

# The First Presbyterian Church in Pitman, NJ

## Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 16, 2018 | 10 AM | Rev. Drew Harrison

### For Prayer & Contemplation

'Every act...is a "miracle"—that is, something which could not be expected. If it is true that action and beginning are essentially the same, it follows that a capacity for performing miracles must likewise be within the range of human faculties. This sounds stranger than it actually is. It is in the nature of every new beginning that it breaks into the world as an "infinite improbability," and yet it is precisely this infinitely improbable which actually constitutes the very texture of everything we call real.' -*Hannah Arendt*

Welcome & Sharing Information Please sign the Fellowship Pad.

Prelude "Light of Hope" – Patterson – *Sunshine Singers*

### Lighting of the Advent Candle

One: With Mary, the mother of Jesus,  
And Joseph, his father,  
We magnify the Lord, rejoicing in God our Savior, for the Mighty  
One has done great things for us, and holy is God's name.

The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.

All: Alleluia!

### Call to Worship (*The Worship Sourcebook*)

One: We gather in preparation

All: for good news is about to be proclaimed.

One: We gather in expectation

All: for joy is about to explode in our midst.

One: We gather in celebration

All: for we are those people who have said

yes to the manger

yes to love enfleshed

yes to the one incarnate for others

yes to the wholeness of God.

One: With preparation and in expectation, let us celebrate!

\*Hymn No. 108 "Of the Father's Love Begotten" (vs. 1, 4 & 5)

### Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we confess that we have closed ourselves off from each other. We hold such a narrow view of who is our neighbor, our family, and our responsibility. Forgive us, Lord. Remind us that you have adopted us into your family, making us part of one body with all your children. Open us to new ways of being brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers to each other...

Fill us with joy and love in our relationships with each other and you, that we might welcome all to experience and join in the good news of our salvation.

### Moment of Silence

### Assurance of Forgiveness

One: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Your sins are pardoned.

Your penalty is paid.

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 "Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine" - 15<sup>th</sup> century German carol  
*Sunshine Singers*

### 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.

### Scripture

• Matthew 1:1-17 NT 1 LP 1

• Matthew 1:18-25 NT 1 LP 1-2

### Prayer of Illumination

Sermon "God's Step-Dad" — *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 "Of the Father's Love Begotten" - arr. MacMillan

### \*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 the 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 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.

### Thanks & Recognition for Acolytes

\*Hymn No. 100 "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

### \*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 "Of the Father's Love Begotten" - arr. Hancock

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



### Sanctuary Flowers

Today's Sanctuary Flowers are in honor and celebration of Lynn & Carol Schoepske's 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary & Dan & Jacque Lovelace's wedding, given by their family.



### Music Notes

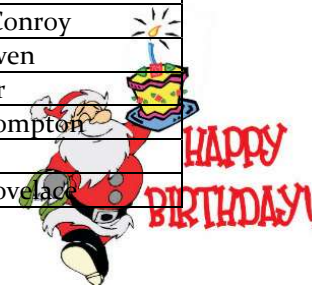
Today's prelude is a 2011 Advent anthem by Mark Patterson. The offertory is Alan MacMillan's 2017 setting of the 13<sup>th</sup> century plainsong "Divinum Mysterium." The postlude is Gerre Hancock's arrangement of the same tune. We thank the Sunshine Singers for sharing special music with us this morning.



Worship Helpers

<i>This Week's Calendar • December 16 to 23</i>	
<i>Sunday</i> December 16	<b>10 AM</b> Worship <b>11:15 AM</b> Christian Ed. Committee – Upstairs Kitchen <b>11:15 AM</b> Sunshine Singers Practice <b>11:15 AM</b> Youth Grp. Christmas Cookie Exchange – SH
<i>Monday</i> December 17	
<i>Tuesday</i> December 18	<b>12 PM</b> Joy Circle – Villari's
<i>Wednesday</i> December 19	<b>1 PM</b> Faith Circle
<i>Thursday</i> December 20	<i>Weekday Preschool Winter Break Begins</i> <b>7 PM</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal <b>8 PM</b> Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
<i>Friday</i> December 21	<b>7 PM</b> Blue Christmas Worship Service – Sanctuary
<i>Saturday</i> December 22	<b>9 AM</b> Christmas Pageant Practice – Sanctuary
<i>Sunday</i> December 23	<b>10 AM</b> Worship/Lessons & Carols No Sunshine Singers Practice Today <b>11:15 AM</b> Stephen Ministry – Upstairs Kitchen <b>5 PM</b> Christmas Pageant Practice/Pizza Party

<i>This Week's Birthdays</i>	
<b>December 17</b>	Bobbie Griffith
<b>December 17</b>	Meghan Murphy
<b>December 18</b>	Jill Waselik
<b>December 18</b>	Jean Wood
<b>December 19</b>	Elizabeth Conroy
<b>December 20</b>	Lynne Lowe
<b>December 20</b>	Sam Langlois
<b>December 21</b>	Caroline Conroy
<b>December 22</b>	Merrie Owen
<b>December 22</b>	Lois Miller
<b>December 23</b>	Evelyn Crompton
<b>December 23</b>	Jean Brod
<b>December 23</b>	Marissa Lovelace



<i>Thank you to our Worship Servers</i>	
<b>Advent Lighting</b>	The Riggs & Foster Family
<b>Liturgist</b>	Patty Januszewski
<b>Greeter</b>	Elaine Scheetz
<b>Ushers</b>	Nancy Stewart, Dave Nicastro, Bobbi Wilkins, Margaret Ginter
<b>Tellers</b>	Jean Brod, Bobbi Wilkins, Karen Daly

# The First Presbyterian Church in Pitman

*"God's Open House"*

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3rd SUNDAY OF *Advent*

*Sunday Worship Service @ 10 AM*

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