



Monday, December 25, 2023 ~ Christmas Day Worship

9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) -- Have you **checked in** for worship today?

*please stand as you are able

Welcome and Work of God's People

Rev. Stuart Spencer

Way of the Week #9: Pray First and Pray Again

9. PRAY FIRST AND PRAY AGAIN. Ask *first* for God's guidance and blessing in everything you do. Through prayer, ask for wisdom and for God's will to be done. Pray for others as well, that God's love and blessing would be revealed to them in good times and in bad.

Ideas for Action: On your next walk, run, or in your quiet time, intentionally pray for neighbors, other churches, schools, EMTs, police and fire personnel, and local officials. If you're stalled in your prayer life, reach out to one of the pastors or a member of the Prayer Team for a suggestion.

Music in Preparation for Worship

Joel Krott, Organ

Noel: There is Nothing So Tender

Dandrieu

*Call to Worship

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Miller

All God's people – girls and boys, women and men – come and worship!

Let us go and worship the Savior!

Shepherds, Magi, saints, and angels: come and worship!

Let us go and worship God's promise, born for us!

All who need the Savior, all who long for comfort: worship the newborn King!

Let us go to our King, born in a lowly manger.

Come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord! Let us worship God!

*Prayer of Adoration

Dr. Miller

*Hymn No. 173 (verses 1, 3)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

***Seating interlude

Call to Confession

Elder Peggy Valora

Prayer of Confession (offered in unison)

Oh God, we need the grace of the Lord Jesus to renew our commitment to you and your ways. We confess that our lack of faith has made us fearful. May your angels sing again to us of peace for body, mind, and soul. We acknowledge that we have foolishly let our desires lead us away from you. May your star once more set our course firmly in your direction. We admit that we have turned the practice of our faith into a lifeless ritual. May your manger call us again toward expressions of devotion to you and love for others. We have selfishly kept our gifts and our hearts from you. May the Magi show us the way to sacrificial giving. Merciful God, may your Holy Spirit linger in our hearts and bring renewal to our lives. Amen.

Silent prayer for personal confession

Assurance of Pardon

I bring you Good News of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.

To all who welcomed Him, to those who trusted in His wonderful name, the Lord gave the right to become children of God. Amen.

*Gloria Patri No. 805

Christmas Readings

Luke 2: 1-7 (page 58 Pew Bible OT)

Josh Rotter

Luke 2: 8-14 (page 58 Pew Bible NT)

Kari Rotter

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

Rev. Spencer

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. **Christmas Green envelopes are in the pews for your holiday offering to First Presbyterian Church.**

Offertory Music

Joel Krott, Organ

What Offering Shall I Bring to Thee

Elmore

*Doxology No. 809

“Three Gifts from the Christmas Story!”

***Hymn No. 150 (verse 1)**

What Child is This?

The Lord’s Supper

Rev. Spencer, Dr. Miller

Elder Rotter, Elder Valora

The Invitation to the Table

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Eternal God, our heavenly Father, in the sending of your Son, Jesus, to be born of Mary, your Word became flesh, and we have seen a new and radiant vision of your glory. His name is above every name, the Prince of Peace and Lord of all. In him we have been brought out of darkness into your marvelous light. For this reason we gladly praise you, joining our voices with all who magnify you:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Words of Institution

The Prayer of Consecration

*The Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Hymn No. 150 (verse 3)**

What Child is This?

***Music in Preparation for Service**

Joel Krott, Organ

How Brightly Beams the Morning Star

Gade

Benediction and Going Forth; Ways Video

Dr. Miller

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9:30 a.m. Worship Ministry

- Beadle:** Elder Peggy Valora
- Communion Elders:** Elder Peggy Valora, Elder Sarah Rotter
- Guest Preacher:** Rev. Dr. Jonathan Miller
- Usher:** John Miller
- Trustee Greeter:** John Miller
- Coffee Hospitality:** Stuart and Leslie Spencer

Worship flowers are given today to the glory of God as we herald the birth of the Christ Child.

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

Year-End Gifts -- Thank you for remembering the church in your year-end giving. Each and every gift makes a difference. Gifts over and above one's pledge may include stocks, *Christmas Green* offering for the church and General Budget Help to reduce the deficit and start the year strong. **Online donations must be received by midnight Dec. 31, 2023 and checks postmarked by Dec. 31, 2023. Checks may be received in the offering plate up to Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023 with a date of Dec. 31 on the check.**

Holiday Schedule -- The church campus will be CLOSED December 25-26, and open with a limited staff December 27-29. The office will be closed January 1, 2024. *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the First Presbyterian Church staff.*

NEXT WEEK: Sunday, December 31: Combined Fifth Sunday worship service in the Sanctuary at **9:30 a.m.** There will be no Sunday School, Adult Spiritual Formation or Nursery Care. Children are encouraged to worship with their families.

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.

Moravian Love Feast Concert: Please join us on **Sunday, January 7, 2024** at 7:30 p.m. for a Moravian Love Feast concert featuring the Choristers (grades 5-8), Chapel Choir (grades 9- 12) and Adult Choir of First Presbyterian Church. Choirs will perform carols, songs, and anthems of the season in context of historical Moravian tradition; corporate sharing of singing, Christmas cookies and fellowship in the sanctuary as we celebrate Epiphany.

MLK Celebration -- The Moorestown Ministerium, an ecumenical leadership of area pastors, warmly invites you to a Celebration and Worship Service on **Sunday, January 14** at 3:00 p.m. in Miller Commons, honoring the legacy and ministry of Dr. Martin Luther King. See our event page for information.

Winter Gathering -- Save the Date! All women of the church are invited to the PW Winter Gathering on **Tuesday, January 16** at 10:00 AM hosted by Presbyterian Women. We will have a speaker followed by a soup lunch. Warm your soul and your body, and please bring white **cotton socks** to warm the feet of clients at the Christian Caring Center. Please register your attendance on the Church Center event page <https://fpcmoorestown.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2057994>.

Warm up your January -- January 28, 2024 is Blanket Sunday, sponsored by our Deacons. Your contributions to Church World Service enable CWS to help families around the world recover from disasters and displacement, while helping to rebuild viable, sustainable lives and communities. Just \$50 can provide five warm blankets for a family left homeless. Look for Blanket Sunday envelopes at both services. You may also give securely online at www.fpcmoorestown.org/giving - just choose the Blanket Sunday option in the drop down list. And thank you!
*NOTE: This is not a Sunday when we **collect** blankets. Please do not bring blankets to donate to the church.*

2023 Annual Report, Meeting -- Ministry area leaders are asked to provide a report summarizing their area's highlights and activities for the 2023 Annual Report. Please email to Jan Martin at jmartin@fpcmoorestown.org by **Friday, January 12**. The *2023 Annual Report* will be available Sunday, January 28, 2024. The Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, February 4, 2024 in Fellowship Hall.