



First Presbyterian Church

New Haven, Connecticut

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017

10:45 a.m.

Prelude *Three Advent Chorales* Pepping

Introit *Creator of the Stars of Night* Latin Hymn

Call to Worship/ Candle Lighting Anita Shaffer, Mary Evans

In the days when Jesus began his ministry, John the Baptist announced a word of hope:

The One who is more powerful than I is coming after me!

And even before then, Isaiah prophesied:

“A voice cries out: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God!”

On this second Sunday of Advent, we listen to these heralding voices and we light this candle as a sign of peace.

May it light the path of those who bear the peace of Christ here in this place, and throughout the world.

Here in this place,

Come let us worship God!

*Hymn 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

GENEVAN 42

Call to Reconciliation

Silence is kept.

Prayer of Confession

In the days that have been, O God, we have walked along crooked paths strewn with our selfishness and greed, our prejudice, and our apathy. We confess that we have hidden from the light, from the light which exposes everything, the love and the hate, the good deeds and the harmful ones. On this day we admit to you our failings, where we have wandered, when we have not listened. We confess to you our sin. In the days to come, remind us of your love and grace. Show us your power to transform hearts and minds. Sate us with peace in our souls that we will take peace into this war-weary world. In Christ we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

... Know that indeed you are forgiven, and be at peace.

In Jesus Christ, we are made new. Thanks be to God!

*Song of Praise

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

**O come, Desire of nations, bind, all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

*The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(Before sitting, please greet those around you with words of Christ's peace.)

Words of Welcome

Please sign the black friendship pad and pass to others in your pew.
Children are welcome to participate in the Children in Worship program.

Response	<i>Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn</i>	REJOICE, REJOICE	*Affirmation of Faith	from "A Brief Statement of Faith"
			In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.	
			We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equal in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation.	
			Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.	
Prayer for Illumination			With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.	
First Lesson		Isaiah 40: 1-11 (pp. 667-668)		
Psalm		Psalm 85: 7-13		
			The Offering	
			Offertory Anthem	<i>Turn on the Light</i> Beth Aura Miller, solo
				Drenner
Second Lesson		Mark 1: 1-8 (p. 34)		
The Word of the Lord.			*Doxology	OLD HUNDREDTH
Thanks be to God.			Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Christ, all people here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.	
Sermon	<i>Prepare the Way</i>	The Rev. J.C. Cadwallader		
*Hymn 96	<i>On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry</i>	WINCHESTER NEW	* Prayer of Thanksgiving	
			God of Peace, God of Love, you have done and are doing great things. Holy is your name. Bless all we offer you – ourselves, our time, and our possessions – that through us your grace and peace may be made known to all the world for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.	

* Communion Hymn 770 *I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table*
(verses 1, 3 & 5)

WELCOME TABLE

The Sacrament of Holy Communion
The Invitation
Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

... With the with the faithful of every time and place, on this Advent Sunday your people cry out:

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, Heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry, Ho san-na in the high-est! Bless-ed is the one who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est, Ho-san-na in the high-est!

The prayer continues ...

Hear us as we now declare the mystery that is our faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

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.

The Words of Institution
The Communion of the People

In serving one another, hold the tray for the person sitting beside you.
Hold the bread until all are served and drink from your cup when you receive it.
Please do not return the empty cup to the tray.
(Gluten free bread is in the cup found on the plate with the bread.)

Prayer after Communion

Holy Triune God, we thank you for this meal that proclaims the peace and healing of the nations. We thank you for this meal where a little is enough to change our lives; where a little is more than enough to feed those whose hearts yearn for communion in community. May this bread and fruit of the vine nourish us so that we may grow in the faith and knowledge that in you, we are one. Amen.

*Hymn 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

*Benediction

Postlude

O Light, Which from the Light Has Birth

Peeters

*Those who prefer to do so may remain seated.



