



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 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent
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

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

arr. John Carter

- * **LIGHTING OF FIRST ADVENT CANDLE** by Marcia McFee The Smith-Ficaro Family
The Light of Christ is shining on us, inviting us to become a beacon of hope to others. On that first Christmas night, the light of the Star of Bethlehem shone on an unlikely house for the holy—a stable. During this season of Advent: We are called to "make room" in our inns—to create a welcoming space for the flourishing of humanity. That's what the inn, the stable, the manger, became that night. Today we offer the Light of Hope to illumine the Door of Welcome. May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church. May Hope awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality. There is room in this Inn, a House for the Holy.

Congregational response: HYMN # Blue 12 *"People Look East"*
vs. 1

French Folk Melody

HOUSING THE HOLY: MAKING ROOM

- * HYMN # Blue 9 *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* Latin, c. 12th century
(At this time, ushers will receive any written prayer requests. Blank prayer request cards are available in the racks within each pew. Please feel free to fill one out and give it to an usher or email office@fpcboonton.org)

INVITATION TO SEEK GOD'S GRACE

ADVENT PRAYER: written by John Ballenger

One: A door stands open to heaven, and we are invited to look through to see God

All: Surrounded by the beauty and diversity and wonder and power of all creation.

One: We are invited to see that all we can see bows down before the invisible God.

All: Holy, holy holy!

One: A door stands open to heaven, and we are invited to look through to see – Yet we cannot see God.

All: Holy, holy, holy!

One: And yet by seeing Jesus – by seeing love, we see what cannot be seen.

All: And even in our imminence, we then see the absolute transcendence of God. Holy, holy, holy!

SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

TIME FOR MISSION

GOD'S WORD TO US

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: (Sung In unison)

HYMN # Green 103

"Come, Lord Jesus"
vs. 3

Carey Landry

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9

p. 640

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

p. 56

SERMON

"Housing the Holy"

Pastor Carie

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

(A quiet time for contemplation on the preached scripture.)

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

CALL FOR OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

arr. Alice Parker/Robert Shaw

(Please remain silent during this time of worship, dedication and prayer)

* PRESENTATION / DOXOLOGY: (In unison)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* HYMN

"Come to the Table of Grace"

Come to the Table of Grace 507

Capo 3: (D) F (A) C (Bm) Dm (D7/A) F7/C (G) B^b

1 Come to the ta - ble of grace. Come to the

(A) C (D) F (A) C (D) F (Em) Gm

ta - ble of grace. This is God's ta - ble; it's

(D/A) F/A (G) B^b (D/A) F/C (A7) C7 (D) (G) (D) F B^b F

not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace.

- 2 Come to the table of peace...
- 3 Come to the table of love...
- 4 Come to the table of hope...
- 5 Come to the table of joy...

THE LORD'S SUPPER

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.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: (In unison)

God, you have so greatly loved us, long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us. Give us grace that in everything we may yield ourselves, our wills and our works, a continual thank-offering to you; Amen.

GOD'S PEOPLE GO INTO THE WORLD

* HYMN # Blue 432

"Song of Hope"

Alvin Schutmaat

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

arr. Mark Kellner

Pastor: The Rev. Carie Morgan

Organist/Choir Director: Sarah Jane Zollner

Lay Reader: Ken Nickel

Ministers: All the People of the Church

Firemen's Home: Spencer and the Storas

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 – Ken Nickel resides in Rockaway with his wife Denise and has been a member of our church since 1972. He has 3 grown children and 5 grandchildren. Ken serves our church as an ordained elder and church treasurer and shares his musical talents in the church choir and the bell choir. Ken also serves on the Property & Insurance Committee at the Presbytery of the Highlands of NJ. He is enjoying retirement from a lengthy career in commercial banking and is active in the Rotary Club and other non-profit organizations.

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 Today is hosted by Kim Robbins. Please join us in the Library today for this special time of fellowship. *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.

SAVE THE DATES:

Sun. Dec. 10th Handbells in Worship

Thurs. Dec. 14th at 1:15 Second Thursday Adult Group (Library)

Fri. Dec. 15th Hanging of the Greens

Sun. Dec. 17th Cantata in Worship.

Sun. Dec. 17th after Cantata – “Around the World” Christmas dinner.

ANGEL TREE – FPCB partners with Boonton Social Svcs. annually to provide holiday gifts to people in need in our community. Gift tags will be hanging from a Christmas Tree in our church. All gifts due back by 5pm, **Dec. 8th**. Questions? contact Martel Roberts at martelroberts@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS – use envelopes provided in the pews or Breeze (put memorial name in comments section please) to order in memory/honor of a loved one. Last day to order is **Dec. 17th**

CHRISTMAS DINNER “Around the World” - FPCB Members, family and friends, Please Join us for Our Annual Dinner, Sunday, Dec. 17th, in Reighart Hall after worship. You won't want to miss this very special event - Menu will be a traditional turkey/ham dinner, Activities: trivia game, karaoke & photo booth with props and green screen. Tickets are \$18, Children 6-12 - \$5, under 5 – free. See Kim Robbins or Trish Herrera for tickets or sign up through Breeze.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION There will be a special meeting of the congregation immediately following worship **TODAY**. The purpose of the meeting will be to receive the report of the Church Officers Nominating Committee and vote to elect officers for 2024.

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.

DEACON OFFERING ENVELOPES are available for your use on Communion Sundays (small green ones in the pews). Please consider making a donation to the Deacon Fund.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 3 – December 9 ~ *First Sunday of Advent*

Sunday	9:15 am	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	10:00 am	Worship (Sanctuary and online)
	11:00 am	Congregational Meeting After Worship for Members Coffee Hour after meeting (Library)
Monday	11:30 am	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room/Sanctuary)
	7:00 pm	AA (Reighart Hall)
	6:30 pm	NA PIC Meeting (Reighart Hall)
	7:00 pm	LG Board Meeting (Whitley)
Tuesday	7:30 pm	NA - Lost and Found Group (Reighart Hall)
	4:00 pm	NJ Conservatory (Choir Room)
	6:30 pm	Deacons (Library)
Wednesday	3:00/4 pm	Coffee & Services (Gateway) / Loaves and Fishes
Thursday	6:30 pm	Hand bell Choir (Sanctuary)
Friday	7:00 pm	Angel Tree gifts due
Saturday	8/9:00 am	Coffee & Services (Gateway) / Loaves and Fishes

December 10 – December 16 ~ *Second Sunday of Advent*

Sunday	9:15 am	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	10:00 am	Worship & Handbells (Sanctuary and online)
	11:00 am	Congregational Meeting After Worship for Members Coffee Hour after meeting (Library)
Monday	11:30 am	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room/Sanctuary)
	7:00 pm	AA (Reighart Hall)
	7:00 pm	Session (Library)
	7:30 pm	NA - Lost and Found Group (Reighart Hall)
Tuesday	4:00 pm	NJ Conservatory (Choir Room)
Wednesday	3:00/4 pm	Coffee & Services (Gateway) / Loaves and Fishes
	6:00 pm	Cub Scouts (Reighart Hall)
	6:30 pm	OPS (Library)
Thursday	1:15 pm	Second Thursday (Library)
	6:00 pm	Girl Scouts (Reighart)
Friday	6:00 pm	Cub Scout Cookie Packing
	7:00 pm	Hanging of the Greens (Sanctuary)
Saturday	8/9:00 am	Coffee & Services (Gateway) / Loaves and Fishes Setup for Christmas Dinner

*The calendar can also be found on our website <https://www.fpcboonton.org/calendar/>

Office Hours M-F 8:30-1:30