



# First Presbyterian Church

New Haven, Connecticut

## *Third Sunday of Advent*

December 16, 2018

10:45 a.m.

### PREPARING FOR THE WORD

Prelude *Improvisations for Advent and Christmas* Karg-Elert

Introit *Rorate coeli desuper* Schroeder

### Call to Worship/Lighting the Advent Wreath

Without joy, we have no fulfillment to our lives. As we continue the season of Advent, we wait in joyful anticipation of the happiness the Christ-child will bring to a world that needs it so desperately.

**We seek to live as a people of joy that share it with everyone we encounter, to bless others with the happiness we have in Jesus Christ.**

We light this candle to symbolize the joy we have in Christ's presence.

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

\*Hymn 93 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* TRURO

### Call to Reconciliation

Silence is kept.

### Prayer of Confession

*Hymn 87 - Comfort, Comfort Now My People, vs. 1*

**“Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God.**

**“Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.**

**To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!**

**Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.”**

Holy God, we confess to you our need for your peace. Set us free from the sorrowful load of sin, and establish your grace in our lives.

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People, vs. 2*

**For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near, calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.**

**O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.**

**Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.**

Our hearts long for your blessing, and our world yearns for your presence. Come to us now with forgiveness and may your joy be made known.

**Amen.**

### Assurance of Forgiveness

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People, vs. 3*

**Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.**

**Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign.**

**For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,**

**and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.**

Indeed, God’s word is never broken. Friends, believe the Good News:

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! 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.

The Children in Worship program will resume in January.

Children are encouraged to remain in worship. Nursery care is also available.

Response *Hope Has Found Us - verse 3* HYFRYDOL

HEARING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

**Advent God, you are near, so near we can feel it in our hearts and in our bodies. As the day of your dawning draws close, keep our minds on your presence during this busy holiday season. In a world that tells us that we are supposed to find joy in everything else, through your Word reveal to us again, that our only true joy is the joy we find in you. Amen.**

The Choir *Carols and Choruses for Advent and Christmas*

<i>Introduction, from "The Christmas Story"</i>	Schütz
Scripture Reading	Luke 1:26-33
<i>The Angel Gabriel</i>	arr. Schelat
<i>The Lamb</i>	Tavener
<i>Ding Dong! Merrily on High</i>	arr. Willcocks
<i>Well, A Savior is Born</i> (Beth Aura Miller, solo)	Spiritual
<i>Born on a New Day</i>	David
Scripture Reading	Luke 1:34-38
<i>Conclusion, from "The Christmas Story"</i>	Schütz

Please refrain from applause and accept this as an act of Advent worship.

\*Hymn 97 *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night* ABERYSTWYTH

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 Solo	<i>Virgin's Slumber Song</i>	Reger
	Alisa Dunovant, solo	

\*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

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

The Prayers of the People and 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

*See Amid the Winter's Snow*

HUMILITY

**See amid the winter's snow, Born for us on earth below,  
See the tender Lamb appears, Promised from eternal years.  
Hail that ever blessed morn, Hail redemption's happy dawn,  
Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

**Lo, within a manger lies, He who built the starry skies,  
He who throned in height sublime, Sits amid the cherubim.  
Hail that ever blessed morn, Hail redemption's happy dawn,  
Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

**Say, ye holy shepherds, say, What your joyful news today?  
Wherefore have ye left your sheep, On the lonely mountain steep?  
Hail that ever blessed morn, Hail redemption's happy dawn,  
Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

**Teach, O teach us, holy Child, By thy face so meek and mild,  
Teach us to resemble thee, In thy sweet humility.  
Hail that ever blessed morn, Hail redemption's happy dawn,  
Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

\*Charge and Benediction

Choral Postlude

*Noel We Sing*

Daquin

\*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 Christmas Luncheon following the service.

