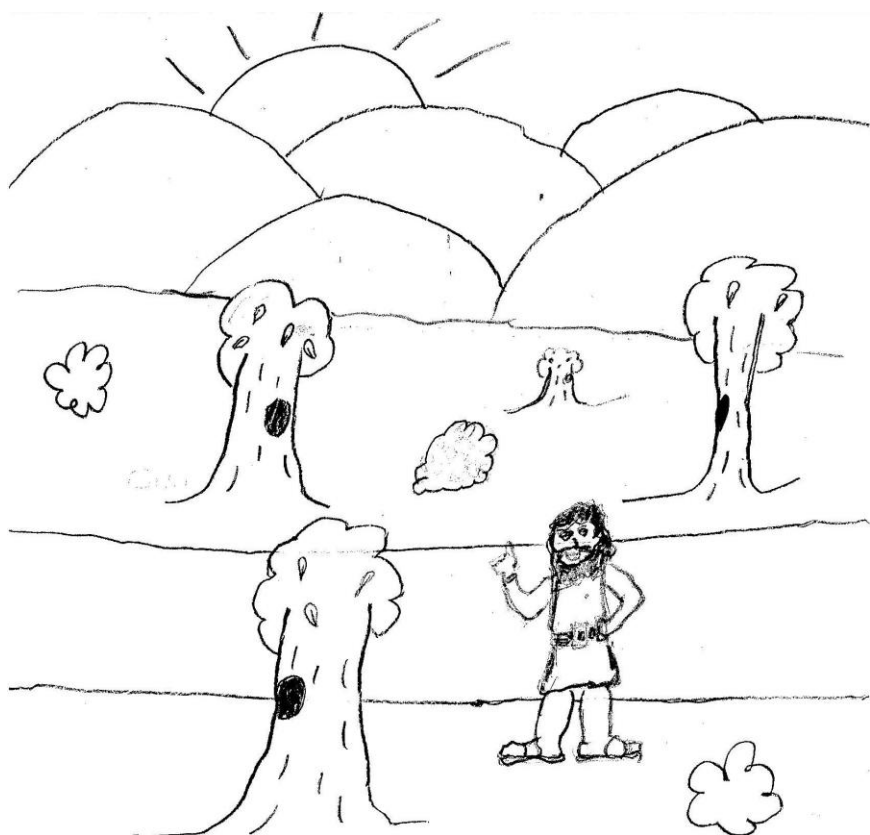


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# Overbrook Presbyterian Church

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Worship Service  
Communion Sunday  
Sunday, December 3, 2017  
10:30 a.m.

*Please enter the sanctuary in a spirit of reverence as we prepare for worship  
and remember to silence all cell phones before the service.*

❖=Stand as you are able.

## GATHERING IN

PRELUDE:

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

J. S. Bach

INTROIT:

Hymn No. 88, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Verse 1—bass solo (Matthew Lulofs)

Verse 2—Overbrook Choir and Congregation

❖CALL TO WORSHIP-*Isaiah 40:3*

Leader: A voice cries, "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,

People: **make straight in the desert a highway for our God."**

Leader: As we worship today,

let us prepare to welcome God's dramatic work in our midst,

People: **in our hearts, in our community, and in all of creation.**

❖HYMN No. 348

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

HELMSLEY

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Van Rawley Family

GREETING

*Pastor Bruce Gillette*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION- *Iona Community: A Creed for Advent*

Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love but also our refusal to forgive. We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love but also our resistance to follow you without question. In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should. Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you with joy, as the shepherds; with gratitude, as Simeon; with obedience, as Mary; with love, as you have loved us. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

❖HYMN No. 581

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

## HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT

Mark1:1-8

Page 32/Pew Bible

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

*Pastor Carolyn Gillette*

*(All Children are welcomed to remain in worship for Communion, should parents so wish, children in Pre-K through Grade 2 may gather in the nursery following Time with Children.)*

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 40:1-11

Page 627/pew Bible

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON “Comfort, O Comfort, My People!” Pastor Bruce Gillette

❖HYMN No. *(Please see last page of bulletin for music)*

Lord, We Long for Words of Comfort

❖AFFIRMATION OF FAITH-*Iona Community: A Creed For Advent*

We believe in God,  
robed in splendor, veiled in mystery,  
ruler alike of darkness and light.

We encounter God in Jesus Christ,  
who was tortured and put to death,  
but whose radiance could not be quenched;

Whose touch brings a blaze of color to a dull, drab world:  
reviving the weary,  
healing the wounded,  
dazzling the satisfied.