Welcome to the First Presbyterian Church of New Haven. We are glad you are here. We seek to be a warm and welcoming community of Christian people. If you are new to this congregation, please introduce yourself to others sitting around you, and to the pastor, so that we may welcome you personally. During the Words of Welcome, add your name to the Friendship Pad. Please plan to stay for the Friendship Hour following the service.

Participating in worship leadership this morning are:

Liturgist: Michal Beth Dinkler

Communion Servers: Art Hunt, Sue Balakrishnan, Jane Hindenlang, Beth Aura Miller, Brian Gray, and Jen Herbst

Ushers: Charles McEnally, Wayne Meeks

Friendship Hour Hosts: Gary and Becky Cline

Flowers given by Katherine Milligan: To the glory of God, in memory of George Lee, to honor all righteous fathers.

The Reverend J.C. Cadwallader may be reached at her email: PastorJC@fpcnh.org or the church phone (203) 562-5664. Mondays are her day off.

Today is Goody Bag Sunday! College and University students, please pick up your goody bags in the Copeland Room after worship. There are bags for everyone who worships with us; but check with Jean McCloskey or Beth Aura Miller if you don't see your name on a bag.

Today after worship: Free Trade and Locally Produced Gifts for holiday giving will be available from The New Haven/Leon Sister City Project. You will be supporting preschool and after school programs, a women's program that focuses on teaching women their rights, including how to respond to domestic violence, and much more.

Abe's Tent is coming! Abe's Tent is coming! Our church will be hosting 12 men from Columbus House starting Monday, January 15th (Martin Luther King Jr. observance day) until Monday, January 22nd. Sign-up sheets will be posted on the white boards in the Miller Gathering Hall starting next Sunday. We seek people to host, provide dinner, stay overnight and/or greet the men. Your participation is encouraged and greatly appreciated! Any questions, please contact Brian Gray.

Stewardship Campaign: We are winding down this year's Stewardship Campaign, thank-you to all who have already returned your stewardship pledge card. If you've not had a chance to pledge yet, you can drop it in this morning's offering plate (pledge cards are available on the Friendship Table), mail it to the church this week or email a note *in confidence* to: firstpreschurchstewardship@gmail.com. Your prompt response enables Session's responsible preparation this month of a budget to accomplish our bold hopes and dreams to serve God in our lives, church and community.

Signup for Christmas Potluck: Please signup TODAY to let us know what you plan to bring to our Christmas Dinner potluck next Sunday, December 10th. We will gather after the Christmas music service to eat, sing carols and delight in one another's company. We will need food of every kind on the table: turkey, ham and vegetarian main dishes, and potatoes and green beans and salad too! Sides of cranberry relish, of course. And lots of dessert! Sign up sheets are on the Welcome Table.

Let's watch Disney Pixar's *Inside Out*!--Next Sunday, Dec 10th, after the Christmas Potluck (1-3 pm); children, youth, and adults of all ages are welcome to attend and encouraged to see the film sometime before our joy-themed Advent service on December 17th (hint-hint). We also need a few adult volunteers to help out at this event. See Kimberley Fais for more details.

Adult Sunday School in December: During the 9:30 am on Dec 10 and 17th, we will share our Advent reflections and insights, learned from our daily devotional *Preparing for Christmas* by Richard Rohr. Come learn with us!

Memorial Cairn, Monday, December 5 at 6:00 p.m.: Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice will mark the cost of the continuing violence in Iraq and Afghanistan and elsewhere in the Mid-East with a 15 minute prayer service at the intersection of Broadway, Elm and Park Streets in New Haven.

Music Next Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent (Dec 10th), the choir will offer its annual Advent and Christmas music program, during the time of the sermon. The selections will include a setting of verses of Psalm 24 by the Welsh composer William Mathias; a movement from Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*; carols from Italy, England, and Germany; a Christmas lullaby by New Haven composer Charles Garner, with Angela Daniels as soloist; and the chorus "His Yoke Is Easy, His Burthen Is Light," from Handel's *Messiah*. Come and join us for a musical celebration of the season, and stay to enjoy the Christmas dinner in the Miller Hall.

