

# The First Presbyterian Church in Pitman, NJ

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Sunday, December 1, 2019 • 10 AM • Rev. Wendy Boer

**Welcome & Sharing Information** Please sign the Fellowship Pad.

**Prelude** "Comfort Ye" from the Messiah - Handel  
Tyler Cesario, soloist

## Advent Candle Lighting

Please join me in reading:

**A child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders,  
and he is named Wonderful Counselor.**

## Call to Worship

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: God has called us to be alert and watchful.

**All: Lest Christ come and find us asleep.**

One: Morning or midday, noon or nighttime.

**All: We must be ready for his every advent.**

One: Let us worship God!

\***Hymn No. 82** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

## Prayer of Confession

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

## Moment of Silence

## Words of Assurance

One: God is merciful and gracious; slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Friends, in Christ, believe the Good News.

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

\***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

One: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**Anthem** "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning" - Scott  
Family Pick-Up 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.**

## Scripture

*First Reading:* Romans 13:11-14 NT 162

LP 197-8

*Second Reading:* Matthew 24:36-44 NT 27-8

LP 33-4

## Prayer of Illumination

**Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Sermon** "The Ultimate Surprise Party" - Rev. Wendy Boer

## \*Affirmation of Faith (Confession of 1967)

**The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission.**

**His life involves the church in the common life of all.**

**His service commits the church to work for every form of human well-being.**

**His suffering makes the church sensitive to the sufferings of all so that it sees the face of Christ in every kind of need.**

**His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on humanity's cruelty and the awful consequences of its own complicity in injustice.**

**In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of life in society and of God's victory over all wrong.**

**The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action.**

**So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.**

## Invitation to Offering

**Offertory** "Every Valley" from the Messiah - Handel  
Tyler Cesario, soloist

## \*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

**Generous God, you fill us with good things. In thanks, we offer you our hands, our hearts, and our treasures. Use all our gifts so that this world might be transformed by your love. Amen.**

## The Sacrament of Communion

### Invitation to the Lord's Table

### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise,

O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

You set us in this world to love and serve you and to live in peace with all that you have made.

Therefore we joyfully praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**One: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory;**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

One: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

You sent him into this world to satisfy the longings of your people for a Savior,

to bring freedom to the captives of sin, and to establish justice for the oppressed.

He came among us as one of us,

taking the lot of the poor, sharing human suffering.

We rejoice that in his death and rising again, you set before us the sure promise of new life,

the certain hope of a heavenly home

where we will sit at table with Christ our host...

# The First Presbyterian Church in Pitman

*"God's Open House"*

10 Wildwood Avenue  
 Pitman, NJ 08071  
 (856) 589-1050  
 pitmanpres.org  
 office@pitmanpres.org



*Sunday Worship Service @ 10 AM*

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

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service. Great is the mystery of faith:

**One: Christ has died.  
 Christ is risen.  
 Christ will come again.**

**One:** Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, that we may be one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world. Hear the intercessions we make for the world as we pray for:

.....  
 Strengthen us, O God, in the power of your Spirit to bring good news to the poor and lift blind eyes to sight, to lose the chains that bind and claim your blessing for all people. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**One:** Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.  
**All: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**

**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.**

**Words of Institution** Rev. Wendy Boer

**Communion Hymn No. 88** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"  
 (Communion Servers, please come forward.) *Ushers will direct the congregation to come forward by pews, forming two lines to receive communion through intinction.*

**The Sharing of the Supper**

**Prayer after Communion**

**Gracious God, we give you thanks for satisfying our hungry hearts with this holy meal shared in the Spirit with Jesus, your Son, our Lord. Strengthened and refreshed, we go from here to speak your love and to reveal your glory in the world. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*Hymn No. 494** "Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts"

**Benediction**

**\*Benediction Hymn No. 543** "O Christ, Surround Me" v. 5  
**"Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me: O Christ, surround me; O Christ surround me."**

**Postlude** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" – arr. Powell

<i>Thank you to our Worship Servers</i>	
<b>Advent Candle Lighting</b>	Mildred Haines
<b>Acolyte</b>	
<b>Communion Servers</b>	Jim Scanlon, Betsy Wriggins, Lionel Stewart, Jim Smathers
<b>Liturgist</b>	Sandy Lovelace
<b>Greeter</b>	Doris Ducat
<b>Ushers</b>	Dave Nicastro, Cathy Russo, Mike Ballard, Bobbi Wilkins
<b>Tellers</b>	Jean Brod, Mike Ballard, Bobbi Wilkins
<b>Coffee Hr. Host</b>	Doug Hoffman

**Music Notes** 

Today's prelude and offertory are the opening tenor solos from George Frederic Handel's most celebrated oratorio, the Messiah. In these two movements the words of the prophet Isaiah in chapter 40 (verses 1-4) set the stage for the advent of Jesus' birth. The anthem is K. Lee Scott's arrangement of an African American spiritual based on the parable of the wise and foolish virgins found in Matthew 25:1-13. We thank Tyler Cesario and the Family Pick-Up Choir for sharing special music with us this morning.