



First Presbyterian Church

New Haven, Connecticut

4th Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

10:45 a.m.

Prelude *Savior of the Nations, Come* Bach

Introit *Lo, How a Rose*
Molly Lanz, trumpet Lauriann Burt, saxophone Kimberley Fais, clarinet

Call to Worship

A tiny jewel of light dances on the edge of the horizon,
a solitary star before sunrise glimmers a promise of dawn
at the end of the world's blight.

It is the Light of the World, Emmanuel, God with us, the Promised One.

Come to us, Emmanuel!

We have seen your light and gather here awaiting the day of your coming.

Let us worship God!

*Hymn *How Can We Sing A Joyful Song?* O WALY WALY

**How can we sing a joyful song?
O God, our sorrows hem us in.
When pain and grief seem all too strong,
How can we sing a joyful hymn?**

**The world around finds songs to sing
Of laughter, mirth, and happiness,
But these sound false and even sting
When what we feel is deep distress.**

**And yet, O God, we dare to sing
For in our grief, we're not alone.
You love this world and entered in
By sending us your only son.**

**You sent us hope, Emmanuel!
O God-with-us, you bore our pain.
And so we sing, for all is well!
In Christ we will be whole again.**

Advent Candle Lighting

We come to worship God, who meets us in the depths of our sorrows, our fears, and our oppressions.

Where does our hope come from? Our hope comes from the Lord.

We recognize the power and privileges we hold, and with God's help, we wield them, risk them, and relinquish them.

**We lift up the smallest voices among us, recalling the cry of the baby Savior,
awaiting the birth of God-with-us.**

This is the candle of hope.

Light the way toward Hope, O God.

This is the candle of peace.

Light the way toward Peace, O God.

This is the candle of love.

Light the way toward Love, O God.

This is the candle of joy.

Light the way toward Joy, O God.

As light comes from these candles, may the blessing of Jesus Christ come to us, directing our way.

May Christ our Savior bring joy to this world and to us, as we wait for his coming. Amen.

*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 encouraged to remain in the sanctuary, but if you wish,
nursery care is available in the Community Building.

Response

Creator of the Stars of Night

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Luke 1:26-38 (pp. 56-57)

Psalm

Psalm 126

Second Lesson

Luke 1:39-56 (p. 57)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Play

The Magnificat, Inside Out

Sermon

Riley Lanz

*Hymn 100

Canticle of the Turning

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

*A Christmas Affirmation

from "First Coming" by Madeline L'Engle

God did not wait until the world was ready, until the nations were at peace.

God came when the Heavens were unsteady and prisoners cried out for release.

God did not wait for the perfect time.

God came when the need was deep and great. God dined with sinners in all their grime, turned water into wine.

God did not wait until hearts were pure.

In joy, God came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt. To a world like ours, of anguished shame, God came and God's Light would not go out.

God came to a world which did not mesh; to heal its tangles, shield its scorn. In the mystery of the Word made Flesh, the Maker of the Stars was born.

We cannot wait until the world is sane to raise our songs with joyful voice, or to share our grief, to touch our pain. God came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

The Offering

Offertory

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

*Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heavenly host
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, we offer you our time, our talents, our gifts, and our service.

With your help, may we wield them, risk them, and relinquish them for your purposes. Through them and through us, may the world know your hope, peace, love, and joy. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Sadie and Claire Turner

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 107

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

REJOICE, REJOICE

*Benediction

O God of Elizabeth and Mary, you visited your servants with news—

News of the world's redemption in the coming of the Savior.

Make our hearts leap with joy

and fill our mouths with songs of praise,

so that we may announce glad tidings of peace,

and welcome the Christ in our midst. Amen.

Postlude

A Joyous Noel

Franck

*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.

Nursery care is provided each morning in the Owens Community Building nursery. Infants and children are also welcome in the service and encouraged to participate fully in worship. A rocking chair is available nearby in the Copeland Room, and bulletins for ages 3-6 and 7-12 are found at the entrance.

Participating in worship leadership this morning are:

Play: “The Magnificat, Inside Out”

Concept: The Rev. Theo Gill

Story & Script: The Children’s Prayer & Preaching Class

Costumes & Props: Sadae Hori, Lynn Autry, and the Cast

Cast: Charlotte Miller-Jensen (Happiness), Turner Bowles (Sadness), Dahlia Gulden (Disgust), Alethea Dinkler (Anger), Lauriann Burt (Fear), and Molly Lanz (Joy)

Offertory Ensemble:

Piano: Pat McCreless

Xylophone: Lauriann Burt

Drum: Riley Lanz

Trumpet: Molly Lanz

Maracas and Eggshakers: Jackson Williams, Turner and Emma Bowles, Charlotte and Lucy Miller-Jensen, Alethea Dinkler

Readers: Lauriann Burt, Alethea Dinkler, Daelen Dinkler, Dahlia Gulden, Emma Bowles, Turner Bowles, Levi Mecca, Lily Mecca, Jackson Williams, Claire Turner, Sadie Turner, Molly Lanz, Riley Lanz, Charlotte Miller-Jensen.