We walk with God, guided by the light of God's loving Spirit,  
who enters the shadowed places of our hearts  
and leads us into truth and life.

We wait for God, and for the fulfillment of God's promises,  
for the time when the darkness will hold no fear  
and the light will no longer blind,  
but creation will be made whole once more,  
and God's peace will reign forever. Amen

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

*Pastor Bruce Gillette*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER - *Debts/Debtors*

Page 35, *Glory to God* Hymnal

SHARING OF PEACE (*"The Peace of Christ Be With You", "And Also With You"*)

OFFERING

"Comfort Ye, Comfort Ye My People" from *Messiah*  
Toffer Mihalka, Tenor

G. F. Handel

❖ DOXOLOGY

HYMN No. 607

❖ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

SANCTUS: HYMN No. 552 (Sung By All)

LAND OF REST

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ....

**Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE AND THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Sharing the Bread and Cup

*Communion will be received in the pews today. The Deacons and Elders will bring the trays to your pew and pass it to you, first the bread and then the cup. Take the bread when it comes to you, pass the plate on, and hold your bread till all are served so that all may partake together. And then when the trays of glasses come to you, take a glass, pass on the tray, and hold the glass until all are served. Then all will drink together.*

COMMUNION MOTET

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

The Overbrook Choir

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

❖ HYMN NO. 100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

## SENDING FORTH

❖ BENEDICTION

❖ CHORAL RESPONSE

Draw Nigh to God

George Thalben-Ball

*Please depart quietly for those who wish to listen to the postlude.*

POSTLUDE:

Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland

J.S. Bach

**Welcome to Overbrook Presbyterian Church**  
We are glad you are worshiping with us this morning!

### Notes on Today's Service

If you are a visitor, we invite you to fill out a card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. Our pastors would welcome talking with you after today's worship service or in the future.

### Leading Worship Today:

The Revs. Bruce and Carolyn Gillette - Co-Pastors  
Lay Leader: Andrea Knight, Acolyte: Justin Robinson  
The Overbrook Choir  
Toffer Mihalka, Tenor  
Dr. Christopher Gage, Director of Music

Today's bulletin cover was drawn by Nathan Lazo

**The Chancel Flowers are given to the glory of God**

**Childcare** is available during the worship service. Worship is for all ages, but should your infant or preschooler become restless during worship, excellent childcare is provided in our nursery.

### Worship Kits For Children

are available at the front entrance to the Sanctuary.

**Large Print Bulletins and Hymns are Available.**

Please speak to one of the ushers if you have special needs.

### Communion Servers:

John Baker, Artia Benjamin, Ken Carroll, Elizabeth Cosgriff, Sabrina Johnson, Deb Rottinger, Mike Rottinger and Carol Tulba

### Ushers:

Dick Williamson, Susy Brandt, Bob Kaercher, Jonathan Kopcsik,  
Lori Mason, Peter Seidel and Judy Williamson

## Deacons Delivering Flowers: Ellen Valudes and Sabrina Johnson

Following worship today - please join us for refreshments in the Wistar Morris Room. Thank You to all OPC members and friends who donated pies. If you would like to host an upcoming coffee hour, please sign up now on the sign-up board in the Wistar-Morris Room. Contact Amarilis Stricker at 484-343-0679 with questions.

### This Week at Overbrook Presbyterian Church

Sunday, Dec. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	11:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour
	3:00 p.m.	Messiah Sings
Monday Dec. 4 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	Advent Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee
Tuesday, Dec. 5 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 p.m.	Worship Committee
Wednesday, Dec. 6 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 p.m.	Advent Bible Study-Chapel
	5:00 p.m.	Property Committee
Sunday, Nov. 10 <sup>th</sup>	9:15 a.m.	Advent Bible Study
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service with baptism
	11:30 a.m.	Special Congregational Meeting
	11:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour
	12:00 p.m.	Deacons



### **MESSIAH SING-ALONG**

☞ This Afternoon at 3:00pm - Messiah Sing! We will be continuing this beloved tradition featuring the Overbrook Quartet and organist Paul Fleckenstein. Feel free to bring your own score, or you may purchase one at the concert. A free-will offering will be collected to benefit the music ministry of Overbrook Presbyterian Church.



