

First Presbyterian Church

New Haven, Connecticut

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23, 2018

10:45 a.m.

PREPARING FOR THE WORD

Prelude *Serenade to the Holy Mother* Berlioz

Call to Worship/Lighting the Advent Wreath

Without love, we have nothing, wandering aimlessly in a world without hope. As the season of Advent comes to a close, we wait for love by practicing it, by embodying the truth we trust in God-with-us.

We seek to live as people of love, reciprocating that which has first been shown to us.

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

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

*Hymn 105 *People, Look East* BESANÇON

Call to Reconciliation

Silence is kept.

Prayer of Confession

Your Love is hard at work, O God. Yet we resist, insisting we must do the work ourselves. We resist, unwilling to allow the undeserving to be loved. We resist, wanting to control the methods and outcomes. We forget to give thanks, instead wavering between trying harder and giving up. Forgive our hard-heartedness, and remind us that you are Love. Forgive our narrow vision, and turn us again to walk your way. Forgive our ingratitude, and open us to receive your living gift as well as give. Free us from our selfish desires, and make room for your work to grow in us. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

... by the power of the Holy Spirit we, too, shall carry God's love into the world.

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 4* HYFRYDOL

HEARING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a (p. 865)

Hymn 355

O Hear Our Cry, O Lord
(remain seated)

Psalm 80

Second Lesson

Luke 1: 39-56 (p. 57)

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Magnifying God

The Rev. J. C. Cadwallader

*Hymn 98

To A Maid Whose Name Was Mary

ANNUNCIATION

Verses 1--Everyone sing
Verse 2—Low voices sing
Verse 3--Everyone sing
Verse 4—Low voices sing
Verse 5—High voices sing
Verse 6--Everyone sing

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

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Pepping

*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 becoming a living gift, providing love for all your
children. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

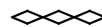
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

*Hymn 104 *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude *The Snow Lay on the Ground* Sowerby

*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: Theodore Gill
- Advent Wreath Lighters: Riley Lanz, Sadie Turner, Claire Turner
- Greeters: Lynn Autry
- Ushers: Daniel McCloskey
- Friendship Hour Hosts: Pat Wales, Mary Webber
- 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.

This Advent Sunday, the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be offered during a brief service following the postlude. The Reverend Theodore Gill will lead today's service. All are welcome.

Holiday greeting cards to sign! Add your greetings to cards for the Mission Co-Workers we financially supports: Bernie and Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta (Indonesia), Karla Ann Koll (Costa Rica), Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather (South Sudan). Cards for them are on the shelf along the wall in the Copeland Room. Sign a card too for Marta Bennett (Kenya), who worshipped with us during her time at OMSC.

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

 **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; search for signups originating from office@fpcnh.org

Abraham's Tent is coming! Our church will be home for 12 homeless 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.

New Church Directory: Pick up your 2018 edition (pink cover), available in the Copeland Room.

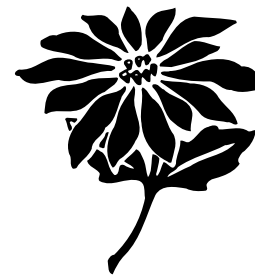
Christmas Joy Offering: This year's Christmas Joy offering will be received during the Christmas Eve worship services. The Offering supports racial ethnic education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, where students develop their gifts and find their calling. It also helps families of active and retired church workers meet unexpected needs through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. As we celebrate the good news of great joy—that a Savior has been born to us—may our gifts bear joyful witness to God's uncontainable love.

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 friendship hour hosts.

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.

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.



The Christmas Poinsettias decorating the sanctuary have been given:

- In memory of our parents by Joanne and Gerald Anderson.
- In memory of Stewart Fritts and Rodney Wells by Joan Wells and family.
- In memory of Gordon Ambach by Lucy Ambach.
- In memory of Sue and Fred Mussmann by Betsy and Scott Mussmann
- In thanksgiving for Our Church Family by Beth Aura and David Miller.
- In thanksgiving for Sarah McPharlin by Mark, Jenn, Riley and Molly.
- In memory of Newton Schenck and Sally Schenck Crooks/Merrill, by Anne Schenck.
- In memory of Kathy Milligan, by her friends.
- In memory of DeeDee and John Krick by Ruth, Terry and Anna Phillips.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Sunday, December 23rd

Today at 4:00 p.m. we will 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. A reception will follow in the Miller Gathering Hall.



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.

Friends and Family of Ken Fais, Kimberley Fais' father, who recently 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 23	10:45 a.m.	Worship
	11:55 a.m.	Advent Communion
	12:00 p.m.	Friendship Hour
	4:00 p.m.	Blue Christmas Worship
Monday, December 24	4:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship
	7:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship
Saturday, December 29	9:30 a.m.	Women's AA
Sunday, December 30	10:45 a.m.	Worship
	12:00 p.m.	Friendship Hour

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 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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