



First Presbyterian Church

First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023, 10:00 AM

GATHERING

Handbell Chimes – *The ringing of the chimes invites you to a time of Rest... Renewal... Hope*

Prelude Rorate Caeli - Jeanne Demessieux

Lucas Brown, organ

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Week One: Hope - The Farrow and Reed Family

A. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, and set lights in the sky – sun and moon and stars.

By these stars, our ancestors charted their journeys.

By these stars, they knew God was with them.

B. Today we light one candle to bring the fire of the stars down from heaven to earth, to nestle among the greens.

C. We name this candle Hope. (*Light the candle.*)

D. We too are on a journey, and we do not always know the way. But we chart our path by the star of hope.

Even when better days seem very far away
and the weight of the world seems to crush your promises,
we set our face steadily towards the light.

E. Listen now to the prayer of an ancient poet: “For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.

God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

Trust in him at all times, O people;

pour out your heart before him;

God is a refuge for us” (Psalm 67:5-8).

F. Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of hope this week,
help us to *become* the signs of hope that others are searching for. As these candles are but a glimpse of the light of the heavens, help us to be a glimpse of heaven’s hope. Amen

***Hymn #5**

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

***Invitation to Experience God’s Grace**

One: Preparing for Christ’s coming requires honest examination of our lives and our hearts. Let us turn to God in prayer to confess our sins.

***Laying Down Our Burdens**

All: God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace.

In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

***Silent Prayer**

***Declaration of Forgiveness (1 Timothy 1:15, 1 Peter 2:24)**

One: Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

All: He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good.

One: I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Amen.

***Sharing the Peace of Christ (Colossians 3:12-14)**

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ’s peace.

*** Hymn of Response**

Glory to God

Lucas Brown

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the hymn 'Glory to God'. The first staff is in G major, 6/8 time, and contains the melody for the first line of the hymn. The second staff is in G major, 6/8 time, and contains the melody for the second line of the hymn. The lyrics are: 'Glo-ry to God in the Hi - gh est, and peace to God's peo-ple on Earth.' The number '5' is written above the second staff, indicating the start of the second line of music.

Alleluia Bells: "O, Come, Little Children" (Barry Wilhjelms, clarinet) -arr. Peter Leibensperger

Time with the Children

Celebrating the Life of the Church

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination:

All: Savior God, guide us by your Word and Spirit that we might hear your truth, heed your call and be prepared for Christ's coming this Christmas. Amen.

Scripture Reading Isaiah 64:1-9, pp. 694-695, NRSV

One: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Expect the Unexpected"

Rev. Marvin Lindsay

Affirmation of Faith:

"The Apostles' Creed" (traditional), pp. 14 in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*

GIVE THANKS

Practicing Abundant Generosity <https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyteri1244/give/now>



Offertory: "What Child is This? Emmanuel!" -Roger Summers, Chancel Choir

* Doxology

SERVICE MUSIC

609 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Musical score for "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" with lyrics and guitar chords. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Praise God, in Je-sus ful-ly known: Cre-a-tor, Word, and Spir-it one. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!"

* Prayer of Dedication

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

One: Holy God, Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, with joy we praise you and give thanks to your name. Through the words of the prophets you promised your people the Redeemer, and gave hope for the day when justice shall roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. We rejoice that in Jesus Christ, your Son, the Savior has come and that he will come again in power and glory to make all things new. Therefore we praise you:

Holy, Holy, Holy 552

Capo 3: (D) F (A) C (D) F (G) B^b (A) C (D) F

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of the
2 Bless - ed is he who comes in the

(A) C (D/F[#]) F/A (F[#]m) Am (G) B^b (A) C (Bm) Dm

pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

(G) B^b (D) F (A) C (Bm) Dm (Em7) Gm7 (A) C (Dsus) F (D) F

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: American folk melody; adapt. Marcia Pruner, 1980; arr. Richard Proulx, 1984
Music Adapt. © 1980 Church Pension Fund
Music Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc. LAND OF REST

One: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. You sent him into this world to satisfy the longings of your people for a Savior, to bring freedom to the captives of sin, and to establish justice for the oppressed. He came among us as one of us, taking the lot of the poor, sharing human suffering. We rejoice that in his death and rising again, you set before us the sure promise of new life, the certain hope of a heavenly home where we will sit at table with Christ our host. Great is the mystery of faith:

SERVICE MUSIC

553 Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen

Capo 3: (D) (A) (D) (G)(A) (D) (A) (D/F#)(F#m)
 F C F B^b C F C F/A Am

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

(G) (A)(Bm) (G) (D) (A)(Bm) (Em7) (A)(Dsus)(D)
 B^b C Dm B^b F C Dm Gm7 C Fsus F

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
 MUSIC: American folk melody; arr. Richard Proulx, 1984
 Music Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc. LAND OF REST

One: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your 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. Strengthen us, O God, in the power of your Spirit to bring good news to the poor and lift blind eyes to sight, to loose the chains that bind and claim your blessing for all people. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm.

