



Sunday, December 4, 2022 ~ Second Sunday in Advent

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) -- Have you **checked in** for worship today?

*please stand as you are able

[Pick up or download your Advent Activity Guide today](#)

Welcome and Work of God's People

Rev. Stuart Spencer

Music in Preparation for Worship

Joel Krott, Organ

Savior of the Nations, Come

J.S. Bach BWV, BWV 659

Introit

Savior of the Nations, Come

Ambrosian Chant, 4th Cent.

Adult Choir; Tyler Kim, Tenor; Grace Rykaczewski, Director

Lighting the Advent Wreath

The Dempster Family

The Second Candle (purple): *Peace*. Evan and Cara Dempster; Josie and James Dempster

*Call to Worship (adapted from Luke 1:68-79)

Lift up your hearts, people of God,
for the Lord has looked favorably upon us
and is sending us his beloved son.

**He is raising up for us a mighty savior
in the house of his servant David.**

God is showing the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant,
the oath he swore to our ancestors Abraham and Sarah,
that we might serve him without fear.

**We go before the Lord, following John the Baptist,
to prepare the way of the Lord.**

Come, let us worship God
and listen to the voice crying out in the wilderness.

*Prayer of Adoration

Rev. Spencer

*Hymn No. 133

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

****Seating interlude*

Call to Confession

Elder Kristen Perkowski

Prayer of Confession (offered in unison)

Elder Perkowski

Holy God, we aspire to love and trust you,
But so often we get in the way of ourselves.
We see only the deep sadness of the world,
and do not notice your people at work amid the sorrow.
We assume that things will never get better,
And do not see all that is good right now.
We close our eyes and complain about the darkness,
Rather than see the light that shines all around us.
Help us, Holy One. Help us to grow in love and trust, in compassion and hope, so that as the Christ Child comes to us once again,
We will see him, and know him, and rejoice. Amen.

Silent prayer for personal confession

Assurance of Pardon

Elder Perkowski

Friends, hear this good news: in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven, and freed to love and serve. Let the people of God agree and say with deep joy:

Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia! Amen.

*Gloria Patri No. 805

Anthem

Carol Manion, Piano

Come, Come Emmanuel

Mayo

Choristers

Refrain: Come, come Messiah, come. Come, Emmanuel.
Come, come, O Promised One. Come, Emmanuel.

Prophets of old have told of Your coming; long we have waited, long we have prayed.
Kingdoms and Kings will bow down before You. Come, Emmanuel today.

Refrain:

We are Your children, You are our Savior. Lovingly guide us, guide us we pray.
Help us to follow, help us to listen. Come, Emmanuel today.

Refrain:

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

Rev. Wes Allen

Way of the Week #4: Always Encourage and Celebrate

4. ALWAYS ENCOURAGE AND CELEBRATE. Show gratitude and appreciation by regularly acknowledging the good works you see everywhere. Look for signs of spiritual growth and maturity among our members and staff. When you see it, point it out and rejoice. Pass on good reports that you hear about others.

Ideas for Action (try to do this by 12 noon Tuesday): Write a text or note to someone close to you who just did something wonderful or important. With many details, tell them why you're grateful or delighted by them.

Offertory

THANK YOU for your faithfulness and for remembering FPC Moorestown with your giving. Your offerings allow us to sustain our church programs. Take advantage of simple, secure [automatic withdrawal](#) or donate from your phone via the Church Center app. Send offerings by mail to P.O. Box 868, Moorestown, NJ 08057.

Offertory Music

The Angelic Greeting
Adult Choir

Brahms Op. 22 No. 1

*Doxology No. 809

Sermon

Rev. Stuart Spencer

"Now Arriving: The Kingdom"

Sermon Series: Visitations. Scripture Text: Luke 12: 22-34 (page 74 Pew Bible NT)

*Hymn No. 277

The King Shall Come

*Music in Preparation for Service

Joel Krott, Organ

Savior of the Nations, Come

Kaufmann

Benediction and Going Forth; Ways Video

Rev. Spencer

~ ~

8:30 a.m. Worship Ministry

Beadle: Elder Kristen Perkowski; **Audio Technician:** Harris Ransom; **Live Stream Technician:** Jonathan Nawrocki; **Flower Arrangers:** Stacy Schaffer and Karen Arsenault; **Ushers:** Michael Welch, John Miller, Tom Samuel; **Trustee Greeter:** Wendy Dougherty; **Check-In Volunteer:** Deacon Diane Samuel; **Nursery Caregiver:** Amy Coombe; **Hospitality:** Chelsea Margerum (volunteers needed)

Worship flowers are given today by Joan and Michael Welch to the glory of God and in loving memory of Evan Welch, from his family, friends and all who loved him.

