



First Presbyterian Church

Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023, 10:00 AM

GATHERING

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

Prelude Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele - Georg Böhm

Lucas Brown, organ

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

Week Two: Peace The Stout and Hall Families

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 two candles 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 first candle.) We name this candle Peace. (Light the second 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 peace.

Even when violence and fear are raging
and peace seems like a pipedream,

we set our face steadily towards the light.

E. Listen now to the plea of the apostle Paul:

“Do not be anxious about anything,

but in every situation,

by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,

present your requests to God.

And the peace of God,

which transcends all understanding,

will guard your hearts and your minds

in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

F. Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of peace this week, help us to become the signs of peace 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 peace. Amen.

***Hymn #8** "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

***Invitation to Experience God's Grace**

One: God promises forgiveness through Jesus Christ. On this second Sunday of Advent, let us approach God in humility and faith.

***Laying Down Our Burdens**

All: Holy and merciful God, forgive us, for we have sinned. We have taken your patience with us as a license to sin. We have invested our hearts and souls in things that will not stand the test of time. Our quarrels debase us and show disrespect to the image of God in our fellow human beings.

But you, O God, have become human in Christ Jesus, to restore us. In his name, have mercy on us. Make us willing and eager to love you and care for all that you have created.

***Silent Prayer**

***Declaration of Forgiveness (Isaiah 12:3-4)**

One: With joy, let us draw water from the springs of salvation. Give thanks to the Lord! Call on God's name.

All: We will drink from God's springs of mercy! Amen.

*** Hymn of Response**

Glory to God

Lucas Brown

Glo-ry to God in the Hi - gh est, and peace to God's peo-ple on Earth.

5
Glo-ry to God in the Hi - gh est, and peace to God's peo-ple on Earth!

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

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.

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

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism and Reception of New Members

- Dolores Haynor
- The Pitts Family
- The Schmidt Family

Celebrating the Life of the Church

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination:

All: Open us, Holy One, to your Word and your way. Clear our minds of holiday distractions and busy tasks. Fill our hearts with the humility we need to hear and receive the message you intend for us today. Amen.

Scripture Reading 2 Peter 3:8-15a

8 But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. 9 The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be destroyed with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and destroyed and the elements will melt with fire? 13 But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

14 Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish, 15 and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

One: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"In the Meantime"

Rev. Marvin Lindsay

GIVE THANKS

Prayers of the People

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

Practicing Abundant Generosity <https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyteri11244/give/now>



Offertory: "E'en so, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" -Paul Manz, Chancel Choir

* Doxology

SERVICE MUSIC

609 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise God, all crea-tures
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

LEAVE TO SERVE

*Hymn #36

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Charge and Benediction

Choral Amen, Chancel Choir

Sending Music Fantasy on HELMSLEY - Kenneth Leighton

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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Portions of today's order of worship were written by Teri Mcdowell Ott and provided for free distribution. © Presbyterian Outlook, 2023.

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: The flowers this morning are given in memory of Kenneth & Miriam Hollister by their daughter Carol H. Carty and in memory of Michael and Mary Ellen Vitagliano given by their daughter Corey Crumley.

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**



WORSHIP NOTES

E'en so, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" by Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him
Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood
That we might saved be.
Sing holy, holy to our Lord,
The Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come;
Sing holy, holy Lord!
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon,
For Christ is coming soon!
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,
And night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun,
For Christ will be their All!

NEWS AND EVENTS

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: There will be a congregational meeting after 10am worship on Sunday, December 17 to elect new officers.

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.

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.

Esther Circle will meet in the Bean Parlor at 10 am, Dec. 19 to discuss Lesson 4, of the Horizon magazine's Bible study, Mary and Martha Encounter Jesus. Following the study, lunch will be enjoyed at Carlucci's Waterfront restaurant. All are invited to join Esther Circle to celebrate this season of advent. If there are any questions, please contact Peggy Spellmeyer or Carol Carty.

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.

MITTEN TREE: The Deacons' Mitten Tree is up and running! Please remember to bring in new mittens, gloves, hats and scarves to adorn its branches; items will be distributed to those in need in early January. There is one tree at the back of the church, and another in the alcove when entering the church from the parlor hallway. Thank you!

CHRISTIAN HERITAGE CLASS: December 10: 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 12/03/23: 167 in person and 7 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:	\$ 554,792.00	\$ 570,270.00
Loose Offering:	\$ 9,921.00	\$ 12,000.00
Per Capita:	\$ 9,399.00	\$ 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.
- Pray for **Yamile and Chrystle and their families**, that they all would have the strength to get through the everyday at Camden County Jail (**12/1-G. Ladies**)
- Pray for **Marlena and Morgan**, that their court cases would be resolved successfully, and also pray for their children and families (**12/1-G. Ladies**)
- Please pray that **God will continue to be by Taniyah and her family** through this difficult situation. Prayers for continued love and protection for her family (**12/1-G. Ladies**)
- Pray for **June** who is humbly asking for the restoration of her family and life through Jesus (**12/1-G. Ladies**)
- Pray for **Ananda and her mother**. While Ananda is in jail, her mother is taking care of Ananda's four nieces. Pray for the youngest child (one-year old) who overdosed on fentanyl. She is alive and doing well and needs our prayers (**12/1-G. Ladies**)
- Please pray for the King, Lewis, and Perrine families on the sudden death of Paul (**12/1-N. Passante**)
- Please pray for **Carlie and her husband John** who are both incarcerated. Pray specifically for their health and safety (**12/1- G. Ladies**)

- Pray for **Iyanna, Zuinda, and Alyssa, and their families** while these ladies are in Camden County Jail (12/1-G. Ladies)
- 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

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OF HADDONFIELD

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STEPHEN
MINISTRY