

First Presbyterian Church

New Haven, Connecticut

Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2018

10:45 a.m.

PREPARING FOR THE WORD

Prelude *Be Still and Know* Bell

Introit *Let There Be Peace on Earth* Miller
Molly Lanz, trumpet and Pat McCreless, piano

Call to Worship/Lighting the Advent Wreath

Without peace, we have no solace, no fulfillment. As we continue the season of Advent, we wait in hopeful anticipation of the peace the Christ-child will bring to a weary world.

We seek to live as a people of peace, working toward a world free of violence and vengeance, where all can live free of abuse and fear.

We light this candle to symbolize the peace of Christ's presence.

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

*Hymn 87 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* GENEVAN

Call to Reconciliation
Silence is kept.

Prayer of Confession

O God, we have fashioned an idol out of peace and called it civility. We are drawn to the absence of tension, a negative peace, whenever we are more comfortable with injustice than we are with resistance and repentance. We avoid the wild places where we might most clearly hear your call. We long for the respect of our colleagues, the approval of our peers, and the quiet of a dinner table at which no one disagrees aloud. Help us to challenge ourselves and our church to seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, O God, so that we might help to prepare the way for your peace. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

...In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and free. Thanks be to God!

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.

Response

Hope Has Found Us (verse 2)

HYFRYDOL

the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Come, behold the works of the Lord;

see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;

he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.”

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Second Lesson

Luke 3: 1-20, as portrayed by the children in their play,
“What Should We Do?”

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Molly Lanz

*Hymn 378

We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom

MERLE’S TUNE

HEARING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Song for Illumination

Listen to the Word that God Has Spoken

LISTEN

First Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-5 (p. 667)

Psalm 46

(read responsively)

God is our refuge and strength,

a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,

though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

though its waters roar and foam,

though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;

God will help it when the morning dawns.

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;

he utters his voice, the earth melts.

The Lord of hosts is with us;

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*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’s 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.

Invitation to Offering

Offertory Anthem

Nothing More

The Alternate Routes

*Doxology

**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.**

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Gracious God, we offer you our time, our talents, our gifts, and our service.
Through all these things and more, may the world know your hope, peace, joy,
and 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

All God's Creatures Got a Place in the Choir

Staines

The children will sing the verses and the congregation will join in on the refrain:

**All God's creatures got a place in the choir,
Some sing low and some sing higher, some sing out loud on a telephone wire,
And some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they've got now.**

*Charge and Benediction

God's peace isn't just for us. We share it with everyone we meet.

We practice sharing peace here at church so we know how to share it everywhere else.

**We have prepared our hearts. It is time to prepare the way for Christ and the
beloved community. Amen!**

Postlude

Shalom Chaverim

(sung as a round)

**Shalom chaverim, shalom chaverim, shalom, shalom.
Lehitraot, lehitraot, shalom, shalom.**

*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:

Greeter: Paula Burkhard

Ushers: Ernie Bodenweber, Jean Murray

Leading worship this morning are: Children and Youth of the Church

Friendship Hour Hosts:

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.

Advent Communion: During Advent, the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be offered during a brief service following the postlude. The Reverend Arthur Shippee will lead the service today. All are welcome.

Church Directory: A new directory will be issued in a soon 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.

Sign up TODAY for Christmas Potluck: Our Christmas dinner is next Sunday, December 16th. Plan to stay following the Christmas music program when 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 TODAY on Signup Genius letting us know what you can bring, be it turkey, vegetarian main dishes, potatoes, side dishes, salad or dessert!

Youth Group: Cooperating progressive churches, including FPCNH, lead and host youth (grades 7-12) throughout the year. Today, December 9th, we are ice skating at Northford Ice Pavilion from 1-2:30 p.m. It is only \$10 to skate! Meet directly at the pavilion. <http://northfordice.com> Next Sunday, December 16th, we'll meet from 5-7 p.m. at North Haven Congregational Church. We'll share a meal and enjoy a Christmas party where we'll exchange gifts in a silly way.


Play and Pray TODAY, December 9th @ 4:30 p.m. Families with young children (infants –11 yrs) 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 will be provided. Please feel free to bring a side, salad, or dessert and your favorite cookie decorations. For more information and the address, contact Rebecca Cramer.

Christmas Gifts for our Neighbors: If you've signed up on a Christmas tree tag to purchase a gift for students at King-Robinson School, please drop off the gift in the box in the Miller Gathering Hall. The King Robinson gifts are due TODAY; see Rebecca Cramer if you forgot to bring it this morning. Gift cards for students at EMERGE are due next Sunday, December 16th, and are being collected by Pat Wales.

Adult Sunday School meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Miller Gathering Hall. Next Sunday, December 16th, the topic will be "Church and Law". The class will be led by Jen Herbst.

Next Sunday the choir will present its Advent-Christmas program. This year our program during the sermon time will begin and end with the opening and closing choruses, respectively, of Heinrich Schütz's (1615-1672) *Christmas Story*. The readings and musical selections in between will tell the story itself, from Gabriel's Annunciation to the rejoicing over the birth of the baby Jesus. The whole service will begin with an Introit that is a choral setting of a Gregorian chant for Advent (sung in Latin), and end with a postlude that combines a choral version of a French noel/carol with an organ setting of the same tune. Come hear the music, and stay for the festive Christmas dinner that follows!

