



Sunday, December 6, 2020 ~ Second Sunday in Advent
9:30 a.m. Blended Worship (Sanctuary)

Good morning and blessings to you this beautiful Sunday, the Second Sunday in Advent. Today we gather together for in-person and for live stream worship as we prepare for the Coming of Christ.

Welcome and Work of God's People

Rev. Stuart Spencer

Music in Preparation for Worship

Savior of the Nations, Come

Joel Krott, Organ

Kaufmann

Introit

Savior of the Nations, Come

Janet Wilkie, Gwen Wilkie, Fernando Mancillas, Frank Mitchell; Sam Scheibe, Director

Luther, Ambrosian Chant

Savior of the nations, come, show Yourself, the virgin's Son.
Fill with wonder, all the earth, that our God chose such a birth.
Not by human power or seed did the woman's womb conceive;
Only by the Spirit's breath was the Word of God made flesh.

Call to Worship & Lighting of the Advent Candles

Kelly LePenske

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ. On this second Sunday of Advent, hear these promises from God's Word, first from Isaiah, "The Lord will give you a sign. A virgin is with child and shall bear a son." And from Matthew:

"And they shall name him Immanuel, which means, 'God is with us.'"

Come, Lord Jesus, you are our light and our salvation. Let us walk in the light of the Lord. Let us worship God.

Prayer of Adoration

Kelly LePenske

Prayer of Confession

Stuart Spencer

Almighty God, you who shaped out of nothing all that is, forgive us forgetting you as often as we do. You who called forth light, forgive our love of the darkness. You who sent John to be a voice crying for deep repentance, forgive our unwillingness to face the immense brokenness of our lives. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. We offer this prayer and our lives through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silence for personal prayer of confession.

Reflection

Janet Wilkie, soloist

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

Time for personal prayers of confession before God

Assurance of Forgiveness

Stuart Spencer

The good news of this Advent season, these days before Christmas is that God bring us forgiveness of sins and new life. Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope and peace.

Thanks be to the Lord our God, who comes among us, setting us free to love and serve. Amen.

Prayer of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer ('debts')

Kelly LePenske

Way of the Week #25

Kelly LePenske

25. REJOICE ALWAYS. The Kingdom of God is a party! Let healthy laughter fill our meetings, our meals, and even our worship. Allow the joy of our faith be clearly evident in our speech and on our faces.

- *"But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began."* (Luke 15: 22-24)

Ideas for Action: Plan a party for the coming weekend and invite a couple of individuals or families over to celebrate. Don't forget the cake! What's the occasion? The joy of knowing and serving Jesus and belonging to our church family are reasons enough.

Offertory

Stuart Spencer

Please remember the church in your year-end giving and consider how God may be calling you to bring hope and love to others through prayer, service and financial gifts. [Give easily online](#) or directly from your phone by [using the Church Center App](#). Thank you to all who are generously giving by mail or electronically. Your faithfulness has allowed the church to support its staff and responsibilities during this pandemic. For questions or help, contact the church office at 856.235.1688.

Offertory Music

The Angelic Greeting

Brahms Op. 22 No. 1

Janet Wilkie, Gwen Wilkie, Fernando Mancillas, Frank Mitchell

We hail thee, O Mary, thou highly favored: so sang all the angels to Mary the virgin,
As she was praying with heart afire.
O Mary, O Mary, a Son shalt thou seen be bearing! So heaven and earth this desire are sharing
That thou shouldst be mother of Christ the Lord.
O angel, how can such things come upon me? As yet no man has even known me,
In all this world, in all this broad wide world.
A dew comes down the meadows to cover, so shall the Holy Ghost o'er Thee hover,
So shall the Savior, the Savior of man be born.
Then Mary, who heard this with joyful spirit, Did say: "I am surely the Lord's handmaiden,
According to thy word be it unto me."
The angel now fell upon his knee, with joy they all sang to Mary, to Mary,
They all sang to Mary, to Mary a glorious song!

