

The First Presbyterian Church in Pitman, NJ
 4th Sunday of Advent • Christmas Joy Offering
Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 23, 2018 | 10 AM | Rev. Drew Harrison

For Prayer & Contemplation

“There must be always remaining in every man’s life some place for the singing of angels—someplace for that which in itself is breathlessly beautiful and by an inherent prerogative throwing all the rest of life into a new and created relatedness....Despite all of the crassness of life, despite all of the hardness of life, despite all of the hard discords of life, life is saved by the singing of angels.”
 —Howard Thurman

Welcome & Sharing Information Please sign the Fellowship Pad.

Minute for Mission: *Christmas Joy Offering*

Bidding Prayer

Prelude “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” - arr. Leavitt
 Linda Davis, organ

Lighting of the Advent Candle

One: With choirs of angels, and with all the heavenly host, we sing: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all.”
 The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.

All: Alleluia!

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.

Lesson 1—Creation: *Genesis 1:1-2:3* read by Darlene Jacobson
 Old Testament pgs. 1-2; Large print pgs. 1-2

Anthem: *Tyler Bell Choir:* “In Dulci Jubilo” - arr. James L. Fisher

Lesson 2—Covenant: *Genesis 17:1-8, 15-22* read by Jennifer Russell
 Old Testament pg. 13; Large print pgs. 15-16

Anthem: “The Holly and the Ivy” - arr. Britten

Lesson 3—Justice: *Isaiah 11:1-12* read by Jacob Hwang
 Old Testament pgs. 640-1; Large print pg. 784

Anthem: *Sanctuary Choir:* “Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming” – Praetorius

***Hymn No. 121** “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Lesson 4—Peace: *Micah 5:2-5* read by Barbara Wallace
 Old Testament pg. 865; Large print pg. 1056

Anthem: *Tyler Bell Choir:* “O Come, Little Children” - arr. Kenneth Lowenberg

Lesson 5—Grace: *Matthew 1:18-25* read by Emily Polhamus
 Old Testament pgs. 1-2; Large print pgs. 1-2

Invitation to Offering

Offertory “Once in Royal David’s City” - arr. Cherwien

***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.

Lesson 6—Good News: *Luke 2:1-7* read by Matthew Hwang
 New Testament pg. 58; Large print pg. 71

Anthem: *Tyler Bell Choir:* “Joy to the World” - arr. Valerie Stephenson

Lesson 7—Great Joy: *Luke 2:8-10* read by David Wible
 Old Testament pg. 58; Large print pg. 71

***Hymn No. 118** “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

Lesson 8—Light: *John 1:1-14* read by John Polhamus
 Old Testament pgs. 91-92; Large print pg. 111

Anthem: *Sanctuary Choir & congregation:* “Festival First Nowell” - arr. Dan Forrest [Using Hymn #147 “The First Nowell” (congregation on verses 1 and 6, choir only on verse 2)]

One: In the beginning was the Word,
 All: **and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

One: He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him,

All: **and without him not one thing came into being.**

One: What has come into being in him was life,

All: **and the life was the light of all people.**

One: The light shines in the darkness,

All: **and the darkness did not overcome it.**

One: There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

All: **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

One: He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

All: **And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.**

Closing Prayer

***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 “Toccata on ‘In Dulci Jubilo” - Vivian

***** **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.

➤ Join us in the Social Hall this and every Sunday after worship service for fellowship at Coffee Hour. All are welcome!

<i>Thank you to our Worship Servers</i>	
Advent Lighting	Jim Smathers, Ruth Smathers
Acolyte	Jacob Hwang
Liturgists	Darlene Jacobson, Jennifer Russell, Jacob Hwang, Barbara Wallace, Emily Polhamus, Matthew Hwang, David Wible, John Polhamus
Greeter	Judy Reed
Ushers	Denny Meudt, Elaine Scheetz, Presley Albadine, Linda Waller
Tellers	Glenn Stevick, Steve Langlois, John Fitzpatrick



Music Notes

Today's prelude is John Leavitt's setting of a Martin Luther Christmas Eve hymn, "Vom Himmel Hoch." The offertory is David Cherwien's arrangement of the tune "Irby," originally written in 1849 by Henry John Gauntlett and traditionally used as the opening hymn for Lessons and Carols. The postlude is James Vivian's 2014 toccata (touch piece) based on the German medieval carol melody, "In Dulci Jubilo." We thank our lesson readers, Linda Davis, the Tyler Bell Choir and the Sanctuary Choir for taking part in this morning's special service.



The First Presbyterian Church in Pitman

"God's Open House"

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Joy to the world!



<i>This Week's Calendar • December 23 to 30</i>	
<i>Sunday</i> December 23	10 AM Worship/Lessons & Carols <i>No Sunshine Singers Practice Today</i> 11:15 AM Stephen Ministry – Upstairs Kitchen 5 PM Christmas Pageant Practice/Pizza Party
<i>Monday</i> December 24	Christmas Eve 7 PM Christmas Pageant – Sanctuary
<i>Tuesday</i> December 25	Christmas Day <i>Church Office Closed</i>
<i>Wednesday</i> December 26	<i>Church Office Closed</i>
<i>Thursday</i> December 27	8 AM Trustees – Upstairs Kitchen <i>No Choir Rehearsals Today</i>
<i>Friday</i> December 28	
<i>Saturday</i> December 29	
<i>Sunday</i> December 30	10 AM Worship/Christmas Hymn Sing <i>No Sunshine Singers Practice Today</i>



**LESSONS
and
CAROLS**

<i>This Week's Birthdays</i>	
December 23	Evelyn Crompton
December 23	Jean Brod
December 23	Marissa Lovelace
December 24	David Owens
December 27	Mildred Haines
December 27	Marilyn Rabbai
December 29	Carol Schoepske
December 30	Don Zimmerman



Sunday Worship Service @ 10 AM

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