**Participating in worship leadership this morning are:**

Liturgist: Alden Pinkham

Advent Candle Lighters: Lucy Evans, Alisa Dunovant, Tala Jarjour

Greeter: Sadako Ohki

Ushers: Elizabeth Gill, Lauriann Burt

Yale Divinity School Intern: Graham Bridgeman

**Thanks to all the members of our choir for the music in our service this morning.**

Sopranos: Lucy Ambach, Jenny Davis, Mattie Hatcher Long, Beth Aura Miller, Fiona Scott Morton, Mary Porterfield; Altos: Alisa Dunovant, Lucy Fales Evans, Linda McCreless, Bonnie Sherman, Martha Smith, Deborah Tenney, Nancy Walker; Tenors: Tim McCloskey, Bruce Peabody, Arthur Shippee; Basses: Ken Balakrishnan, Scott Funston, Michael McBride, Michael Tenney.

**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](mailto:PastorJC@fpcnh.org) or the church phone (203) 562-5664. Mondays are her day off.

**This Advent Sunday and next**, the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be offered during a brief service following the postlude. The Reverend Diane Goudreau will lead the service today. All are welcome.

**All are welcome to our Christmas Dinner** following worship today. Join friends around tables in the Miller Gathering Hall for this festive meal.

**Christmas Gifts for our Neighbors:** If you've signed up on a Christmas tree tag to purchase a gift card for students at EMERGE, please give it to Pat Wales. They are due TODAY; if you forgot to bring it this morning, speak with Pat to make alternative arrangements.

**We Need Ushers for Christmas Eve:** Please consider signing up to usher for one (or more) of our upcoming services during the Advent and Christmas season.

**Volunteer Signup Sheets** are now digital! An iPad is available in the Copeland Room to signup for Ushers, Greeters, 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.

**Another Option to Give—the Presbyterian Alternative Gift Catalogs** are out in the Copeland Room and everyone is welcome to take one home with them. The Catalog provides Presbyterians an easy way to give a different kind of gift - tangible gifts of practical and lasting benefit, such as chickens, goats, or garden wells.

**Sunday School for Adults and Children** will not meet next week. Classes will start again at 9:30 a.m. on January 13, 2019.

**Third Thursday Potluck, December 20 @ 6:30 p.m.** All are invited to come to the Manse for dinner and fellowship. Pastor JC and Heather will a main dish - you bring a side, dessert, or beverage (adult or child friendly). As this is a special holiday month, we encourage you all to wear festive sweaters/ties/socks/whatever for the occasion! The Manse is the yellow brick house beside the Owens Building on Whitney Ave.

**Books for Babies:** We are collecting new or gently used books to be given to the recently born babies in the congregation. There will be a box in the Copeland Room in January to collect your contribution. If you have any questions, please contact Jean McCloskey.

**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. Baby diapers, size 5 or 6 are also needed. 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, 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.

**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.

 **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 Pres to attend. Sign up at [www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com); search for signups originating from [office@fpcnh.org](mailto:office@fpcnh.org)

### CHRISTMAS WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

#### Sunday, December 23rd

At 10:45 a.m. on 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. Together we will lift joyful voices of thanksgiving for God's love made known in human form.



**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.

Family and friends of Ken Fais, Kimberley Fais' father, who passed away.

Sarah McPharlin, Jenn Ballew's cousin, who is waiting for organ donations.

Charlie Gutridge and his family, for strength and love.

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

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.

Those who are lonely.

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.

**This Week**

Sunday, December 16	9:45 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
Monday, December 17	7:00 p.m.	AA meeting
	7:00 p.m.	ULA@1st & Summerfield Church
Tuesday, December 18	7:15 p.m.	Session
Thursday, December 20	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Third Thursday@the Manse
Saturday, December 22	9:30 a.m.	Women's AA
Sunday, December 23	10:45 a.m.	Worship
	11:55 a.m.	Advent Communion
	12:00 p.m.	Friendship Hour
	4:30 p.m.	Blue Christmas Worship

**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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