Sewing Supplies needed by Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS): The women's refugee sewing group is an important program for IRIS because it gives women with very little education a motive to be with others for a social time that comes with some assimilation. The sewing group is looking for donations of thread, material and scissors. Also needed are jewelry making supplies such as beads, tools and findings. If you have any of these items at home that you would like to donate, please place them in the labeled box in the Copeland Room.

Sunday school for children and youth includes Bible Stories class and Prayer & Preaching class. We're on a hiatus now, and we're using our usual Sunday school timeslot to prepare to lead our annual Children's Advent Service from start to finish on December 17th! Block 2 of our classes will resume in January.

Session & Nominating Committee: Are you or someone you know sensing a call to get more involved with the First Presbyterian Church community? If so, now's a great time to explore that call with the Nominating Committee! The Nominating Committee is now receiving names of those interested in and called to serve in the role of Ruling Elder (class of 2020) or on the 2018 Nominating Committee. To submit a name, please email Jane Hindenlang by Dec 12.



Christmas Poinsettias

If you wish to give flowers for the Christmas display of poinsettias and greens for the sanctuary, clip this order form and drop it in the offering plate with your check, noting it is for poinsettias. The cost is \$12.

Number of Poinsettias _____

In Memory of _____

or

In Thanksgiving for _____

Given by
(as you would like printed in the bulletin) _____

Check here if you would like to take a plant home on December 24th _____

In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. (Philippians 4:6)

When you pray, offer prayers for ...

Our country and its leaders.

Church members and friends who seek God's healing grace, including Ken Haynam, at Benchmark Senior Living in Hamden.

For Jeff Miller, brother of David, who is recovering from surgery this week.

For Stewart Fritts, who is struggling with health issues.

Prayers for those who suffer from gun violence.

Prayers for those who do not have enough to eat.

Prayers for peace.

Andrew McCloskey, serving with the Peace Corps in Mozambique.

James Smit and Patrick Copeland, who are serving in the armed forces.

Those who are unable to worship with us on a regular basis.

Prayers for other people and situations in need of our supplications.

This Week

Sunday, December 3	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages
	10:45 a.m.	Worship & Communion
	12:00 p.m.	Friendship Hour
Monday, December 4	6:00 p.m.	Memorial Cairn
Tuesday, December 5	6:30 p.m.	Worship Committee
	7:00 p.m.	CLOC Committee
Wednesday, December 6	5:00 p.m.	Property Committee
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, December 9	9:30 a.m.	Women's AA
	10:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, December 10	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages
	10:45 a.m.	Worship
	12:00 p.m.	Christmas Dinner Potluck
	1:00 p.m.	<i>Inside Out</i> movie

The Session of First Presbyterian Church

Class of 2017	Lynn Autry Jane Hindenlang	Candice Gray Bruce Peabody
Class of 2018	Gary Cline Phillip Phiri	John Dinkler Robert Williams
Class of 2019	Lucy Ambach Fiona Scott Morton	Rona Johnston Mary Porterfield
Clerk	Tim McCloskey	
Treasurer	Mike Spicer	

First Presbyterian Church of New Haven is a More Light Congregation and part of Presbyterian Promise. Both organizations are dedicated to the full inclusion of lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual and questioning individuals.

The Staff of First Presbyterian Church

Pastor:	The Reverend J. C. Cadwallader
Music Director:	Patrick McCreless
Church Administrator:	Martha Smith
Christian Educator:	Kimberley Fais
Nursery Care Provider:	Emily Landino

The church office welcomes your announcements and prayer requests for the bulletin. Please send the copy to firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com by Wednesday before noon to be included in the Sunday Bulletin.

Please remember that parking is available at the Hooker School on Sunday mornings when lawn or street parking is unavailable.

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