

Fourth Sunday of Advent



December 22, 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 #130 *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light* Evan O'Donovan

Welcome Reverend Ed Hoener

Lighting the Advent Wreath:

A Reading From Luke

Reflection

The Lighting of the Candles Lola Page, Jasmine Feliciano, Tatiana Feliciano

Unison Prayer:

Gracious God, we thank you for the endless generosity that you weave through all of life. We thank you for all that you provide and teach so that our joy may be full. Help us to remember the shepherds, and to be grateful; so that our generosity will be expressed for the sake of others in need. With the joy of the shepherds, let us welcome Christ's coming, and join him in building a better world. Amen.

Call To Worship:

All of God's promises find their expression in Jesus coming, his teaching, and his life.

Jesus shows us how to be part of bringing the kingdom of God to earth.

Following Jesus: faith and hope, love and justice, will increase in the world. **The**

Spirit's work within, makes his ministry in and through us possible. We

anticipate Christ's birth with great excitement and joy! **May Christ be born in us anew this Christmas!**

*Hymn of Praise #113

Angels We Have Heard on High

Call to Reconciliation

Prayer of Reconciliation :

Jesus, like a shepherd, You care for us in the midst of our circumstances. You labor to make Your peace and grace operate in our lives. Restore to us the life, and joy, You desire for us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent Prayers

Assurance of Grace:

God's love is steadfast and unconditional for us. **God's grace overflows for us – to make us new.**

*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!**

*If you can stand comfortably, please do so.

Ministry of Music #144

In the Bleak Midwinter

Evan O'Donovan

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:39-55

Message

Pastor Ed

***Hymn of Faith #99**

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

vss. 1, 3, 4, 5

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.

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)

Wisdom From Within

***Hymn of Response #110**

Love Has Come

Charge and Blessing

Postlude #147

The First Nowell

Evan O'Donovan

*If you can stand comfortably, please do so.

Announcements

Thank you to Cheryl Anne Cammann & Rachel Remelgado for running the projector & camera!
Join our Worship Support Team! For more information, ask the pastor or the technicians or call the church office.

Today we welcome guest musician, Elias Ortiz, who will accompany Evan on trumpet.

BIO: Elias Ortiz is a trumpeter, composer, and music educator based in NYC. A recent graduate from The School of Jazz and Contemporary Music at The New School, Elias is one of the leading exponents of his instrument and is an up-and-coming player in the world of instrumental music.

Consecration Sunday is Coming – January 12

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world. A special mailing with an *Estimate of Giving Card* will be sent out that provides more information; please be sure to look for it. More details will be available shortly via our weekly email and our website. Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events! – FPC Finance Team

Candlelight Worship Service

We are having our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Tuesday, December 24 @ 7:30 pm. You can join us in person or via live stream on Facebook & YouTube. Recorded video will be available on our Facebook page, YouTube channel, and website for those who might not be able to join us that night.

Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to purchase one of the poinsettia plants in our beautiful Sanctuary display, please let Gail Anderson know. As in the past, your plant will need to be picked up no later than Christmas Eve.

No Fireside Chat on Friday, December 27.
There will be **one gathering in January on Friday, the 10th.**



PRAYER PERSON OF THE WEEK

Patrick Weaver

PRAYER REQUESTS

Carole H., LJ & Corinne, 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 22, 2024
Rev. Ed Hoener
Elder Susan Krivenko
Carol Ann Bregman
Evan O'Donovan

10:30 A.M.
Pastor
Worship Leader
Administrator
Music Director