[Longest Night](#)

TONIGHT we will present our Longest Night worship service at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Share this evening with those you know who may have experienced a loss, are not feeling particularly joyous this season, or need a quiet place in the rush of December. Stephen Ministers will be on hand to pray with those attending. Worship also available by live stream at www.fpcmoorestown.org.

Work of God's People (See *Connections*, eblast, website and app for details)

Advent and Narnia Devotionals – See our Advent Activity Guide for Advent devotionals we will be using as we prepare for the coming of Christ. Copies are available in the Commons Lobby and also to download (see our event page). Contact Wes Allen for questions.

Our annual Gingerbread challenge is virtual again this year. Make it colorful, interesting, unique!! HAVE FUN! See events page and website for all details. The challenge ends Dec. 2 at midnight. **REMEMBER: Post your photos to the FPC Family Ministries Facebook page or email to Holly Ascitutto at hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org!**

Our **Alternative Gift Market** will be available in person after services on **Dec. 4, 11 and 18** as well as virtually through the church's website fpcmoorestown.org. Alternative Gifts allow donations to worthy causes in the name of the gift recipient. The **Alternative Gift Market Catalog** is available online and on the Church Center events page.

Advent Small Groups -- *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Two groups will be meeting to discuss the Advent in Narnia Devotional: Sundays at 9:45 am (**Nov. 27-Dec. 18**) for Adult Spiritual Formation led by Wes Allen, and Wednesdays (**Nov. 30-Dec. 21**) from 7:00-8:30 pm in Room 3-4, led by Jim Cole & Gayle Payne. Come to the first session having read chapters 1-2 of the *Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Advent in Narnia Devotional: \$14 (purchase online, in Commons Lobby)

Mitten Tree – Beginning TODAY (December 4), visit the Mitten Tree in the Commons Lobby presented by the Knitting Network. It will be decorated with handmade mittens, hats and scarves. You are welcome to add your handmade objects to the tree or purchase others for yourself. Items will be donated to Urban Promise and local charities. If you knit or crochet, join the Knitting Network on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 am.

Manger Sunday is December 11th; drop off in worship-- Members are invited to bring **unwrapped** gifts to services on Sunday, December 11th for Manger Sunday. Please place the gifts in the manger where they will be blessed by the pastors. Gifts will be taken to Oaks Integrated Care for their clients and families to use as gifts for their own families. Those NOT attending services may drop gifts off from 10:30-11:30 am at the Blessing Box. See our event page for a suggested Wish List.

West Jersey Chamber Music Concert & Fundraising Gala: *Christmas Music Made in England*; **Sunday, Dec. 11 (7:30 pm, live stream)**; West Jersey Chamber Chorale plus the American premiere of "Magnificat" performed by Sam Scheibe, our member and former intern. Congregational singing too! All are invited for a post-concert reception/fundraiser with raffle baskets, silent auction and dessert buffet. Purchase tickets at the door or online at <https://wjcms.org/concerts/>; contact Joann Nawrocki at info@wjcms.org.

Emerson Toy Drive -- Look for a box in the Commons Lobby for your **unwrapped** toys, continuing the tradition Skip and Annette Emerson started 30 years ago, collecting for underprivileged children.

Poinsettia Orders – If you ordered poinsettias, they may be picked up on **Manger Sunday December 11**.

HELP NEEDED: NEW: First Presbyterian Church is hosting a brunch on Christmas Day following our 9:30 am blended worship on December 25. All are welcome to share in fellowship and celebrate the miracle of Jesus' birth. Please contact Jan Martin in the church office or SIGN UP on the sheets in the narthex/Commons if you can set up or clean up that day, or provide a breakfast casserole or baked goods.

Year End Giving -- Please remember the church in your year end giving. Options for donations are listed on our website and event page. The trustees thank you for completing your 2022 pledge before December 31.

Kids: Looking for artists for the front of our 4 pm Christmas Eve worship guide. See event page or contact Holly.