



Sunday, December 11, 2022 ~ Third Sunday in Advent, Manger Sunday

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

Magnificat on the First Tone

Clarembault

Introit

Rebecca Neindorff, Piano

A Joyful Advent Song

Carol Kunkel

Junior Choir

The little King of the world came down (and never a King so softly came!)
He humbly lodged in a careless town where nobody even know his name
Sing joyfully, sing joyfully, O sing now His Advent song!

He comes again and He still is King (and never a King so gladly comes!)
We will make ready His welcoming both here in our hearts and in our homes.
Sing joyfully, sing joyfully, O sing now His Advent song!

Lighting the Advent Wreath

The Fauvell Family

The Third Candle: Joy (pink). Kevin & Kira Fauvell; David & Sami Fauvell; Joshua Fauvell, Sheridan Fauvell

*Call to Worship (adapted from Isaiah 9)

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light
On those living in a land of deep darkness a light has dawned.
The Light that is the Word of God, God incarnate
Let us worship as we wait for the newborn king.

*Prayer of Adoration

Rev. Wes Allen

*Hymn No. 136

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

****Seating interlude*

Call to Confession

Elder Gil Warren

Prayer of Confession (offered in unison)

Elder Warren

Almighty God, you have surprised us with your presence in unexpected ways. In the expectations of our routine, we have missed the treasure that you place before us. We come to worship you in community often expecting nothing more than the usual. We begin our days, our weeks, assuming all will run as it always has. We do not look for the unexpected, for your active presence in our daily lives and for that we confess our sorrow. Forgive us for not allowing our eyes to catch the unexpected, to catch a glimpse of your glory in the ordinary. This season, may we see the presence of your Son by the power of your Spirit in new and transformative ways. Amen.

Silent prayer for personal confession

Assurance of Pardon

Elder Warren

But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons and daughters. And because you are sons and daughters, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying 'Abba, Father!' So through God you are no longer a slave, but a son and daughter, and if a son or daughter then an heir.

Hear the Good News: In Christ, you are forgiven! **Through grace we are adopted into God's family and heirs to the kingdom! Hallelujah. Amen!**

*Gloria Patri No. 805

Anthem

Kathy Gunsallus, Piano

Born to Set Us Free

Jay Althouse

Chapel Choir; Alivia Nawrocki, Julie Barton, Sofia Giannetto, Audrey Barr: Descant

On a dark night filled with wonder all the world awaited His birth.
And the wise men came to greet Him, the Lord of all the earth.

Refrain: Come, o come, Emmanuel; ransom captive Israel.
God's own Son for all to see, born to set us free.

And there was within the heavens a star to guide the way,
For the shepherds and the wise men to a manger bed of hay.

Refrain:

Way of the Week #5: Assume Positive Intent

5. ASSUME POSITIVE INTENT. Decide to trust that other members are being fair, honest, and concerned for the well-being of our church. Set aside your own judgments and preconceived notions. Surrender the urge to criticize and judge – it doesn't help. Graciously give people the benefit of the doubt.

Ideas for Action (try to do this by 12 noon Tuesday): Take a "criticism inventory." Just how critical are you, really? Ask someone you love and trust to tell you how you're doing in this area. Try a 24-hour fast from all forms of criticism. No complaining or criticism for an entire day.

Offertory Music

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

He Shall Feed His Flock and Come Unto Him

Handel

Duet: Amanda Schkeeper, Alto; Evelyn Santiago Schulz, Soprano

*Doxology No. 809

Sermon

Rev. Wes Allen

"What Are You Waiting For?"

Sermon Series: Visitations. **Scripture Text:** Luke 17: 20-37 (page 80 Pew Bible NT)

Presentation of Manger Sunday Gifts, Tithes and Offerings

Rev. Spencer, Rev. Allen

*Worshippers may bring their gifts forward to be blessed. Please join in singing the carols as you process forward (SEE INSERT). Unwrapped gifts may be placed in the manger; offering envelopes may be placed in the brass urn. Later today, the Christmas gifts will be taken to [Oaks Integrated Care](#) for their clients and families to use as gifts for their own families. **TODAY in the pews December 11 only: envelopes for the Christmas Joy mission offering.** 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.*

Benediction and Going Forth; Ways Video

Rev. Allen

~ ~

8:30 a.m. Worship Ministry

Beadle: Elder Gil Warren; **Audio Technician:** Harris Ransom; **Live Stream Technician:** Jonathan Nawrocki; **Flower Arrangers:** Steve Cashmer; **Ushers:** Paul Lewis, Joe Scheideler, Leonard Fitts; **Trustee Greeter:** John Miller; **Check-In Volunteer:** Deacon Jenna Cole; **Nursery Caregiver:** Amy Coombe; **Hospitality:** Chelsea Margerum (volunteers needed)

Worship flowers today are the Christmas poinsettias given by congregation members in honor of or in loving memory of beloved friends and family. **See insert for a list of these donations.**

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

➤ [See the Advent Activity Guide for details about Advent and Christmas events](#)

Our [Alternative Gift Market](#) will be available in person after services on **Dec. 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)

[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.

[Mitten Tree](#) – Visit the Mitten Tree in the Commons Lobby presented by the Knitting Network and decorated with handmade mittens, hats and scarves. You are welcome to add your handmade objects to the tree, or to purchase others for your own use. All 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 am.

[Emerson Toy Drive](#) -- Steve and Mary Emerson continue a tradition started 30 years ago by Skip and Annette Emerson, which is the annual Christmas Toy Drive for underprivileged children. Look for a box in the Commons Lobby for your **unwrapped** toys.

[Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Schedule](#): Come worship the Lord this Christmas Season! Our holiday worship includes: **December 23** Christmas Eve *Eve* 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm Outdoor Worship; **December 24**: Christmas Eve Worship at 4:00 pm Family Service, 6:00 pm Family Service, 8:30 pm Communion Service and 10:45 pm Chapel Choir Concert/11:00 pm Lessons and Carols. On Christmas Day and New Year's Day, there will be ONE combined **9:30 am** worship service. There will be no Education Hour or nursery care.

[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 by December 31.

[Kids: Looking for artists](#) for the front of our 4 pm Christmas Eve worship guide. See event page or contact Holly!

[Holiday Hours](#) -- The church campus will be CLOSED Monday, Dec. 26, Tuesday, Dec. 27 and Friday, Dec. 30 for the Christmas and New Year's holiday. The church office will be OPEN Dec. 28, Dec. 29 and Jan. 2, 2023. Warmest wishes for a blessed and peaceful Christmas from the staff at First Presbyterian Church.