



December 10, 2023 ~ Second Sunday in Advent; Manger Sunday; *Christmas Joy*
9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) -- Have you **checked in** for worship today?

*please stand as you are able

Welcome & Work of God's People

Rev. Wes Allen

Way of the Week #7: Celebrate our Unity, Savor our Diversity

7. **CELEBRATE OUR UNITY, SAVOR OUR DIVERSITY.** Thank God that, like parts of the human body, we're not all the same. Be open to learn from others, regardless of their age, background, experience, or tenure with our church. We make better decisions and grow as people when we consider multiple perspectives. Listen with curiosity to others and consider how to use their ideas.

Ideas for Action: Seek out someone from a different background, culture or race and meet three or four times to get to know their lives and stories. Pray with them for racial and social healing.

Music in Preparation for Worship

Joel Krott, Organ

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Helman

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Week 2: Peace (purple)

Lighters: Gail and Greg Sorin; Aaron Sorin, Ryan Sorin

*Call to Worship

Sorin Family

We come to you, O God, to thank you for what is good.

We come to you, O God, to cry out for what is wrong.

We come to you, O God, to ask for help and restoration.

We come to you, O God, with aching hearts and glad souls.

Let us worship God.

*Hymn No. 133

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

***Seating interlude

Call to Confession

Elder Paul Booker

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Elder Booker

God of stars and angels, God of sheep and lambs, God of abundance and grace: You know us well, better than we know ourselves. You hear us cry "Gloria!" and "Praise!" And you watch us tear things apart with our words and deeds. You hear us say "Thy will be done" and "use me, O God." And you watch us do nothing in response to cries for help. You know us, and you love us, and you forgive. Hear us now say, "Help us to change; turn us around, make us more loving and courageous and hopeful." This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Elder Booker

Friends, hear the Good News: God so loved the world that God sent Jesus to us, not to condemn the world but in order that we might be saved – healed and forgiven – through him. Thanks be to God!

Alleluia! Amen.

*Gloria Patri No. 805

Sharing with our Young Disciples

Rev. Spencer

Anthem

Kathy Gunsallus, Piano

In Silence We Wait

Larson

Chapel Choir (grades 9-12)

In silence we wait for the day of God's mercy, in silence we wait for Emmanuel to come.

In silence we wait for the gift of God's promise, in silence we wait and pray.

Refrain: Lord, hear our prayer: "Deliver Your people, send us a Saviour to show us the way!

Guide us in mercy, shepherd us in love." In silence we wait and pray.

In darkness we wait for the light of the Christ-child. In darkness we wait for the Day Star to shine.

In darkness we wait for the glory of morning. In darkness we wait and pray.

Refrain:

In silence we wait. In silence we pray.

Lord, send Your Christ today. Amen.

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

Rev. Allen

continued

Offertory



Thank you for your faithfulness and for blessing FPC Moorestown with your giving. Your offerings allow us to sustain our church programs. Take advantage of secure [automatic withdrawal](#) or donate easily from your phone via the Church Center app. If you're watching via live stream, you can give online right now as well! To mail offerings, send to P.O. Box 868, Moorestown, NJ 08057. **Throughout December, Christmas Green envelopes are in the pews for your holiday offering to First Presbyterian Church. Today, December 10, we will collect the denomination's Christmas Joy offering to provide assistance to current and retired church workers, develop future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools, and equip communities of color.**

Offertory Music

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (text: Hymn 167)

Bedford

Chapel Choir Girls (grades 9-12) and Choristers (grades 5-8); Nadia Khalifa, Alto

*Doxology No. 809

Sermon

Rev. Stuart Spencer

"Ain't Nobody"

Scripture: Matthew 8: 1-4 (Pew Bible page 7 NT)

Sermon Series: "Moving Into the Neighborhood: When the Word Became Flesh"

Presentation of Manger Sunday Gifts

Rev. Spencer

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. 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 only (Dec. 10): envelopes for the Christmas Joy mission offering.** THANK YOU for your faithfulness and for blessing FPC Moorestown with your giving. Your offerings allow us to maintain 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.