☞ Advent Bible Study Of Handel's Messiah: Join Overbrook Church members and friends for a four week Advent celebration of *The Messiah*. The choir will sing selections from *The Messiah*, the pastors will preach on the related biblical texts, and there will be Bible studies on the same texts as well. In each class in addition to the Bible study, we will listen to the related section of a traditional recording of *The Messiah* along with a

contemporary version done by Quincy Jones called **Handel's Messiah: Soulful Celebration**. The Bible study will be offered at three different times, beginning on *Sundays at 9:15 A.M.; Mondays at 7:00 P.M.; and Wednesdays at 1:00 P.M.* (note new time for the Wednesday Bible study so Dr. Christopher Gage can join us for this study and offer some musical insights). Each class will continue for a total of four weeks; you are welcome to come to all the sessions or any of them individually. Join us!



☞ OPC's Annual Fair Trade Market-Last Chance –Get that holiday shopping out of the way by purchasing fair trade goods from around the globe. Sales end today after coffee hour.

Special  
Congregational Meeting



Special Congregational Meeting December 10<sup>th</sup> immediately following worship. The purpose of this meeting will be to receive the report of the Nominating Committee posting their slate of nominees for Elder, Deacon and the At-Large Members of the 2018

Nominating Committee. Since, this meeting is a Special Congregational Meeting, no other business may be conducted except the business at hand.



Saturday, December 16th be sure to join us for the **Hanging of the Greens and Christmas Caroling**. Join Overbrook Presbyterians and friends of all ages for an afternoon and evening of fun, fellowship, food and service. Adults will gather at 3:00 p.m. to decorate the sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas season, while children and youth will enjoy making crafts and cards for homebound church members. At 5:00 p.m. there will be a simple meal for all, then at 6:00 p.m. the group will go Christmas caroling.



☞ Annual College Student Luncheon—  
December 17th

We are having the annual College Student Luncheon on December 17th in the Chapel at noon. This year we are inviting high school seniors to come eat and fellowship with the college students. Please contact Artia Benjamin for more information. RSVP at [newlife5125@gmail.com](mailto:newlife5125@gmail.com) or text at 215-266-8758 by December 11th.





**HOLIDAY GIVING – 2017 - ADOPT A FAMILY** - Each year at this time, the OPC congregation helps poor families experience the wonder of Christmas by adopting several families for gift giving. Beginning today, we participate in an “Adopt-A-Family” program through which we purchase gifts to fulfill the wish lists of children and parents that otherwise could not afford them. This is a nice opportunity to engage your children in giving to less fortunate people. As in previous years, about 15 individuals, mostly children, are identified by a local agency, and OPC members can select one or more people to fulfill their Christmas wish. You may purchase gifts or provide funds to buy one or more gifts on your person’s wish list. A table and member of the Mission and Outreach Committee will be in the Wistar-Morris room after the service where you can review the lists and decide whom to choose. All gifts must be brought to the church *on or before Sunday December 17th*. Thank you for participating again this year. Speak to Emily or Jim Vagnoni for more information.



**Service of the Longest Night** —The holidays can be difficult for us all: the stresses and strains of trying to offer a time of celebration take their toll. Many people find they have trouble feeling “in the spirit” of things, whether because of the recent death of a family member or friend, the end of a marriage, the loss of work, or other trying change. This year we will gather on **Thursday December 21st at 7:30pm** for A Service of the Longest Night. Is it so named because of its proximity to the winter solstice-the longest night of the year. But the name is also fitting because-despite the wrappings of gifts, special meals, and Christmas carols-the season can be darker than “normal” times of the year for those who struggle.



**Christmas Eve Family Service, Dinner & Gingerbread House Decorating** Immediately after the 4:00 p.m. Family Service on Christmas Eve, we will be serving a simple supper of sandwiches, soup, veggie sticks and cookies. Gingerbread houses will be ready for decorating at 6:00 p.m. **PLEASE NOTE NEW TIMES.** This evening’s plans are a long-time OPC tradition. Serving a simple meal (we will be collecting a free will donation) helps the cooks in your home get a much needed break from the hectic holiday schedule. Grown OPC “children” come back year after year for the gingerbread house decorating. Any families interested in the Gingerbread House Decorating, please email the [office@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:office@overbrookpresb.org) or call the church office (215-877-2744) to reserve a house. Everyone is welcome. The Christmas Eve candlelight service will follow later in the evening at 9:00 p.m

**Overbrook's Advent Devotional:** 23 Overbrook Presbyterians have written daily devotionals for us all to enjoy during this special season. Copies of this devotional booklet are available in the Wistar Morris Room during coffee hour, in our church office and can also be found on our church web site, [www.overbrookpresb.org](http://www.overbrookpresb.org).

