



December 8, 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

Welcome

Reverend Ed Hoener

Lighting the Advent Candle:

A Reading From Isaiah 9

The Lighting of the Candles

Unison Prayer:

God of promise, we thank You for bringing us the peace that is possible because of Your presence. You are as near to us as the air we breathe; therefore, even in this confusing and unsettling world, we can be a source of serenity and composure for others in Your name. Amen.

Call To Worship:

O God, You come to us with covenant love that holds us throughout our lives. You sent your son to redeem all people. Jesus, you came, bearing the gift of new, spiritual life. You help us to enter into that life. You transform our hearts. Holy Spirit, You empower our lives of faith so that they are like a light in the darkness. You guide us so that we are part of bringing peace and righteousness into the world.

***Hymn of Praise #106**

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Call to Reconciliation

Prayer of Reconciliation :

O God, Your grace helps us to live faithfully. Your Spirit frees us for true well-being. Yet, sometimes we allow things to get in the way of Your will. Sometimes we resist Your power to change us. But we thank You for Your continuous love, and determination to make us new creations! Help us to receive them anew this morning! Amen.

Silent Prayers

Assurance of Grace:

God, washes us clean, as white as snow. We are enabled to live abundantly, serving God's will.

***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 Music

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

Scripture Reading

Matt. 11:2-11

Message

Pastor Ed

Special Music

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)

Instant Replay

*Hymn of Response #741 *Guide My Feet* (Hold My Hand, Fill My Heart, Use My Gifts)

Charge and Blessing

Postlude

*If you can stand comfortably, please do so.

Announcements

Thank you to *Princeton Nwosu & Cheryl Anne Cammann* for running the projector & camera, and *Levi Knippel* for playing the guitar for today's service!

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

Christmas Caroling on Wednesdays @ 7 pm

Once again, we are joining our sisters & brothers at Zion to spread some holiday cheer in our community! We met this past Wednesday and will meet on December 11th & 18th. All are welcome so if you want to bring a friend or two, please feel free.

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.

No Fireside Gathering on Friday, December 13.

A Family Holiday Movie Night is being held instead @ 7 pm. All are welcome to join us for a fun evening at the church for a movie and some snacks!



PRAYER PERSONS OF THE WEEK

Tracie Wiebush & family

PRAYER REQUESTS

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 8, 2024
Rev. Ed Hoener
Glory Kalu
Carol Ann Bregman
Evan O'Donovan

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