



First Presbyterian Church
513 Birch St., Boonton, NJ 07005
(973) 334-3535 www.fpcboonton.org
Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @FPCBoonton

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve
Family Worship & Communion

10:00 AM

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

* = Please stand in body or in spirit

WELCOME! We are glad you can join us for worship here and online. Visitors, please sign the guest book located in the narthex. Prayer request cards are available in the racks within each pew. Ushers will collect them during the first hymn. Please *remember to turn off all devices as we turn towards God.*

GREETINGS TO THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

PRELUDE

“Patapan”

Linda Scholes

Hand Bell Ringers: Marjorie Roller, Roxanne Tavakkol, Mandy Thompson, Sarah Jane Zollner

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES: Love

Four candles burning bright, chasing away the darkness with light. Four candles glowing bright, the blessing of God, giving new sight.

As we draw nearer to the Holy night, we are drawn by the chords of God's love. We are being moved by the sound of an angelic chorus, a deep and holy melody. We are living into the awareness of a divine love that fills the universe, pulling us to love and to serve, to pray and to worship.

Advent reminds us to be prepared to welcome this Love into our lives. As we light this fourth candle, the candle of Love: Let us open our hearts to God's gift of love given to us in the life of the Christ Child.

* **Congregational response:** HYMN # Blue 12 *“People Look East”*
vs. 1-4

French Folk Melody

PRAYER OF ADORATION:

by Marcia McFee

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, let Love be born in us anew. May Love awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality. Love waits for us at Advent, Love waits for us to care. Love waits for our compassion freely offered, freely shared. There is room in this Inn, a House for the Holy.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Still, Still, Still”

arr. Antti Hakkarainen

Nancy vanDyke, flute soloist

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF GRACE:

written by Daniel Berrigan, S.J.

We believe: For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life;

On this Holy day we proclaim: Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, his name shall be called wonderful councilor, mighty God, the Everlasting, the Prince of peace.

So let us enter Christmas in hope, even hope against hope.

Let us see visions of love and peace and justice. Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage: Jesus Christ—the life of the world.

ANTHEM

“O Come to Set Us Free”

arr. Mary McDonald

Lisa Hordnes, bass; Lynn Ware, soloist

READING #1

“TRAVELING TO BETHLEHEM”

Luke 2:1-7

SPECIAL MUSIC

“*Away in a Manger*”
Mandy Thompson, alto soloist; Cassie Thompson, soprano soloist

arr. Lauren Daigle

READING #2

“THE ANGEL SHARES THE GOOD NEWS!”

Luke 2:8-12

* CONGREGATIONAL HYMN # Blue 56 “**THE FIRST NOEL**”
(Sung by everyone)

**The first Noel the angel did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

**They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel**

READING #3

“THE SHEPHERDS GO TO BETHLEHEM”

Luke 2:15-18

SPECIAL MUSIC

“*Little Drummer Boy*”
Mira Nickel, bass clarinet soloist

K. Davis, H. Onorti, H. Simeone

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Light comes to shatter the darkness. From the birth announcement to the birth we are finished with waiting. Born is a child who dispels fears and is of the Spirit of God. His very presence brings holiness and hope to those who have been waiting so long for his coming. Tonight, we light the Christ candle praising God for the Greatest gift of love the universe has known, and we rejoice in God's presence for the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us.

SERMON:

“*God's Love is Born*”

Pastor Carie Morgan

OFFERTORY

“*Gesu Bambino*”
Peter Lanigan, baritone soloist

Pietro Von

OUR RESPONSE TO THE ARRIVAL OF GOD'S SON

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER: (In unison) “**forgive us our sins, as...sin against us**”

BREAKING OF THE BREAD/DRINKING OF THE CUP

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE (Please take each element [bread/wine] and hold it until we take it together. Gluten/egg free crackers are in the middle of the plate.)