### Prayer List

- ◆ Peter Seidel having back issues
- ◆ David McMillian, Pastor Emeritus, recovering from recent medical procedure
- ◆ Lynn Pompa continuing with health issues
- ◆ Jane Bevan continuing health issues
- ◆ Gloria Justin still recovering in the Quadrangle.

*Please contact Pastors Bruce or Carolyn to add names or concerns to this list. Bruce and Carolyn can be reached by email, cell phone, or by leaving a message in the Church Office, or by speaking with one of them in person.*

**Please Remember to Sign the Prayer Cards:** These cards are located on the raised table in the Wistar Morris Room. We ask all church members and friends to please sign these cards before or after worship each Sunday. "You were remembered this Sunday in the prayers of the people of the Overbrook Church in Philadelphia" is the message found on prayer cards. Please contact our pastors or church office if you would like us to send a prayer card to someone.

**Pastoral Care & Feedback Welcome:** We are grateful to people who let us know about pastoral needs in our church and community. We welcome visiting people in their homes, at work, in the hospital and at the church. We welcome the opportunity to bring home communion to anyone who would like to receive the sacrament. Please contact us by email: [pastors@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:pastors@overbrookpresb.org), [bruce@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:bruce@overbrookpresb.org) or [carolyn@overbrookpresb.org](mailto:carolyn@overbrookpresb.org) or call us (Office: 215-877-2744 or Bruce's Cell: 302-528-1796 or Carolyn's Cell: 302-528-1797) if you, or someone you know, would like a visit from an Overbrook pastor. Your ideas, feedback and prayers help us all serve better together. Please see our contact information above so we can have a conversation with you. Thank you. Pastors Bruce & Carolyn Gillette.

## **Lord, We Long for Words of Comfort**

BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7 D ("God Whose Giving Knows No Ending")

Lord, we long for words of comfort, for a gentle, healing word —  
That our suffering is ended, that our penalty is served.  
For the sins of generations have compounded till our day;  
God, the hope of all the nations, give us good news now, we pray!

Lord, we long for words of promise when we suffer for our sins,  
When it seems that hate is endless, when it seems that trouble wins.  
Can we see, in desert places, that there's hope for your new day?  
Will we listen to a prophet showing us a better way?

May we look to John the Baptist, to the prophet you once sent,  
For he calls us to be honest, and he calls us to repent.  
May we turn our eyes to Jesus, to the one that John proclaimed.  
May we see how love can heal us; may we trust in Jesus' name.

May we turn from what divides us, from the ways of hate and fear!  
May your peace and justice guide us; may your love direct us here!  
God, we pray that, in preparing, we'll find peace and challenge, too.  
May we find a new direction as we wait to welcome you.

Biblical References: Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8

Tune: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; attributed to Benjamin Franklin White

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OPC Session Members/Committee Members:

Sara Davis, *Clerk of Session*, *Pastors Bruce & Carolyn Gillette*, *Moderators*

Jeff Bowker, *Co-Chair-Property*, Rachel Carnahan, *Chair-Worship/Music*, Edelene Carroll, *Chair-Personnel*, Raelyn Harman, *Chair-Congregational Life*, Ron Homer, *Chair-New Members*, Anil “Bob” Kothari, *Chair-Finance*, Deborah Rottinger, Jane Rozmiarek, Kate Shackelford-*Treasurer*, Aimerie Scherluebbe, *Chair, Mission & Outreach*, Will Schick, *Chair-Stewardship*, Jason Sheau, *Chair-Christian Education*, Sean Whalen, *President, Board of Trustees*, Eileen Wiggins, and Karen Wong.

OPC Deacons:

Mike Rottinger, *Moderator-Board of Deacons*

Artia Benjamin, Brad Biedermann, Suchita Fiorillo, Angie Goodall, Terri Hunter, Sabrina Johnson, Larry McGhee, Stephanie Morris, Elienne Paul, Mike Rottinger, Davora Sabljak, Nickie Stokes, Nicole Stokes-Robinson, Carol Tulba, and Ellen Valudes.

OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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[www.overbrookpresb.org](http://www.overbrookpresb.org)

The Revs. Bruce and Carolyn Gillette - *Co-Pastors*

The Rev. David McMillan - *Pastor Emeritus*

Dr. Christopher Gage - *Director of Music*

Lisa Faso - *Office Manager*

Carol Rozmiarek - *Financial Secretary*

Leonard Robbins - *Church Custodian*

Every Church Member - *Minister*

The Overbrook Quartet

Iris Fairfax-*Soprano*, Lois Randel-*Mezzo-Soprano*,

Toffer Mihalka-*Tenor*, Matthew Lulofs-*Bass*