Time for personal prayers of confession before God

Sermon

Rev. Stuart Spencer

"The Hopes and Fears of All the Years"

Scripture: Text: [Isaiah 43: 1 – 7 \(NLT\)](#)

Sermon Series: "Be Not Afraid"

But now, O Jacob, listen to the LORD who created you.
O Israel, the one who formed you says, "Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you.
I have called you by name; you are mine.
²When you go through deep waters, I will be with you.
When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown.
When you walk through the fire of oppression,
you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you.
³For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I gave Egypt as a ransom for your freedom; I gave Ethiopia and Seba in your place.
⁴Others were given in exchange for you. I traded their lives for yours
because you are precious to me. You are honored, and I love you.
⁵"Do not be afraid, for I am with you. I will gather you and your children from east and west.
⁶I will say to the north and south,
'Bring my sons and daughters back to Israel from the distant corners of the earth.
⁷Bring all who claim me as their God, for I have made them for my glory. It was I who created them.'"

Music in Preparation for Service

Magnificat in A Minor

Dandrieu

Joel Krott, Organ

Benediction and Going Forth

Stuart Spencer

The people are invited to leave an offering in the offering box located at the back of the narthex.

[\(Watch the Way of the Week video from Rev. Debby Brincivalli\)](#)

9:30 a.m. Worship Ministry

Audio Technician:	Harris E. Ransom
Live Video Streaming:	Harris A. Ransom
Flower Arrangers:	Sally Bishop and Gretchen Birdsall
Ushers:	Dave Rebeck (lead), Leonard Fitts, James Clinton, Gary Bender, Michael Welch
Trustee Greeter:	Michael Ramage

- **Today's sanctuary flowers** are given in to the glory of God and in loving memory of Evan Welch from his family, friends and all who loved him.
- **TONIGHT VIA LIVE STREAM: [Longest Night Service](#)** -- On December 6th at 7:00 p.m., Beth Douglass is the guest preacher for this healing service to provide peace to those dealing with grief, illness, anxiety or depression this holiday season. Quiet reflection, prayer, and home communion are offered. Due to rising COVID-19 levels, worship will be live streamed only via fpcmoorestown.org. *Please share this link with anyone you know who may need a quiet, healing place in the frantic days of December.*
- **Please see our website, [Advent Activity Guide](#) and [online Events page](#)** for details about Christmas mission opportunities to help those who are in need:
 - **[Christian Caring Center online gift drive \(now due by Dec. 6\)](#)**
PLEASE NOTE: Due to the pandemic, yougivegoods is seeing more drives than ever and is overwhelmed. Our deadline for purchasing gifts has been moved from Dec. 14 to Dec. 6. If you can, please visit www.yougivegoods.com/fpcm2020 BY SUNDAY, DEC. 6 and purchase gifts for the struggling families from Christian Caring Center (replaces Angel Tree).
 - **[Manger Sunday](#)** (unwrapped gifts for Oaks Integrated Care, due Dec. 13)
 - **[Alternative Gift Market](#)** (donations to causes in the name of the recipient, open through Dec. 24)
- **December 7th at 7:00 p.m. (Zoom): [The \(Un\)simple Truth](#)** "Becoming Peacemakers" featuring Amanda Mootz from World Vision. [Visit our website](#) for the webinar link and passcode.



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[Christmas Eve Schedule Announced](#)

See website, eblast, Connections and Events page for details

At a special meeting Dec. 5, Session approved three worship services for Christmas Eve, given ongoing challenges and rapid changes of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- **3:00 p.m.:** Outdoor Service in the courtyard (between the sanctuary and the Commons, approx. 20 minutes in length)
- **4:00 p.m.:** Live Stream Communion Service in the sanctuary (no in-person attendance)
- **7:00 p.m.:** Outdoor Service in the courtyard