

The First Presbyterian Church in Pitman, NJ

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 9, 2018 | 10 AM | Rev. Drew Harrison

For Prayer & Contemplation

“The purpose of the voice of one crying in the wilderness is that the soul which has abandoned God may be recalled to the straight path of the Lord. ... The way of the Lord is made straight through contemplation, revealing itself in truth and without mingling of error, and in deeds that conform to right reason, and which, after due reflection, are seen to be just.” -Origen

Welcome & Sharing Information Please sign the Fellowship Pad.

Prelude “Comfort Ye My People” from the Messiah – Handel
Tyler Cesario, tenor

Lighting of the Advent Candle

One: With John the Baptist, calling from the wilderness, we cry:
"Prepare the way of the Lord! Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."
The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.
All: Alleluia!

Call to Worship (by Rev. Nancy Gowler)

One: Listen to the Spirit urging us to get ready—
All: Our calendars are jam-packed full.
One: Listen to the Spirit calling us to wait—
All: We've already been waiting; there's a line everywhere we go.
One: Listen to the Spirit inviting us to walk in the way of the Lord—
All: This is good news!
One: The way of the Lord is the path of peace.
All: We are glad to be in the house of the Lord!
One: May the Advent blessing of peace be with you.
All: We rejoice, for we are blessed to walk in the light of God!

***Hymn No. 347** “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Prayer of Confession

God of Grace, we confess that we are not ready for your arrival. In our busyness, we have left little room for you. We have neglected compassion, abandoned justice, and left the work of love undone. Forgive us, Lord. Straighten the winding ways of our hearts, and smooth the paths made rough by sin. Lead us **once more to the manger, that we may witness the humble beginnings of our salvation. Guide us to humbly follow where He leads, that we may dwell in your house forever.**

Moment of Silence

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: Hear God's words to us through Isaiah,
“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.”
Christ has paid our debts and set us free,
Rejoice and give thanks!
All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

***Hymn No. 582** “Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”
“Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen. World without end, without end, Amen, world without end, without end, Amen, world without end, without end, Amen, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.”

***Passing of Peace**

Anthem “Comfort, Comfort” - arr. Ferguson – *Sanctuary Choir*

Time with Children (Dismissal to Sunday School)

(Children will return during final hymn.)
Pastor: It is time for you to depart.
Adults: God be with you there.
Children: God be with you here.

Baptism of Benjamin Elliot Patterson

Infant son of Greg & Amy Patterson
Assisted by Elder Darlene Powell

Scripture

- Malachi 3:1-4 OT 889-90 LP 1088
- Luke 3:1-18 NT 60 LP 72-3

Prayer of Illumination

Sermon “Highways” — Rev. Drew Harrison

***Affirmation of Faith**

(Adapted from Westminster Confession of Faith 6.044)

One: In the fullness of time, the Son of God,
Being equal with the Father,
of the same divine substance,
**All: took upon our nature,
our strengths and our weakness,
yet without sin.**
One: He was conceived by the power of the Spirit,
in the womb of Mary,
bone of her bone, flesh of her flesh,
of the same human substance.
**All: God and humanity were
inseparably joined together in him.
He is God coming down to us,
and through him we are lifted up to God.**

Invitation to Offering

Offertory “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” - arr. Carter

***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**

Giver of all good things, we rejoice in our gift of your Son. Accept our gifts and bless them to your service. Shape us in your image and fill us with your presence. Amen.

The Prayers of the People



The First Presbyterian Church in Pitman

"God's Open House"

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Sunday Worship Service @ 10 AM

-  Communion on the first Sunday of the month
-  Sunday School each week from 10:20-11:05 AM

Thank you to our Worship Servers

Advent Lighting	The Scanlon and Harr Family
Liturgist	Sue Hummel
Greeter	Doris Ducat
Ushers	Bev Donofrio, Mildred Haines, John Fitzpatrick, Carol Schoepske
Tellers	Carol Schoepske, Terri Lovelace, John Fitzpatrick

This Week's Calendar

December 9 to 16

<i>Sunday</i> December 9	10 AM Worship 11:15 AM Sunshine Singers Practice 4:30 PM Confirmation Class - Memorial Lounge 6 PM Christmas Caroling - Meet @ Sliding Glass Door
<i>Monday</i> December 10	7 PM Property Committee - Church Library
<i>Tuesday</i> December 11	6:30 PM Invitation & Outreach - Memorial Lounge
<i>Wednesday</i> December 12	5 PM Youth Group - Social Hall
<i>Thursday</i> December 13	9:30 AM Weekday Preschool Christmas Pageant - Sanctuary/Social Hall 7 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 8 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
<i>Friday</i> December 14	7 PM Theology on Tap - Sanctuary/Human Village Brewing Company, Pitman
<i>Saturday</i> December 15	9:30 AM Grace Circle
<i>Sunday</i> December 16	10 AM Worship 11:15 AM Christian Education Committee - Upstairs Kitchen 11:15 AM Sunshine Singers Practice 11:15 AM Youth Grp. Christmas Cookie Exchange - SH

Happy Birthday

December 13	Phyllis Bullock-Beaufait
December 13	Zane Kensil
December 14	Catherine Hutton
December 15	Pete Staman

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. 106** "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

*Benediction

***Benediction Hymn No. 314** "Christ, Be Our Light"

"Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today."

Postlude "Prepare the Way, O Zion" - arr. Dahl

***** **Please stand as you are able.** *****



Today's prelude is George Frideric Handel's setting of Isaiah 40: 1-3, the first aria in his great oratorio "The Messiah," composed in 1741. The offertory is John Carter's 2007 piano arrangement of the 17th century French tune "Picardy." The postlude is David Dahl's 2013 setting of the Swedish folk hymn "Bereden vag for Herran." We thank Tyler Cesario and the Sanctuary Choir for sharing special music with us this morning.