

The First Presbyterian Church in Pitman, NJ

4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 22, 2019 • 10 AM • Rev. Drew Harrison

For Prayer and Contemplation

'We must remember that though we are saved by Grace, yet Grace does not stupefy us, but rather quickens us into action. And though salvation depends upon the merits of Christ, yet those who receive those merits receive with them a faith which produces holiness.' -Charles Spurgeon

Welcome & Sharing Information Please sign the Fellowship Pad.

Prelude "Gabriel's Message" - arr. Bedford

Advent Candle Lighting Wallace/Gilmore Families

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,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

Call to Worship

One: God of generations,
your promises come to birth in surprising ways.

**All: Fill our hearts with courage and hope
and fill our dreams with visions of new life
so that we live according to your word
and love with the fullness of your grace;
in the holy name of Jesus, our Savior.**

*Hymn No. 106 "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

Prayer of Confession (Dr. Tom Cheatham)

O God, still creating,
we hear your promises of a new day of joy and peace,
and we are skeptical.
We expect things to go on the same as they always have,
from bad to worse.
The past will keep us guilty,
the future will make us afraid,
and the present will burden us
with too little time and too much to do.

Forgive our lack of faith,
our quickness to believe that you do not hear us,
and our pessimism about tomorrow...

Do a new thing in our hearts,
and let us be glad and rejoice in your abundant care;
through Christ we pray. Amen.

Moment of Silence

Words of Assurance

One: Who is a God like ours? God forgives sinners. God delights in mercy.

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 "Silent Night" - arr. Lanier

The Carson/Hwang ensemble: Sarah & Maggie Carson, Jacob Hwang

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: John 8:1-11 NT 100-01 LP 122-23

Second Reading: Matthew 1:12-24 NT 1 LP 1-2

Prayer of Illumination

Sermon "Grace Begets Grace" - Rev. Drew Harrison

*Affirmation of Faith (Barmen Declaration)

**The church's commission,
upon which its freedom is founded,
consists in delivering the message of the free grace of God
to all people in Christ's stead,
and therefore in the ministry of his own Word
and work through sermon and Sacrament.**

**We reject the false doctrine,
as though the church in human arrogance
could place the Word and work of the Lord
in the service of any arbitrarily chosen
desires, purposes, and plans.**

*Hymn (Insert) "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

Minute for Mission Christmas Joy Offering, Vicki Downing

Invitation to Offering

Offertory "Magnificat" (My Soul Glorifies the Lord) - Schram
Maggie & Sarah Carson, vocal duet

*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 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.

*Hymn No. 138 "Who Would Think That What Was Needed"

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

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

| <i>Thank you to our Worship Servers</i> | |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Advent Candle Lighting | Wallace/Gilmore Families |
| Liturgist | Suzanne Carson |
| Greeter | Judy Reed |
| Ushers | Ed Mitchell, Jim Smathers, Vicki Downing, Jeff Downing |
| Tellers | Jeff Downing, Jim Smathers, Vicki Downing |
| Coffee Hr. Host | Jennifer Grenier |



Music Notes

Today's prelude is Michael Bedford's 2014 arrangement of a traditional carol melody from the Basque provinces connecting southern France and northeastern Spain. The postlude is David Dahl's 2013 setting of a 17th century Swedish folk tune, "Bereden vag for Herran." We thank Sarah Carson, Maggie Carson and Jacob Hwang for sharing special music with us this morning.



| <i>This Week's Birthdays</i> | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| December 22 | Merrie Owen |
| December 22 | Lois Miller |
| 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 |

| <i>This Week's Calendar</i> December 22-29 | |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Sunday</i> December 22 | 10 AM Worship *No Sunshine Singers Practice Today* 11:30 AM Stephen Ministry – Upstairs Kitchen 7 PM Blue Christmas Service – Sanctuary |
| <i>Monday</i> December 23 | 6 PM Liturgical Music Meeting – Upstairs Kitchen 6:30 PM Christmas Caroling – Pitman Manor |
| <i>Tuesday</i> December 24 | Christmas Eve <i>Church Office Half Day</i> 7 PM Christmas Pageant – Sanctuary 11 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Service – Sanctuary |
| <i>Wednesday</i> December 25 | Christmas Day <i>Church Office Closed</i> |
| <i>Thursday</i> December 26 | *No Music Rehearsals Today* |
| <i>Friday</i> December 27 | |
| <i>Saturday</i> December 28 | |
| <i>Sunday</i> December 29 | 10 AM Worship (Christmas Hymn Sing) *No Sunshine Singers Practice Today* |



The First Presbyterian Church in Pitman

"God's Open House"

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FOURTH 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