Ushers: Rona Johnston and Bruce Gordon

Friendship Hour Hosts: The Wallman Family

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.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be offered this morning during a brief service following the postlude, led by The Reverend Sue Asher. All are welcome.

Abraham’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 are now posted on the white boards in the Miller Gathering Hall. 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 at brian_gry@yahoo.com.

Alternative Giving this Christmas season can still be done through the Presbyterian Church's Giving Catalog. These are perfect gifts for those that *have* everything; give in their name to someone who *needs* everything. Gifts can range from \$10 for garden tools up to \$1,200 for a fishing boat, with many dollar amounts and choices in between. Pick up a catalog from the Welcome Table today!

Volunteer to usher or host friendship hour! New signup sheets with 2018 dates are on the Welcome Table. For the end of 2017, we still need one usher for the 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service, and friendship hour hosts for after the Sunday, Dec 31st service.

The Christmas Joy Offering, our denomination's special offering to support retired church workers and colleges and schools serving minority students, will be collected next Sunday, December 24th.

3rd Thursday at the Manse, Dec 21st: Pastor JC and Heather invite you to come to the manse for fellowship and food. They'll provide the main dish (likely pasta) — and you provide a side or dessert. Even if you don't/can't bring anything to share, come on along — there will be plenty. The manse is the yellow brick house next door to the church (724 Whitney). Come anytime after 6pm. BYOB. ALL ARE WELCOME!!

The January Inkling Deadline will be on Tuesday, January 2nd. Please send your articles and notices to the church office at firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com

Food Donations for Needy: Pick up an extra item at the grocery store to help fill the green wheelbarrow in the Copeland Room. At the end of each month the food is delivered to Christian Community Action's emergency food pantry. These are the items most in demand at CCA's food pantry: Top: white (not brown) rice, cereal, canned fruit (fresh fruit on last Sunday of the month), peanut butter and jams/jellies. Secondary: macaroni & cheese, pasta (not whole wheat), tomato sauces, canned/dry beans, ground/instant coffee, sugar, oils for cooking, cake mixes. Note that they do NOT need canned *green* vegetables.

2018 Offering Envelopes are now available at the Welcome Table. Please print your name and the envelope number on the sheet next to the envelopes. The Stewardship Committee is still accepting pledges and 2018 pledge cards are also on the Welcome Table.

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, but Block 2 of our classes will resume in January.

Sunday School for Adults will resume at 9:30 a.m. on January 7th, starting a 3-week series on racism, led by Art and Mary Hunt.

Michal Beth Dinkler has been approved for ordination as a teaching elder! All are cordially invited to her service of ordination on Saturday, January 6th at 4:00 p.m. A reception will follow.

Christmas Eve Services

Welcome the Christ Child into your hearts and into your lives. This year December 24th falls on a Sunday, so morning worship will be held in addition to the two evening services.

Sunday Morning Worship Service – 10:45 a.m. A simple, more meditative Sunday morning worship and communion service.

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols – 7:30 p.m. We will sing Christmas carols and hear again the words of the prophets and Gospel writers tell the wondrous story of Christ's birth. Childcare will be provided beginning at 7 p.m. A time of friendship and refreshments shared will follow the service in the Owens Community Building.

Communion Service – 11:00 p.m. This service of Lessons and Carols will also include the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

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.

For Candice Gray and her family, mourning the death of her mother.

For Nancy Walker's niece, Lindsey, recovering from surgery.

Prayers for those who suffer from gun violence.

Prayers for those who do not have enough to eat.

Prayers for peace.

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 17	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages
	10:45 a.m.	Worship
	12:00 p.m.	Friendship Hour
Tuesday, December 19	7:15 p.m.	Session
Thursday, December 21	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	3rd Thursday Potluck
Saturday, December 23	9:30 a.m.	Women's AA
Sunday, December 24	10:45 a.m.	Worship
	11:45 a.m.	Friendship Hour
	7:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship
	8:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Reception
	11:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship & Communion

The Session of First Presbyterian Church

Class of 2017	Lynn Autry	Candice Gray
	Jane Hindenlang	Bruce Peabody
Class of 2018	Gary Cline	John Dinkler
	Phillip Phiri	Robert Williams
Class of 2019	Lucy Ambach	Rona Johnston
	Fiona Scott Morton	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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