554 Amen

Capo 3: (G) (A) (Bm) (G) (D) (A) (Bm) (Em7) (A) (Dsus) (D)
 B^b C Dm B^b F C Dm Gm7 C Fsus F

A - men, a - men, a - men.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
 MUSIC: American folk melody; arr. Richard Proulx, 1995
 Music Arr. © 1995 GIA Publications, Inc. LAND OF REST

The Lord's Prayer, p. 16, *The Presbyterian Hymnal*

Breaking of Bread

Communion of the People

Amen

LEAVE TO SERVE

*Hymn #38 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Charge and Benediction

Choral Amen, Chancel Choir

Sending Music

Improvisation on PICARDY

Lucas Brown, organ

Please use the Postlude time and music to reflect on today's worship experience and how it will support you in the week to come.

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WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH! It is good to have you here in person or online. Please be in touch if you have news to share or would like more information or to talk to a pastor. Staff contact information is below. Read full announcements in our weekly [email newsletter](#), available on the church website. Subscribe on the [Contact Us](#) tab.

FLOWERS: If anyone is interested in providing fresh flowers for Sunday's services, please contact Diane Thorne at 609-707-8122 or dthorne31@comcast.net

NURSERY care is available during worship (9:30 - 11:15) for those with young children. The nursery is located in the Preschool (level 1R) in the Red Balloon Room near the Preschool office.

Nursery Care is available during the 10am and 4pm Christmas Eve Services. No nursery care is available on December 31.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Parents, please register your preK-5th graders for Children's Church using the QR Code. PreK-Kindergarten must be signed out from the Sunday School room. First-fifth graders will reunite with their families in the Bean Parlor after worship. **Reminder: No Children's Church for prek-5 on Dec. 24 and 31**



NEWS AND EVENTS

YOUTH MISSION TRIP Please stay in the sanctuary after worship to learn more about next summer's youth mission trip for rising freshman through a graduating seniors or those interested in applying to be a chaperone.

CALL FOR USHERS: Help us extend hospitality in this season! We need ushers for Christmas Eve and beyond. For more information or to sign up, please email support@haddonfieldpres.org.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY: Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent.

This four-week one hour gathering on Zoom will explore the themes in the stories of Jesus's birth. Begins November 29.

To register and get Zoom link, use the QR code:



PAPER QUILLING WORKSHOP: Saturday, December 9 at 1pm: Discover the beautiful art of rolling and shaping strips of paper into intricate designs. Expert instructor Trish will help you master the craft. You will gain new skills, meet fellow crafters, and take home a beautiful, quilled holiday card. *Hosted By Presbyterian Women. \$20.00 per participant. Please RSVP via email to judygrantham@comcast.net*

TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY: Need a ride to and from worship?

We have a **new procedure** to ask for a ride, beginning in November. To request transportation to worship, call the church at 856-429-1960. When you hear the auto attendant message, press 103 and **you will go directly to the deacon voice mailbox**. Leave a message and a deacon will call you back regarding your request.

Transportation requests must be received no later than the Tuesday prior to the Sunday when the ride is needed. Make sure to leave your phone number and a convenient time to call. Please take

note: if you call later than Tuesday at 4 p.m., there may not be a deacon or church member available to drive you. This procedure will efficiently simplify the needs of our members. We look forward to seeing you in worship! Questions? Call the church office, or Joan Fiorella at 856 889-9185.

THE PORCH BIBLE STUDY The Porchers will begin meeting in person in December. We will meet Tuesday, December 12, from 2:30 to 4 p.m., in the Parlor of the Church. We will do a special Advent class that afternoon. In January, we will return to the Colossians & Philemon study. Our December Porcher lunch is at noon, Tuesday, December 5, at Treno. For additional Porcher information, see Deb Nussbaum or Jill Mascena at church or email Deb at debranussbaum1987@gmail.com.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: CHERISHED women of First Presbyterian! If you're looking for a Bible study, a walking group, a quilting group, or any number of things, click her to check out the fall activities that Presbyterian Women are offering: at www.haddonfieldpres.org/presbyterian-women.

WALKING GROUP: Join Linda Hess under the church portico for another brisk 1 hour walk through town. Meet at 10am on Tuesday, Dec. 12th for some exercise and good conversation with other walkers. And don't worry. We won't be out in the cold too long. The "Slow and Steady" walk will not take place this month. Sponsored by Presbyterian Women.