Abraham's Tent is coming! Our church will be home for 12 men from Columbus House from Monday, January 21 to Monday, January 28. Sign-up to help sheets are posted on a white board in the Miller Gathering Hall. People (including families) are needed to host and greet our guests, provide dinner, and/or stay overnight. Any questions, contact Tim McConnell or Mary Webber.

 **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; search for signups originating from 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; search for signups originating from 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.

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.

December 9, 2018- Notes on this morning's music selections

Prelude – *Be Still and Know that I Am God*

This is a soothing favorite among our regular attendees of Children in Worship. We hope it helps to center all of us this morning.

Hymn: #87 – *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1–5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular Genevan Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folksong.

Song for Illumination – #455 *Listen to the Word that God Has Spoken*

This short song from Canada is an encouragement to pay attention to what God is saying. The significance of the text is enhanced by singing this piece as a round, allowing the overlapping phrases to yield a single message.

Hymn: #378 – *We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom*

This text paraphrases Isaiah 11:6–9 in the first stanza, then reflects on that passage in widening frames of reference from self to all creation and identifies its “little child” with one born at Bethlehem. The tune is named for the composer's sister, his first piano teacher.

Offertory Anthem – *Nothing More* by The Alternate Routes

The Alternate Routes are a Connecticut-based band. In honor of Sandy Hook Elementary School, they wrote this anthem for peace and courage, a call to live humbly and bravely. It has supported our Children in Worship through several difficult news cycles and a study of the book of James—the invitation to be “doers of the Word.”

Final Hymn – *All God's Creatures Got a Place in the Choir*

Under the guidance of Sunday school teachers Graham Bridgeman and Rev. Theo Gill, the youth class led our younger children in a special Blessing of the Stuffed Animals service last month during Children in Worship. It was a great opportunity to incorporate this song, which Henry, one of our church's newest young members, had requested to sing. This morning our solos and duets are sung by: Ray and Jackson, Charlotte, Henry and Cecelia, Daelen, Alethea, Molly, and Riley.

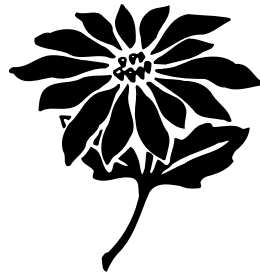
Postlude – *Shalom Chaverim*

While it is true that the Hebrew word *shalom* means “peace” and that it is used to greet people and bid them farewell, its larger sense is a feeling of contentment, wholeness, and harmony. Singing this round in the original language is one way to share in that fuller meaning.

Children's Ministries Wishlist

These offerings of time, talents, gifts, and service would enliven our children's ministries in the new year.

- **Have a passion for and understanding of choir?** Our previous volunteer choir leader has retired. Since then, the children have been learning music more informally through Sunday School and Children in Worship, but if you'd like to volunteer to lead a choir, the children could sing together more formally.
- **Want to support our Multi-Church Youth Ministry?** You could volunteer to help chaperone one of our (usually Sunday night) gatherings with our staff-led activities, or if you have the financial means, you could offer to co-sponsor our youth to attend off-site retreats or other events on our calendar this year.
- **Want to help children and youth get involved in all areas of ministry?** Attend one of our Committee Nights. In any committee you choose, consider ways to invite children into the life of the church beyond the work of the Children's Education Committee.
- **Have a sewing machine or a pass to Make Haven maker space?** We would like to finish our floor cushions for the education wing. We have all the other supplies we need, but not an efficient way to sew them. You could offer to finish one for us, or simply spend some time equipping others to do so.
- **Have some skill with interior painting?** As we update some of the classrooms and the nursery, we would appreciate your time and help.



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 **TODAY**, 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 wish like printed in the bulletin) _____

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

This Week

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

11:55 a.m.

Advent Communion

12:00 p.m.

Friendship Hour

1:00 p.m.

Youth Group-ice skating

4:30 p.m.

Play & Pray@ the Cramer's

Monday, December 10

7:00 p.m.

AA meeting

7:00 p.m.

ULA@1st & Summerfield Church

Tuesday, December 11

11:00 a.m.

Kathy Milligan memorial service

Wednesday, December 12

9:00 a.m.

Presbytery Committee on Ministry

5:00 p.m.

Property Committee

7:00 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 13

9:30 a.m.

Staff Meeting

Saturday, December 15

9:30 a.m.

Women's AA

Sunday, December 16

10:00 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal

9:30 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal

9:30 a.m.

Adult Sunday School

10:45 a.m.

Worship

11:55 a.m.

Advent Communion

12:00 p.m.

Christmas Dinner Potluck

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.

The family and friends of Kathy Milligan, who passed away last weekend.

The family and friends of Tye Krahn, Gary Cline's niece, who passed away on Monday.

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.

Kathy Milligan's memorial service will be at

11:00 a.m. this Tuesday, December 11, 2018, at First Presbyterian Church of New Haven.

Today, December 9th, is the Second Sunday of Advent

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.

The Session of First Presbyterian Church

Class of 2018	John Dinkler Robert Williams	Phillip Phiri James Duncan
Class of 2019	Lucy Ambach Fiona Scott Morton	Rona Johnston Mary Porterfield
Class of 2020	Sue Balakrishnan Jennifer Herbst	Jennifer Ballew 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 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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