

The First Presbyterian Church in Pitman, NJ

The Fourth Sunday of Advent - Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 18, 2016 @ 10 AM – Rev. Paul Grenier

For Prayer & Contemplation

“Joy, not grit, is the hallmark of holy obedience. We need to be light-hearted in what we do to avoid taking ourselves too seriously. It is a cheerful revolt against self and pride.” -Richard Foster

Welcome & Sharing Information Please sign the Fellowship Pad.

Prelude “In the Bleak Midwinter” - Holst, arr. Buckwalter – *Tyler Bell Choir*

Lighting the Advent Candles of Hope, Faith, Love, & Joy *The Hicks Family*

***Hymn No. 140** “Once In Royal David’s City”

The First Lesson **Isaiah 40:1-5, 9** (Read by *Sarah Jane Donofrio*)

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all the people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings, lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!”

Sanctuary Choir: “Comfort All Ye My People” - Faure

The Second Lesson **Luke 1:26, 35, 38** (Read by *Pete Staman*)

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

***Hymn No. 100** “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

The Third Lesson **Matthew 1:18-24** (Read by *Suzanne Carson*)

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way: When His mother, Mary, had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband, Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him.

Tyler Bell Choir: “On Christmas Night” - arr. Helman

The Fourth Lesson **Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7** (Read by *DJ Owens*)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

Sunshine Singers: “Unto Us a Child Is Born” - Farnell

Presentation of Tithes/Offering

Offertory/Combined Anthem “Antiphonal Noel” - Raney

Sunshine Singers, Sanctuary Choir & Impossible Ringers

***Doxology No. 606**

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

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

Lord, we ask that you bless this offering so that it provides more than physical support for your people, but provides them with light and spreads a joyful spirit to those in our community searching for a way out of their darkness and despair.

The Fifth Lesson **Luke 2:13-20** (Read by *Ellie Sanker*)

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Sanctuary Choir: “Gesù Bambino (The Infant Jesus)” - Yon

The Sixth Lesson **Matthew 2:1-8** (Read by *Barry Owen*)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed His star at its rising, and have come to pay Him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

Women’s Ensemble: “Coventry Carol”

Minute for Mission *Church Choirs*, by Marilyn Rabbai & Liz Messer

The Prayers of the People

The family of Kay Euler, Tom Hahn, the family of Dan Romano, the family of Helen Fitzpatrick, Linda Brown, Ken Swain, Bobbi Wilkins, Helena Roberts, the family of Eric King, Joe Carmichael, Bill McFarland, Fred & Doris Oltmann, the family of Betty Mixner, Carol Owens, the family of Kevin & Liz Gianfortune, Colleen Printy, Gary Wriggins, Cathy Russo, Debby Guarni, the family of Leslie Smathers, Jackie Kummer, Jennette Roesly, Jim McNabb, Marie Roberts, Deborah McLaverty, the family of Earl Warner, Robert Kressly, John Tignor, Nic Albadine, Dot Clay, Dorothy Weir, Rachel Ledden-Albadine, Betzaida Plaza, Kyle Hayes, Lorraine Kaltreider, Renee Farrell, Glenn Raudenbush, George Gruber, Erin Fitzpatrick, Montana Lovelace-LaPierre

***Hymn No. 147** "The First Nowell"

Benediction

Benediction Hymn No. 748 "Go with Us, Lord"

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day, that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you. Note: Our benediction choral response is sung to a tune called "Tallis' Canon." Composed by Thomas Tallis, it is called a canon because it is written in a style of imitation also known as a round. The organ accompaniment supports congregational singing of the tune starting on the first beat, and a secondary entrance of the same tune 4 beats later. You are welcome to join in at either time!

Postlude "Ding Dong! Merrily On High" - arr. Wagner – Tyler Bell Choir

*Please stand as you are able.

Please be advised that our worship service is filmed from the balcony. Though the camera's focus is primarily on the chancel, there are wide shots that may include parts of the congregation sitting near the front.

We appreciate you promptly picking your children up from Sunday School at the conclusion of our worship service. Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the Social Hall – all are welcome!

Thank you to our Worship Servers	
Acolyte	Sarah Carson
Liturgist	Suzanne Carson
Ushers	Karen Daly, Linda Waller, Mildred Haines, Betsy Wriggins
Greeter	Doris Ducat
Tellers	Glenn Stevick, Steve Langlois, Karen Daly
Officer of the Month	Margaret Ginter

Birthdays of the Week

December 18 to 25

- 18** Jill Waselik, Jean Wood
- 19** Elizabeth Conroy
- 20** Lynne Lowe, Sam Langlois
- 21** Caroline Conroy
- 22** Merri Owen, Lois Miller
- 23** Evelyn Crompton, Jean Brod, Marissa Lovelace-LaPierre
- 24** David Owens



This Week's Calendar

December 18 to 25

Sunday 18	10 AM Worship/Lessons & Carols 11:15 AM Sunshine Singers 11:15 AM Christian Education – Up Kitchen 11:15 AM Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 5 PM Christmas Caroling – church back door
Monday 19	
Tuesday 20	
Wednesday 21	1 PM Faith Circle – Up Kitchen 7 PM Circle of Life – Library 7 PM PNC – ML
Thursday 22	7 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 8 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Friday 23	5 PM Christmas Pageant Rehearsal & Pizza Party with Parents – Sanctuary/SH
Saturday 24	Christmas Eve 7 PM Christmas Pageant 11 PM Candlelight Service
Sunday 25	Christmas Day 10 AM Worship



First Presbyterian Church in Pitman

"God's Open House"

10 Wildwood Avenue
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Worship Service @ 10 AM
with communion on the first
Sunday of the month

Sunday School: 10:20-11:05 AM

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