



December 1, 2024

“Whoever believes in me, believes not in me, but in him who sent me.” (Jn 12:44) John couldn’t see the Sender; no one can. But he couldn’t take his eyes off the One the Sender sent, whose story John was given to tell. Now it’s our turn. Jesus said so. Those who believe in him will do the works he did – greater in fact – now that he has returned to the Source. It’s our turn to put our breath behind God’s word so that it lands in our own time and place. However well or poorly things seem to be working out, there is something else at work that has been pouring itself out for us, *forever*, which the darkness has not overcome. Light from Light. Fullness from which we have all received, grace upon grace.

Christmas every day.” Barbara Brown Taylor

Prelude #94

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper
vss. 1 & 3

Evan O'Donovan

Welcome

Reverend Ed Hoener

Lighting the Advent Candle

A Reading From Matthew 12

Unison Prayer:

God of promise, we thank you for bringing us hope, as we lean on your faithfulness. Help us to know that no matter how chaotic and uncertain our world may be, you meet us with grace that sustains our faith in you and your movement to make a better world.

Call To Worship:

Great God, You hold us in loving hands in all the times of our lives. **You restore our souls. You help us to learn your new ways of living.** Jesus, You invited us into your movement that works for justice, and peace for all humankind. **You provide us with courage and strength to serve your destiny for our world.**

*Hymn of Praise #82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Call to Reconciliation

Prayer of Reconciliation :

Merciful God, in the midst of our lives, you hold us and heal us. Sometimes we need your help to live with love in the midst of this world's troubles. Sometimes we need Your help to answer the opportunities we are given to serve. Restore us now to the life, and joy, You desire for us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent Prayers

Assurance of Grace:

God's love for us never ends. **God's never-ending grace sustains our desire to follow Christ.**

*Response of Praise #434

Restore in Us, O God

vss. 1 & 3

Sharing the Peace of Christ:

God grants us peace, through the Spirit, in our inmost being! Let us share the peace of Christ with each other. The Peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Ministry Music #120

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

Evan O'Donovan

*If you can stand comfortably, please do so.

Scripture Reading

1 Thess. 3:9-13

Message

Pastor Ed

*Hymn of Faith #729

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

Celebrating Passion Enterprises

Now is a time to share something that happened, or that touched someone and made a difference in some way. Please come to the lectern so that everyone may see and hear.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Hymn of Preparation #505

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer Following Communion

Special Offering Meditation

*Offering Song #710

We are an Offering

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to You, we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are Yours, we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to You, we give to You. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to You, we are an offering, we are an offering.

*Prayer of Dedication

Announcements (pg. 4)

*If you can stand comfortably, please do so.

***Hymn of Response #92**

While We Are Waiting, Come

Charge and Blessing

Postlude #105

People, Look East

Evan O'Donovan

*If you can stand comfortably, please do so.

Announcements

Thank you to Sara Pender & Susan Krivenko for running the projector & camera!

Join our Worship Support Team! For more information, ask the pastor or the technicians or call the church office.

Giving Tree: Senior Housing Residents Gift Bags

Please consider purchasing a gift card(s) from ShopRite, Walmart, or Target, and present it to Gail Anderson by Sunday, Dec 15th. If sending a check, please make it out to 'First Presbyterian Church' and put 'Giving Tree' in the memo. Any questions or concerns, please speak with Gail Anderson.

Coffee Hour, December 15

Ed & Diane invite all to come to the manse on Sunday, December 15th, for fellowship and refreshments after worship. All are welcome, so feel free to bring a friend, neighbor, and/or co-worker to share and feel the holiday spirit with us!

Candlelight Worship Service

We will be having our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Tuesday, December 24 @ 7:30 pm. The service will be live-streamed with a recorded video available on our Facebook page, YouTube channel, and website for those who might not be able to attend.

Christmas Poinsettias

We will have our usual beautiful display of poinsettias in the Sanctuary for the holidays. If you would like to purchase a plant, they will be available in both red & white for \$8. If you're interested in a plant, please let Gail Anderson know. As in the past, your plant will need to be picked up no later than Christmas Eve.

Next Manse Fireside Gathering: Friday, December 13 @ 7 pm



Online Donations

PRAYER PERSONS OF THE WEEK

Sean Simpson & Family

PRAYER REQUESTS

John, Edna-Wendy-Artie, Eric-Judy & family, Helen, Logan, Harper, Panila-Ginda families-especially Joanne, Gary, Mike-Evelyn & family, Maureen G., Eileen, Nicole, Dan, Gina C., Ross J., Hector & Jasmine, Destiny, Michele P., Miriam M., those affected by the hurricanes, Joyce B.C., Bud D., Barbara & James E., Gail G., Ali & family, German M., Bari, Bob, Carolyn & family, Eileen P., Alyne B., Chrissy, Helene & Diane, Meli, Vicky, Eunice - Barbra & Dave, Celeste & Doris, Dorothy R., Marilyn & Jasmine, Amy, Joan L., Avril Muller & family, Carlos B., Savannah B.

The First Presbyterian Church of Rahway 1731 Church Street

December 1, 2024

Rev. Ed Hoener

Lauris Beam

Carol Ann Bregman

Evan O'Donovan

10:30 A.M.

Pastor

Worship Leader

Administrator

Music Director