

# First Presbyterian Church

New Haven, Connecticut

## *First Sunday of Advent*

December 2, 2018

10:45 a.m.

### PREPARING FOR THE WORD

Prelude                      *Come, Savior of Us All* (two settings)                      Buxtehude, Bach

Introit                      *Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending*                      Olivers

### Call to Worship/Lighting the Advent Wreath

Without hope, we have no direction, no purpose. As we begin the season of Advent, we wait in hopeful anticipation of the newness God has brought and is bringing to this world.

**We seek to live as a people of hope, with our hearts set on our the life to come, and our efforts set on the work we are called to do in the meantime.**

We light this candle to symbolize our hope in Jesus' birth.

**We gather to share this living gift of hope with one another.**

\*Hymn 88                      *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*                      VENI EMMANUEL

Verses 1 and 2--Everyone sings

Verse 3--Choir sings

Verse 4--Congregation sings

Verse 5--Women sing

Verse 6--Men sing

Verse 7--Everyone sing

Call to Reconciliation

Silence is kept.

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious and steadfast God, you come to us with news of hope, freedom, and restoration. We confess that we have not believed your word nor trusted your promise. We have been silent when we could have spoken your mercy, selfish when we could have shared our time and gifts, and timid when we could have shone your light into the world. God of compassion, hold us gently. Forgive what we have done or failed to do. Free us from the shadow of death, and guide our feet into the way of hopefulness, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

... Know that you are forgiven, loved, and free.

**We will rejoice and be glad! Thanks be to God!**

\*Song of Praise                      *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*                      STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

\*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 row.

Children are welcome to participate in the Children in Worship program.

Introduction of New Members

Response *Hope Has Found Us* HYFRYDOL RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

\*Affirmation of Faith

**We believe that God has come to us as a little child,  
making our weakness a strength,  
securing our salvation by becoming one of us,  
blessing us with a steadfast savior,  
filling our hearts with joy to be shared with one another.**

**We believe that God has birthed righteousness and justice into the world,  
giving us a law that will be written upon our hearts,  
making the cause of the oppressed the highest priority,  
declaring an everlasting reign of peace,  
defeating the power of pain and suffering.**

**We believe that God calls us to participate in this reality of love,  
inviting us to proclaim Christ's resurrection at the Table,  
transforming us as disciples to go out into the world,  
sending us forth to announce Christ' kingdom of peace and comfort,  
challenging us to see everyone as nothing less than beloved children.**

**This we believe.**

**This we preach.**

**This we seek to embody in word and deed.**

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.**

HEARING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Jeremiah 23: 1-6 (p. 725)

Psalm

Psalm 126

Second Lesson

Luke 1: 5-21, 57-80 (p. 56)

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

*The Birth of John*

The Rev. J. C. Cadwallader

\*Hymn 109

*Blest Be the God of Israel*

MERLE'S TUNE

... 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

Invitation to Offering

Offertory Anthem

*Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes*

Hopson

\*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

**We thank you, Gracious God, for the gifts you have given us. Take and use these offerings that they may become a living gift, providing hope for all your children. Amen.**

\*Hymn 107

*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

REJOICE, REJOICE

\*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

*Lord Jesus, God's Only Son*

Pachelbel

\*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: Jen Herbst

Greeters: Michael Spicer

Ushers: Decker-Turner family

Communion Servers: Lucy Ambach, John Dinkler, Andrew Forsyth, Jane Hindenlang, Tim McConnell, and Fiona Scott Morton

Flowers: Candice and Brian Grey, in memory of Candice's mother, Anne Crepeau

Friendship Hour Hosts: Elizabeth Gill, Lauriann Burt

Yale Divinity School Intern: Graham Bridgeman

**Nursery care is provided** each morning from 10:30-noon 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 next door in the Copeland Room, and bulletins for ages 3-6 and 7-12 are found at the entrance.

**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.

**Abraham's Tent is coming!** At TODAY's informational meeting during Friendship Hour, we will begin pitching this winter's Abraham's Tent. Once again, for a week starting on January 21, twelve men from the Columbus House interfaith program will make their home with us. Come to the meeting and learn how you can join in welcoming them. For more information please contact MaryWebber.

