

101 Bridgeboro Road ● P.O. Box 868 ● Moorestown, NJ 08057 856.235.1688 ● fpcmoorestown.org

Rev. Stuart Spencer, Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Wes Allen, Associate Pastor



Sunday, December 5, 2021 ~ Second Week in Advent

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) -- Have you checked in on the Church Center app?

Welcome and Work of God's People

Rev. Stuart Spencer

Lighting the Advent Wreath

The Trzeciak Family

Steve and Tamara Trzeciak, Isabel, Bethany, and Jonathan Trzeciak

Way of the Week #2

2. SPEAK THE TRUTH WITH LOVE. Speak honestly and directly in a way that clearly reflects love and support for one another. Be courageous enough to say what needs to be said, even when it's difficult. Address issues directly with those who are involved or affected; speak to, not about, others.

Ideas for Action: Is there a difficult conversation you've been delaying? Is there someone you've been talking about instead of being direct? Pray for courage and grace to have the conversation, in person, if possible.

Music in Preparation for Worship

Tallis Canon and Variations

T. Tallis, arr. Caponegro

Carol Manion, Piano

Introit

When I Pray
God is Very Near

Ingham Watlington

Primary Choir; Rebecca Neindorff, Piano

^{*}please stand as you are able

God raised up a mighty savior for us,

As God spoke through the prophets,
God showed mercy promised to our ancestors;
God remembered the holy covenant.

By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
To give light to those in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

May we follow the Way of Christ Jesus
Let us worship our mighty savior!

Hymn No. 359 (verses 1 & 3)

O Gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ

Gwen Wilkie, soloist; Joel Krott, Organ

Prayer of Adoration

Paul Savage

Call to Confession

Rev. Wes Allen

Prayer of Confession (offered in unison)

Eternal God, we confess that we're still not ready. We haven't done all we can to be ready for Your reign on earth as it is in heaven. We have procrastinated and delayed, and at other times simply forgot who we are and who You are in our lives. Call us into noticing this moment, this time of Advent, this season of preparation. Help us to recall that You are Eternal and always with us, and remind us to set aside a moment and prepare our hearts and minds for You. We can make the time to allow Your peace to enter in and reign in our hearts. We can find the way. Eternal One, guide us in this season of Advent, of watching and waiting, signs that You are doing something new in our world and in our lives, right now.

Time for silent prayers of confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

God calls out to us from the wilderness of our lives, from the places that are tangled and full of shadows. God calls out to us and leads us in the way of peace. Listen to God call your name, and know that you are loved. Listen to God's voice, and know that you are forgiven. Listen to God's proclamation, and know there is new life, restored life, now. Go and live into the Good News.

Hallelujah, amen!

Solo

To a Virgin Meek and Mild

Spanish Carol

Gwen Wilke, Alto; Joel Krott, Organ

Rev. Spencer

Offertory Rev. Spencer

THANK YOU for your faithful giving. Your tithes and offerings dramatically impact our ministry, and allow us to support church operations and our work in the world. Our ministry continues every day. Those attending in person may leave an offering in the box located in the narthex. Electronic giving is here to stay! Take advantage of this simple, secure <u>automatic withdrawal</u>. Donate directly from your phone via the Church Center app too.

Offertory Music

Come, Lord Jesus, Be Our Light

Bedford

Junior Choir; Nancy Bender, Piano

Come, Lord Jesus, be our light, as we burn this candle bright. Fill our hearts with love and cheer, as we await your advent here.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, by your presence will we be blest. Fill our hearts with love and cheer, as we await your advent here.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our peace, that our joy may never cease. Fill our hearts with love and cheer, as we await your advent here.

Sermon Rev. Allen

"Have You Seen The Light?"

Scripture Text: <u>John 1: 1-18, 9:5 (NRSV)</u> Sermon Series: What Are You Waiting For?

The Lord's Supper

Rev. Allen

The Invitation to the Table The Words of Institution The Prayer of Consecration The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn #360 (verse 2)

By Influence of the Light Divine

Gwen Wilkie, soloist; Joel Krott, Organ

Music in Preparation for Service

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arr. Ryan

Bell Choir (Jim Cole, Barbara Fletcher, Lissa Herman, Melissa McNab, Sawyer McNab, Marion Norcross, Peg Pierce, Stacy Schaffer, Vicki Terry Kathy Gunsallus, Director

Benediction and Going Forth

Rev. Allen

8:30 a.m. Worship Ministry

Audio Technician: Harris E. Ransom
Live Video Streaming: Jonathan Nawrocki

Flower Arrangers: Stacy Schaffer and Carol Benner

Ushers: John Miller, Gary Bender, Tom Samuel

Trustee Greeter: Paul Lewis
Check-In Volunteers: Paul Gordon
Interim Nursery Caregiver: Amy Coombe

Advent Wreath Lighting: Steve and Tamara Trzeciak; Isabel, Bethany and Jonathan Trzeciak

Today's flowers are given in loving memory of Evan Michael Welch by Joan and Michael Welch: 'Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory.'

Work of God's People

<u>Poinsettia Orders</u> are due to the church office <u>Sunday</u>, <u>Dec. 5</u>. Look for <u>order forms online</u> and in <u>Connections</u>. Plants are \$15 each. Poinsettias will be placed in our worship spaces on Manger Sunday Dec. 12. If you ordered plant(s) you may pick them up December 12.

Advent Devotional: Give yourself the gift of God's presence in your life this Advent. Join us as we read *Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas*, a collection of writings from classic and contemporary Christians. Order your copy online at amazon.com (office copies may be delayed). Readings are Nov. 24-Jan. 7, 2022.

Pick up a copy of the <u>2021 Advent program guide</u> detailing the events and activities of this special season of Waiting. Or download yours from our website or current events page.

<u>Longest Night Service</u> will be held **Sunday, Dec. 12** at 7:00 p.m. to provide peace to those dealing with grief, illness, anxiety or depression who may not feel the holiday joy. Seminary intern Paul Savage preaches. If you have someone you would like us to invite, please provide their name and address to Alison Mackey in the church office so we may send them an invitation letter.

The Alternative Gift Market Catalog is available ONLINE and at church December 5, 12 and 19. Gifts begin at \$5.00 and feature a broad range to assist our ministries. Visit the tables in the narthex and Commons Lobby to purchase your alternative gifts. Online orders, cash or checks please (checks made payable to FPC Moorestown). Or pick up your gifts at a contact free pickup.

Manger Sunday is December 12th -- In one of our congregation's many beautiful traditions, members are invited to bring unwrapped gifts to church on Sunday, December 12th for our Manger Sunday presentation. Upon entering the Sanctuary or Miller Commons, please place the unwrapped gifts in the manger where they will be blessed by the pastors during worship. That day, gifts will be taken to Oaks Integrated Care for their clients and families to use as gifts for their own families. For those NOT attending services, gifts may be dropped off between 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. at a contactless drop at the Blessing Box.

<u>Please remember the church in your year-end donations</u>. Process stock gifts expediently by contacting your broker or Norman Vandergrift at 856-235-1688, Ext. 112.

NEW: Submit an online prayer request to the Prayer Committee. Visit the prayer page on the website at https://www.fpcmoorestown.org/prayer to share your prayer request with the prayer team.