CHRISTIAN HERITAGE CLASS - December 3: NO CLASS

December 11. St. Mark and his Gospel: The Eye-Witness? What a wonder to have the original account of Jesus, probably by a young eye-witness to His ministry, His crucifixion, and His Resurrection! All other lives of Jesus depend on Mark's original account of the Gospel which by tradition is based on Peter's own recollections. The Evangelist's feast day is March 25, and he is Patron Saint of Egypt, Venice ... and barristers.

BLOOD DRIVE: The American Red Cross will be in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, December 27th from 2:00pm to 7:00pm for the annual blood drive. To schedule an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org and enter the sponsor code: First Presbyterian.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE 11/26/23: 145 in person and 23 online.

2023 CHURCH OFFERING UPDATE Please note that target numbers on the right now represent a 12 month budget.

	<u>Received to date</u>	<u>Twelve-month budget goal</u>
Envelope Giving:	\$ 528,935.00	\$ 570,270.00
Loose Offering:	\$ 9,656.00	\$ 12,000.00
Per Capita:	\$ 9,321.00	\$ 16,000.00

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

Please pray for these individuals and situations throughout the week. If you would like to add a personal prayer request, please contact one of the pastors. In making requests on behalf of others, please obtain the permission of the person needing prayer. The requestor will have their name printed as the originator of the request. Pastors will revisit these requests every 30 days.

Prayers for the Church

- Pray for the people, government, and country of **Ukraine** as war continues.
- Pray for a just and peaceful resolution to the **Israeli-Palestinian** conflict.

- Continue in prayer for **Kevin** who is scheduled to have heart surgery in January (11/28-J. Wackes)
- Pray for **Vani and her family - Adam, Grace, and Hope-** on the passing of Vani's father over Thanksgiving. Praise the Lord he had a very full 97 years! (11/24-pastors)
- Continue in prayer for Linda's brother **Roy**, as he undergoes radiation and further cancer treatment (11/16- L. O'Neill)
- Pray that **Nancy** would feel God's love as she recovers from extensive surgery (11/15-C. Carty)
- Please pray for **Jeff's family- his wife Wanda and his daughters Lisa and Karen.** Jeff lost his battle with cancer this week; they miss their husband and dad very much (11/13-W & S Seddon)
- Continue in prayer for **Jean Yount**, her medical team, and her family (11/13-C. Yount)
- Please pray for **Patrick and his family** (11/11-pastors)
- Continue in prayer for **Isabel Pross** as she continues cancer treatment (11/10-pastors)
- Pray for **Gary Roven** who is being treated for heart problems (11-09- Pastors)
- Prayers for **Lauren**, a young mother with metastatic thyroid cancer (11/07-J. Stout).
- Pray for courage and faith for **Savannah**, a mother of two undergoing chemotherapy. (11/06-L. Kirsch).
- Pray that God would raise **Ebony** out of anxiety and depression to complete a medical training course (11/06-L. Kirsch).
- Prayers for nine-year-old **Jake S.**, who is being treated for cancer (11/06-L. Kirsch).
- Pray for **Vivian**, who has been diagnosed with lymphoma (11/06-J. Grantham).
- Pray for **Amy** as she begins treatment following surgery (11/03-J. Russell).
- Prayers for **Tom Rowe** and wife **Suzanne**, as Tom receives experimental cancer treatments (11/02-J. Blank).
- Pray for family friends **Lynn, Yair, Daniela, Omri, Emily and Dean, Miriam, Aron and family** who are in Israel and are hoping to get their children to America for safety (11/2-The Nussbaums)

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Marvin Lindsay, Ph.D., Senior Pastor and Head of Staff- mlindsay@haddonfieldpres.org

The Rev. Nikki Perrine Passante, Associate Pastor - npassante@haddonfieldpres.org

Peter Leibensperger, Minister of Music - pleibensperger@haddonfieldpres.org

Lucas Brown, Principal Organist - lbrown@haddonfieldpres.org

Nancy Ruth Wainwright, Director of Children's Choirs - nancyruthw@comcast.net

Marisa McGovern, Preschool Director - preschool@haddonfieldpres.org

Kris Bean, Business Manager - kbean@haddonfieldpres.org

Travis Bogetti, Building Manager - tbogetti@haddonfieldpres.org

Ed Hess, Community Caseworker - edwh517@aol.com

Katie Miller, Office Administrator - kmiller@haddonfieldpres.org



(856) 429-1960 www.haddonfieldpres.org



STEPHEN
MINISTRY