**Church Directory:** A new directory will be issued in a couple of weeks and we need you to confirm we have your current contact info. Take a look at the draft directory in the Copeland Room and either mark in changes or make a check mark so we know everything is correct.

**Youth Group:** Cooperating progressive churches, including FPCNH, lead and host youth (grades 7-12) throughout the year. Today, December 2nd, gather at 5:00 p.m. at your choice of North Haven Congregational Church or Spring Glen Church for their respective Advent Festivals. Then for the rest of December we'll have our events in North Haven.

**Memorial Cairn Tomorrow:** 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 on Monday evening, December 3rd, at 6 p.m.

**Inkling Deadline:** The Inkling Deadline for the Epiphany Season will be Wednesday December 5th. Please send notices and announcements to Martha at office@pfnh.org.

**Theology on Tap this Wednesday, December 5th @ 5:30-7:30 p.m. (1st Wed. of the Month)** The East Rock Brewing Company Taproom has opened and it provides a great space for lively conversation and fellowship. Drop in anytime between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. to enjoy a delicious neighborhood brew, meaningful conversation, and deepening friendships. Look for us at the big table by the photograph of the East Rock tower. Bring a friend too!

**CT Folk Concert** next Friday, December 7th @ 7:30 p.m. Long term duo, Terry Leonino and Greg Artzner; play traditional Americana to contemporary compositions on a variety of instruments and they are wonderful storytellers. First Pres receives 10 complimentary tickets; email office@fpcnh.org if you'd like to claim one!

**Christmas Party at the Manse – Saturday, December 8 @ 7:30 p.m.** Pastor J.C. and Heather invite you and your family to a Christmas Party at the Manse! Dress up a bit and bring your Christmas cheer – we'll have a carol-sing and mulled cider and wine. The fireplaces will be roaring so feel free to bring chestnuts to roast!

**Next Sunday, Child-Led Worship:** Our children will lead us in worship from start to finish on December 9th. This year our story is the life of John the Baptist, and our Advent theme is peace. We follow this church's traditional style of worship intended for all ages and all modes of wisdom. Join us as this generation leads us in faith.


**Play and Pray next Sunday, December 9th @ 4:30 p.m.** Families with young children are invited to the December play and pray gathering. We'll be decorating cookies, singing carols, and enjoying some Christmas cheer together. A main dish, sugar cookies, and adult and kid warm holiday beverages. Please feel free to bring a side, salad, or dessert and your favorite cookie decorations. For more information and the address, contact Rebecca Cramer.

**New Option to Give to First Pres.:** Don't carry cash anymore but still feel called to give? Just text (203) 689-7515 and type in the amount you'd like to give. Then follow the instructions that are sent to you. Christ calls us to give with a joyful heart - let us rejoice that we might give freely for the ministry of Christ in the world.

**Sign up for Christmas Potluck:** Our Christmas dinner is Sunday, December 16th. Plan to stay following the Christmas music program as we will gather together as the First Presbyterian Church Family for our annual Christmas Feast! We will need your support to have an amazing meal together. Please sign up by December 9th (next Sunday) on Signup Genius letting us know what you can bring, be it turkey, vegetarian main dishes, potatoes, side dishes, salad or dessert!

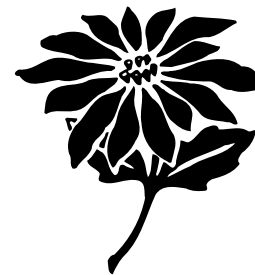
**Christmas Gifts for our Neighbors:** The Mission Committee invites you to participate in Christmas gift giving for students at a local school, and for our friends from EMERGE. There is a small Christmas tree set up in the Miller Hall with tags, noting the recipient. Take a tag, making sure to write your name so we know who is purchasing the gift. Note that gifts for the King-Robinson school must be brought in by December 9th (next Sunday), and gifts for EMERGE students are due the following Sunday on December 16th. If you have questions, please contact Rebecca Cramer or Pat Wales.

**Adult Sunday School** meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Miller Gathering Hall. Next Sunday, December 9th, the topic will be “Church and Mission”. The class will be led by Tom Hastings.

