

The First Presbyterian Church in Pitman, NJ

Third Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 17, 2017 | 10 AM | Rev. Drew Harrison

For Prayer & Contemplation

“We are all meant to be mothers of God. What good is it to me if this eternal birth of the divine Son takes place unceasingly, but does not take place within myself? And, what good is it to me if Mary is full of grace if I am not also full of grace? What good is it to me for the Creator to give birth to his Son if I do not also give birth to him in my time and my culture? This, then, is the fullness of time: When the Son of Man is begotten in us.”

- Meister Eckhart, 1260-1328, German Dominican monk

Welcome & Sharing Information Please sign the Fellowship Pad.

Prelude Sunshine Singers “Light One Candle”

Advent Candle Lighting

the Conley Family

One: Open the doors to our hearts, O God,

All: that we might find room for Christ to enter in.

One: Look upon us with favor, Emmanuel,

All: for we hunger for your presence with us.

One: Fill us with good things, and reveal yourself to us in our daily lives,

All: so that we may marvel with Mary at all that you are doing and fill our mouths with praise.

Call to Worship

(from The Worship Sourcebook)

One: Our souls magnify the Lord!

All: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

One: The mighty One has done great things for us!

All: Holy is God’s name!

One: Let us worship God.

All: For God is our Maker and our Redeemer; from generation to generation God gives mercy.

***Hymn No. 129** “Lo, How a Rose”

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,
always with us, always coming:
We confess that we do not know
how to prepare for your Advent.
We have forgotten how to hope in miracles;
we have ignored the promise of your kingdom;
we get distracted by all the busyness of this season.

Forgive us, God.

Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds,
the intelligent courage of the Magi,
and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph
that we may journey with them to Bethlehem
and find the good news of a child born for us.
Now, in the quiet of our hearts,
we ask you to make us ready for his coming.

Moment of Silence

Assurance of Forgiveness

***Hymn No. 581** “Glory Be to the Father”

“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.”

Passing of Peace

Anthem Sanctuary Choir - “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” – arr. Parker/Shaw

Time with Children (Dismissal to Sunday School)

Pastor: It is time for you to depart.

Adults: God be with you there.

Children: God be with you here.

Scripture

First Reading: *Ephesians 3:14-19* NT 193 LP 236

Second Reading: *Luke 1:26-38* NT 56 LP 69

Sermon “Theotokos”

Rev. Drew Harrison

Prayer and Meditation

Invitation to Offering

Remembering the gift of God’s love, let us offer our gifts to the Lord.

Offertory “Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming” - Brahms

***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.

Prayer of Dedication

(from The Worship Sourcebook)

Blessed are you, God of all creation;
through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Please contact the church office for a copy of the prayer list.

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

Benediction

Benediction Hymn No. 62 “Love the Lord Your God”

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart. Love the Lord your God with all your soul. Love the Lord your God with all your mind. Love the Lord your God with all that you are.”

Postlude “The Advent of Our King” – arr. Sanders

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.



Every Sunday, please join us in the Social Hall following worship service for coffee and fellowship at "Coffee Hour". All are welcome.

Ushers & Greeters



Thank you to our Worship Servers

Liturgist	Betsy Wriggins
Greeter	Elaine Scheetz
Ushers	Vicki Downing, Jeff Downing, Nancy Stewart, Dave Nicastro
Tellers	Vicki Downing, Jeff Downing, Nancy Stewart
Advent Candle Lighting	the Conley Family

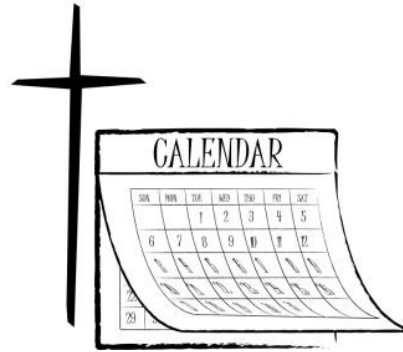
Music Notes

Today's prelude is based on a traditional folk melody arranged for voices and chimes. The offertory is composer Johannes Brahms' interpretation of the German Christmas hymn "Es ist ein Ros entsprungen," which first appeared in print in the year 1599. The music during the Advent prayer station is a traditional Anglican chant setting of the Song of Mary, also known as the Magnificat. The postlude is Bernard Wayne Sanders' 2016 setting of the tune "St. Thomas." We thank the Sunshine Singers, Tyler Cesario and the Sanctuary Choir for sharing special music with us this morning.



God bless you on your birthday.

December 17	Bobbie Griffith, Meghan Penney
December 18	Jill Waselik, Jean Wood
December 19	Elizabeth Conroy
December 20	Lynne Lowe, Sam Langlois
December 21	Caroline Conroy
December 22	Meri Owen, Lois Miller
December 23	Evelyn Crompton, Jean Brod, Marissa Lovelace-LaPierre



Sunday, December 17	10am Worship 1115am Youth Group Cookie Exchange 1115am Christian Education 1115am Sunshine Singers
Thursday, December 21	7pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 8pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Friday, December 22	730pm Blue Christmas Service of Healing
Saturday, December 23	4pm Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 6pm Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
Sunday, December 24	10am Lessons and Carols Worship Service 7pm Christmas Pageant – Non-perishable food items collected for Food Pantry 11pm Communion Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service
Sunday, December 31	940am Christmas Carols Hymn Sing 10am Worship Service 11am Taking down the Greens

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN PITMAN

"God's Open House"

10 Wildwood Avenue
Pitman, NJ 08071
(856) 589-1050



**Communion on the first Sunday of the month
Sunday School every week, 10:20-11:05 AM**

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