



December 29, 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 #142 *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime* vss. 1 & 4 Evan O'Donovan

Welcome Reverend Ed Hoener

Call To Worship

O God, in Christ, You came to us with great love, to comfort and restore our souls. In Your Spirit, You came with great power to change our hearts and lives. **Help us to welcome Your work within us – so that our lives will shine with love and faith and goodwill.** Jesus, with Your coming, a new era began! You made reformation a continual element in the living of our faith. **Help us to welcome Your new creation in our lives. Help us to become strong and wise, as we follow your light in the world.**

***Hymn of Praise #152** *What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright*

Call to Reconciliation

Prayer of Reconciliation

We come to you, O God, knowing that you love us completely, and that you never lose faith in us. We come, because sometimes we lose sight of Your will. Some-times our troubles and worrying eclipses your peace. We come to you, to receive your power to forgive ourselves and others. In your Spirit, we are restored and renewed, to start again, following you. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Reflection

Assurance of Grace

God's blessings are new every morning – God's gifts are perpetually available for us. **In receiving them, we are continually becoming 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!**

Ministry of Music #123 *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* Evan O'Donovan
vss. 1, 3, & 5

Scripture Reading

John 1:1-16

Message Pastor Ed

***Hymn of Faith #171** *A Sower Came from Ancient Hills* vss. 1, 2, & 4

*If you can stand comfortably, please do so.

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)

***Hymn of Response #127**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Charge and Blessing

Postlude #136

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Evan O'Donovan

**If you can stand comfortably, please do so.*

Announcements

Thank you to Cheryl Anne Cammann & 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.

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. You should have received a special mailing with an *Estimate of Giving Card* that was sent out which provides more information. Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events! – FPC Finance Team

There will be one gathering in January on Friday, the 10th.



PRAYER PERSON OF THE WEEK

Gail Woolley

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 29, 2024
Rev. Ed Hoener
Elder Al Shipley
Carol Ann Bregman
Evan O'Donovan

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