and learn of Him,
for He is meek and lowly of heart,
and ye shall find rest unto your soul.

All Creation Join in Praising God

(J. Montgomery, 1771-1854)

All creation join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising
To the Eternal Three in One:
Come, come and worship Christ,
The newborn King of Israel!

Chancel Choir Personnel

Gary Garletts, *Director of Music*

Soprano

Marsha Core
Elaine Giese
Peggy Leneis
Anna Poorman
Holly Vicki
Kaitlyn Waterson+

Tenor

Barry Jeffries
Bruce Kozak
Jim Longacre+
Sally Moore

Alto

Courtney Capriotti+
Connie Hoelscher*
Elizabeth Luff
Alice Miller

Bass

Greg Gorski
Bob Hoelscher*
Don Poorman
Tom Sitzler+

*Guest Singer

+Section Leader



CODE BLUE Weather Warning Issued

Now through December 24

APC's Code Blue Shelter is currently scheduled to be open this week, with low temperatures dipping to 12° overnight in the coming days. The shelter has been open 14 out of 20 nights this month, and has had guests every night we were open.

17 members of APC have covered shifts to open the shelter to our guests, with 3 more on the schedule in the next few days. We have also welcomed 10 volunteers from other churches and organizations to cover shifts. The shelter can only open if we have volunteers to staff it.

There are 3 shifts that need coverage in the next week. Please consider volunteering for this important ministry. It's an incredibly worthwhile experience and you might even have some fun too! **You can reach out directly to the Code Blue team at codebluelm@gmail.com with any questions and to sign-up to volunteer.**

This Week at APC

- Sun., Dec. 22** 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Small Group (Mill Creek Room)
10:30 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service
 featuring the Christmas Cantata
 In-Person & Livestreamed at ardmorepres.org/live
11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time
11:45 a.m. Youth Choir (Choir Room)
- Tues., Dec. 24** 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Worship Service
10:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols Candlelight Service
- Wed., Dec. 25** **Merry Christmas!**
- Sun., Dec. 29** 10:30 a.m. Lord's Day Worship Service
 In-Person & Livestreamed at ardmorepres.org/live

Christmas Office Hours

The Church Office will be closed
December 25–27, and on January 1.

If you have an immediate need, please email
admin@ardmorepres.org.



The Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree is now in the Children's Chapel waiting to be adorned with mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves for people of all ages.

These new or gently used donations will be given as usual to Chester Eastside Ministries, which offers programs to children and adults and provides resources to improve outcomes for the whole community. They meet basic human needs through food and clothing distributions while also providing a safe environment for education and skill development.



Lift your prayers this week for: Kim O'Rourke, Ross Ellison, Peter Grove, John Abrams, John Polhamus, the Kimrey Family, Phil Jeffries, Jim Dormond, Steve Hibbs, Carolyn Young, the Hsia family and the community of Overbrook Presbyterian Church.

Ongoing Prayers for: Lucille Hannigan, Boots Sheckard, Kate Brooks, Victoria Dean, Jessie DiNome, Rosemary Fisher, Holly Frank, Twila Garletts, Julie Patterson, Chris Rowe, Mary Schreiber, Adrienne Wood, Kathy Toal, Jim Dormond, John Beerbower, Paul Goetsch, Sujatha Manawadu, the Howard Family, Mary Scattergood, the Schreiber Family, Betsy Reif Soto and her son Ezra Soto, and Debbie Young.

We pray for God's provision of healing and wholeness for those who suffer, and God's grace for those who are homebound or living in care facilities. We pray for God's guidance here at APC, with the Church Universal, and all our mission partners. Finally, we lift up our continued prayers for our nation and our world.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Ministers: Entire Congregation

Assisted by:

Rev. Jason Grimes, *Pastor*, jgrimes@ardmorepres.org

Gary Garletts, *Director of Music/Organist*, ggarletts@ardmorepres.org (Ext. 102)

Kaitlyn Waterson, *soprano*; **Courtney Capriotti**, *mezzo-soprano*; **Jim Longacre**, *tenor*; **Tom Sitzler**, *baritone*

Rev. Graham Robinson, *Parish Associate*, gjmtk5@gmail.com

Emily Polhamus, *Director of Administration and Communications*,
epolhamus@ardmorepres.org (Ext. 101)

Irena Reynolds, *Preschool Director*, ireynolds@ardmorepres.org (Ext. 115)

Kristy Cobb, *Finance Manager*, kcobb@ardmorepres.org (Ext. 114)

Bill Waters, *Facilities Manager*, wwaters@ardmorepres.org (Ext. 105)

5 W. Montgomery Avenue, Ardmore, PA 19003-1599

610.642.6650 | www.ardmorepres.org



Online E-Giving – You may now give to APC at any time by going to the church's website (www.ArdmorePres.org) and click on the green "GIVE NOW" button on the top right corner. Or, you may simply scan the QR code on the left here with your phone. Simply set up a new account and start e-giving today!