 **ULA Meetings** - Being a sanctuary church means we are called to work as hard as we can to ensure no one needs to take sanctuary with us. Families need our support ensuring they remain together and in their own homes. Another way that we can build relationships with families in need is by attending the ULA (Unidad Latina en Accion) meetings held at First & Summerfield United Methodist Church in downtown New Haven on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. Each meeting, we need 2 representatives from First Press to attend. Sign up at [www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com); search for signups originating from [office@fpcnh.org](mailto:office@fpcnh.org)

**Volunteer Signup Sheets** are now digital! An iPad is available in the Copeland Room to signup for Ushers, Friendship Hour Hosts, First Sunday Flowers, Columbus House Monthly Dinner Prep, Potlucks and attending Monday ULA meetings. A member of the Welcome Team will assist you if you’ve never used signup genius. Note that you can also signup from your smart phone or computer at [www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com); search for signups originating from [office@fpcnh.org](mailto:office@fpcnh.org). We especially need ushers and friendship hour hosts.

**Food Donations for Food Insecure Neighbors:** 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.



## 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 by December 9th, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Today begins the season of Advent**

**Sunday, December 9th** is the Second Sunday of Advent. The children and youth will lead us in worship with a short play and scripture readings.

**Sunday, December 16th**  
We'll enjoy a service filled with choral music sung by the choir. Afterwards, stay for our annual Christmas Potluck dinner to share food and fellowship together.

**Sunday, December 23rd**  
The Fourth Sunday of Advent we will celebrate the Living Gift of Christmas.

At 4:00 p.m. we will also offer a meditative "Blue Christmas" worship service. For many of us, the holidays can be a difficult time full of complex emotions. The "Blue Christmas" service offers a more reflective/meditative time of Christmas worship for those carrying the burdens of loss, grief, or other experiences which inhibit our ability to participate fully in the joy-filled celebrations.

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES**

4:30 p.m. – A family friendly service of Lessons and Carols, with a lively telling of the nativity story.

7:30 p.m. – A Service of Lessons and Carols, with a short meditation. Some of the choir will be singing, and together we will lift joyful voices of thanksgiving for God's love made known in human form.

**This Week**

Sunday, December 2	9:30 a.m.	Advent Play Rehearsal
	9:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship
	12:00 p.m.	Friendship Hour
	12:10 p.m.	Abraham's Tent Meeting
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group
Monday, December 3	6:00 p.m.	Memorial Cairn
	7:00 p.m.	AA meeting
	7:00 p.m.	ULA@1st & Summerfield Church
Tuesday, December 4	5:45 p.m.	Communications Committee
Wednesday, December 5	9:00 a.m.	Inkling Deadline
	5:00 p.m.	Property Committee
	5:30 p.m.	Theology on Tap
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, December 6	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
Friday, December 7	7:30 p.m.	Folk Concert
Saturday, December 8	9:30 a.m.	Women's AA
Sunday, December 9	9:30 a.m.	Advent Play Rehearsal
	9:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship
	12:00 p.m.	Friendship Hour
	4:30 p.m.	Play & Pray@ the Cramer's
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group@North Haven

**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.

Charlie Gutridge and his family, for strength and love.

Jeff Miller, David Miller's brother, who is continuing rehab after surgery.

Angela Daniels, as she moves to a new home and job in Illinois.

Louisa Cunningham, a friend of Caty Poole, who is ill.

Jean Struble, Joan Wells' sister-in-law, who is ill.

James Smit, who is serving in the armed forces.

Those suffering losses from gun violence.

Those who are hungry and food insecure.

For our immigrant friends in local sanctuary churches, and for their families.

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

For other people and situations in need of our supplications.

**The Session of First Presbyterian Church**

Class of 2018

John Dinkler

Phillip Phiri

Robert Williams

James Duncan

Class of 2019

Lucy Ambach

Rona Johnston

Fiona Scott Morton

Mary Porterfield

Class of 2020

Sue Balakrishnan

Jennifer Ballew

Jennifer Herbst

Timothy McConnell

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 [office@fpcnh.org](mailto:office@fpcnh.org) 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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“Hope Has Found Us”

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