



Sunday, December 12, 2021 ~ Third Week in Advent, Manger Sunday

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

*please stand as you are able

Welcome and Work of God's People

Wes Allen

Lighting the Advent Wreath

The Perkowski Family

Brian and Kristen Perkowski; Alex Perkowski and Kyle Perkowski

Way of the Week #3

LISTEN GENEROUSLY. Be quick to listen and do so with your undivided attention. Minimize the distractions and let go of the need to agree or disagree. Suspend your judgment and be curious to know more rather than jumping to conclusions. Above all, listen to understand.

Ideas for Action: Put aside phones and laptops. Turn off the TV or computer and face someone you love. Focus on what the other is saying; not on what you want to say. Be careful that you're not interrupting because you're not listening to them.

Music in Preparation for Worship (from "Second Magnificat")

Prelude

Guilain

Tierce en Taille

Joel Krott, Organ

continued

Introit

Savior of the Nations, Come

Adult Choir; Grace Rykaczewski, Director

Ambrosian Chant

Reworked by Luther

Savior of the nations, come, show Yourself the virgin's Son.
Fill with wonder, all the earth, that our God chose such a birth.
Christ in glory, intercede for your creatures' suffering need;
Let Your resurrecting power soon complete the victory hour.

*Call to Worship

Wes Allen

Come once more, with eager longing, to receive the promises of God.

Out of the desert places of our lives we gather with joy and gladness.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord, their God.

Our God has promised that lonely places and deserts will be glad and blossom as the rose.

The Lord has promised that the blind will be able to see, the deaf will hear, the lame will leap and dance, and those who cannot speak will shout for joy.

Our God, who made Heaven and Earth and all that is in them, keeps faith forever. He sets the prisoners free and brings healing to all who seek Him.

Come once more, with eager longing, and bless the holy name of our God.

*Prayer of Adoration

Wes Allen

Hymn No. 181 (verses 1 & 3)

As With Gladness Men of Old

Juliet Barton, soloist

Call to Confession

Stuart Spencer

Prayer of Confession (offered in unison)

Patient Lord, forgive our lack of faith in your loving power. We look around us and all that we see is what we don't have. We fail to notice the daily blessings you lavish upon us. Clear our blindness to the needs of others. Strengthen us and remove our lame excuses for not serving you. Heal us and make us ready to truly be your disciples. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Time for silent prayers of confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Behold and believe in the wondrous power and love of God! It is poured out for you and for God's beloved world.

Rejoice in this Good News, for it is given especially to you. Amen.

Sharing with our Children

Paul Savage

Anthem

Something Special

Helgen

Choristers; Carol Manion, Piano

Refrain: Advent means to wait, get ready, it's coming. Something special's coming, don't let down your guard.
Jesus as a baby: Amazing! It happened!
Born inside a stable: in someone's backyard.

Candles waiting in a wreath, gather 'round with family.
Count your blessings one by one, Christmas time is soon to come. **REFRAIN**

Light the candles one by one, think about God's only Son.
Love and hope are burning bright, peace and joy shine through the night! **REFRAIN**

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

Paul Savage

Offertory

Wes Allen

*THANK YOU for your faithful giving and for remembering the church in your year-end giving. Your 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 [automatic withdrawal](#). Donate directly from your phone via the Church Center app too. **In the pews Dec. 12 only:** envelopes for the Christmas Joy mission offering.*

Offertory Music

When God is a Child

Osiek

Adult Choir; Kathy Gunsallus, Piano

Refrain: Hope is a star that shines in the night, leading us on till the morning is bright.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong. And none shall be afraid.

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth, giving a promise of safety and worth. **REFRAIN**
Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn, telling the world that the Savior is born. **REFRAIN**
Love is a flame that burns in our heart. Jesus has come and will never depart. **REFRAIN**

Sermon

Rev. Stuart Spencer

"Waiting for Strength"

Scripture Text: [Isaiah 40: 1-11](#) (NRSV)

Sermon Series: What Are You Waiting For?

Hymn #146 (verse 4)

He Rules the World

Grace Rykaczewski, Soprano

Music in Preparation for Service

Magnificat in D Major

Dandrieu

Joel Krott, Organ

8:30 a.m. Worship Ministry

Audio Technician:	Harris E. Ransom
Live Video Streaming:	Harris A. Ransom
Poinsettia Arrangers:	Stacy Schaffer, Steve Cashmer
Ushers:	Paul Lewis, Joe Scheideler, Leonard Fitts
Trustee Greeter:	Bill Conner
Check-In Volunteers:	Jen Allen
Interim Nursery Caregiver:	Amy Coombe
Advent Wreath Lighting:	Brian and Kristen Perkowski, Alex and Kyle Perkowski

Today's flowers are the Christmas poinsettias given in honor or in loving memory of friends and family held dear.

Work of God's People

TODAY: Christmas Poinsettias are placed in our worship spaces for Manger Sunday. If you ordered plant(s) you may pick them up today. *See bulletin insert for dedications ...* Thank you to our Deacons for delivering the donated poinsettias to our church family members, coordinators: Jean Donahue, Vicki Terry, Jan Martin

TODAY is Manger Sunday -- Members are invited to bring **unwrapped** gifts to church for our Manger Sunday presentation. Upon entering the Sanctuary or Miller Commons, please place the unwrapped gifts in the manger to be blessed by the pastors during worship. Later today, the gifts will be taken to [Oaks Integrated Care](#) for their clients and families to use as gifts for their own families. Or drop off at the Blessing Box from 10:30-11:30 a.m. ***In the pews Dec. 12 only: envelopes for the Christmas Joy mission offering.***

Longest Night Service 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.

Pick up a copy of the [2021 Advent program guide](#) detailing the events and activities of this special season of Waiting. Or download yours from our website or current events page.

The Alternative Gift Market Catalog is available ONLINE and at church through December 19th. 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.

Please remember the church in your year-end donations. See our event page and website for offerings.

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.

Fostering a Spirit of Reconciliation – Rev. Wes Allen and Dr. Leslie Spencer lead a 6-week study on The Confession of Belhar. The study will meet in person at the Spencer's home on **Thursday, January 6th** from 7:00-8:30 PM. The remaining classes will be offered via Zoom, with the final session in person. The Confession of Belhar emerged out of apartheid South Africa in 1986 and was adopted by the Presbyterian Church (USA) as a confession of faith in 2016. Belhar testifies to the unity, reconciliation and justice of Jesus Christ and the church's responsibility in bearing witness to this in the world. It is the hope of Dr. Spencer and Rev. Allen that this study will promote constructive conversations around issues of race, gender, and ability. [SIGN UP via Church Center](#) as space is limited to 8 people.