Music in Preparation for Service

Joel Krott, Organ

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Nixon

Benediction and Going Forth; [Ways Video](#) (Kelly Sponseller)

Rev. Spencer

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9:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

Beadle: Elder Paul Booker; **Audio Technician:** Harris Ransom; **Live Stream Technician:** Jonathan Nawrocki; **Flower Arrangers:** Stacy Schaffer and Karin Miller; **Ushers:** Michael Welch, Paul Grossmann, Sherrell Fitts; **Trustee Greeter:** Pete Honeyford; **Sanctuary Greeter:** Stephen Minister Liz Drzaszcz; **Check-In Volunteer:** Deacon Diane Samuel; **Nursery Caregiver:** Amy Coombe; **Coffee Hospitality:** Chelsea Margerum (*volunteers needed*)

Worship flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of her parents Glenn and Millie Wilson on their wedding anniversary December 10th.

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The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

[Work of God's People \(See *Connections*, eblast, website and Church Center app for details\)](#)

TODAY: Adult Spiritual Formation (10:15-11:15 am; Dec. 3, 10, 17) – Lissa Herman leads an Advent study, “A Clear View of the Birth of Jesus.” [See Church Center event page to SIGN UP online.](#)

TODAY: 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 purchase others for your own use. All items will be donated to Urban Promise and local charities.

TONIGHT: [Longest Night Service](#) -- This unique service provides peace to those dealing with grief, illness, anxiety or depression this holiday season who may not feel the joy or celebration seen in others. This service will be held on **Sunday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m.** and include communion. Rev. Wes Allen leads.

[Advent Resources:](#) Pick up a copy of the comprehensive [2023 Advent Activity Guide](#) detailing events and activities of the Advent season. A special daily [Advent Devotional](#) (Dec. 1-25) has been created by the Prayer and Discipleship Committee and features writings from church members and staff. Pick up copies of both in the Narthex or Miller Commons, or download from our website (see Resources tab) or Church Center event page.

NEW: Evening Advent Devotional Series -- Wednesday evenings in Room 3-4 from 7:00-8:00 pm, Jim Cole leads an Advent Devotions, studying the Devotional from the Discipleship & Prayer committee. All are welcome. Meet for Family Dinner beforehand from 6:00-7:00 pm. Family Dinner ends Dec. 13.

Now Available: [Advent Experience Boxes](#) -- See our Church Center event page or Holly Ascitutto for details on this family activity. The Advent Experience Box includes everything families need to make the countdown to Christmas meaningful and enjoyable — Scripture readings, activities, discussion questions, prayers, crafts and more all in one box! *One box per family please. Limited boxes remain.*



Our [Alternative Gift Fair](#) will be available in person after services on **Dec. 10, Dec. 17 and Dec. 24**, as well as virtually through our website fpcmoorestown.org. Alternate Gifts allow donations to worthy causes in the name of the gift recipient. Download the catalog from our website or Church Center event page.

Holiday Schedules -- Check *Connections* and the church calendar for holiday schedules. Last day for Kingdom Kids and Crossing Zone for 2023 was Dec. 6 for their Christmas parties. Last Family Dinner is Dec. 13th. Middle School (Dec. 20) and High School (Dec. 17) groups conclude next week. There will be no Adult Spiritual Formation or Sunday School on Sunday, December 24 or Sunday, December 31. We will see you on January 7, 2024.

Poinsettias Displayed Dec. 17 -- Poinsettias ordered will be available after worship on **Sunday, Dec. 17**. Our deacons are looking for a few more **drivers** to help deliver poinsettias to our homebound members to brighten their Christmas. Can you help? Please [sign up online on the poinsettia event page](#) or call Jan in the church office.

[Emerson Toy Drive](#) -- Steve and Mary Emerson continue the tradition started 30 years ago by Skip and Annette Emerson, which is the annual Christmas Toy Drive for underprivileged children. Look for the red 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 & 7:00 pm Outdoor Worship; **December 24:** Christmas Eve Worship at 11:00 am (Lessons & Carols), 4:00 pm Family Service, 6:00 pm Contemporary Service (Miller Commons), 8:30 pm Communion Service and 11:00 pm Lessons and Carols preceded by 10:40 pm Chapel Choir concert. On Christmas Day there will be a 9:30 am combined worship service led by Dr. Jonathan Miller.