* CONGREGATIONAL HYMN # Blue 60 “**SILENT NIGHT**”
(Sung by everyone)

SILENT NIGHT
**Silent night, holy night! All is calm; all is bright.
Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild;
sleep in heavenly peace; sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar. Heavenly host sing: “Alleluia,**

Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.”

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light,
radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace;
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth; Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.**

* BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL HYMN # Blue 40 “JOY TO THE WORLD”

(Sung by everyone)

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room;
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! The Savior reigns. Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”

arr. Anna Laura Page

Pastor: The Rev. Carie Morgan
Organist/Choir Director: Sarah Jane Zollner
Lay Reader: Spencer Keoppel
Ministers: All the People of the Church

Announcements

HEARING AIDS/RECEIVERS – We have hearing aid receivers available during the worship service. Please ask an usher if you would like to use one. **PEW PILLOWS** – are available during worship for those of you who would like additional back support. Feel free to pick one up or have an usher bring one to you!

LAY READER – **Spencer Keoppel** is a member of the First Church of Boonton who joined through confirmation in 2011. He is the third child of Donna and Dan and is currently serving the Church as a Deacon. He is a contract chemist working for J&J’s Ethicon division.

POINSETTIAS - after the 11pm Candlelight service tonight, you may take the poinsettia with you, or ask a Deacon to deliver it to a homebound member, or call the office to arrange pickup.

WORSHIP FLOWERS NEEDED You can sign up on the chart by the Sanctuary doors or through our website. One or both of these arrangements are delivered to the sick and homebound each week and bring connection and cheer. The church office will contact you regarding the \$40 flower donation and your dedication for the bulletin.

COFFEE HOUR UPDATE: Join us today after worship in the Library for light refreshments provided by Trish Herrera. On **12/31** after worship, please enjoy a time of fellowship and tasty treats at Pastor Carie’s house, located on the premises, off the parking lot.*Please consider sponsoring or hosting coffee hour. You can sign up on the board next to the office (or consider donating to the jar in the library). Congregational Life will provide coffee.

MEAL TRAIN is an opportunity to provide a meal for a person or a family in their time of need. Please email Martel Roberts at martelroberts@gmail.com or call or text 973-216-0787 if you would like to volunteer to provide a meal or if you are in need of a meal.

MISSIONS - We are always accepting Mission Donations through Breeze or they can be mailed to or dropped off at the office.

CHRISTMAS EVE Candlelight & Communion Service *tonight at 11:00PM.*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 24 – December 30 ~ *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Sunday	9:15 am	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	10:00 am	Worship & Communion Christmas Eve (Sanctuary and online)
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour (Library)
	7:00 pm	AA (Reighart Hall)
	10:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	11:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion (Sanctuary)
Monday		Christmas Day (office hours may vary through New Year's)
	7:30 pm	NA - Lost and Found Group (Reighart Hall)
Tuesday	4:00 pm	NJ Conservatory (Choir Room)
	6:00 pm	Cub Scouts (Reighart)
Wednesday	3:00/4 pm	Coffee & Services (Gateway) / Loaves and Fishes
Saturday	8/9:00 am	Coffee & Services (Gateway) / Loaves and Fishes

December 31 – January 6 ~ *First Sunday of Christmas*

Sunday	10:00 am	Worship (Sanctuary and online)
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour (will be at Pastor Carie's House)
	7:00 pm	AA (Reighart Hall)
Monday		New Year's Day office closed
	6:30 pm	NA PIC Meeting (Reighart Hall)
	7:00 pm	LG Board Meeting (Choir Room/Whitley)
	7:30 pm	NA - Lost and Found Group (Reighart Hall)
Tuesday	4:00 pm	NJ Conservatory (Choir Room)
	6:30 pm	Deacons Meeting (Reighart)
Wednesday	3:00/4 pm	Coffee & Services (Gateway) / Loaves and Fishes
Saturday	8/9:00 am	Coffee & Services (Gateway) / Loaves and Fishes

*The calendar can also be found on our website <https://www.fpcboonton.org/calendar/>
Office Hours M-F 8:30-1:30