



## December 22, 2024 ~ Fourth Sunday in Advent

9:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols (Sanctuary)

*Have you checked in for worship today on the Church Center app? Please remember to also sign the Friendship pads in the pews and greet those seated near you. **NOTE: Worship announcements begin at 8:55 am.***

\*please stand as you are able

### Welcome & Work of God's People

Rev. Stuart Spencer

### Music in Preparation for Worship

#### ***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

Arr. Mizell

Bell Choir (Jim Cole, Barbara Fletcher, Lissa Herman, Melissa McNab, Sawyer McNab, Marion Norcross, Peg Pierce and Vicki Terry); Kathy Gunsallus, Director

### Lighting of the Advent Candle

Week 4: Love (purple)

**Lighters:** Steve and Alecia Connlain; Sean and Natalie

### \*Call to Worship (adapted from Isaiah 40)

Connlain Family

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Here again the words of the prophet Isaiah. "Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,"

**And all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.**

The people who have lived and walked in darkness have seen a great light. Come, let us worship God!

### \*Hymn No. 171

Congregation

***Hark! the Herald Angels Sing***

## Lessons and Carols: Jesus Is ...

### Introduction and Prayer

Rev. Spencer

## LESSON 1: Jesus is the New Adam

Elder Ginny Weber

Scripture: Genesis 2: 4-9, Colossians 1: 15-20

### Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Elder Weber

Almighty God, You Who shaped out of nothing all that is,

**Forgive us for returning to You empty-handed and empty-hearted.**

You Who called forth light,

**Forgive our love of the darkness.**

You Who sent Jesus, the Firstborn of all creation,

**Forgive us when we ignore Him. Remake us in the image of Christ,**

so that the light of Jesus Christ may shine in and through us; for we ask these things through the name of Jesus Christ, our newborn Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Time of silence for personal prayers of confession and repentance*

### Reflection

#### **Coventry Carol**

Arr. Wissinger

Bell Choir; Kathy Gunsallus, Director

### Assurance of Pardon

Through the work of Jesus, God has reconciled us to Himself; and we rejoice with the angels proclaiming:

**Glory to the newborn King! Peace on earth. God and sinners are reconciled. Jesus was born so that we no longer die and so that we may be born again. Thanks be to God!**

### \*Gloria Patri No. 805

## LESSON 2: Jesus is the New Noah

Rev. Wes Allen

*Remembrance of Baptism*

Scripture: Genesis 7: 1-5; 1 Peter 3: 18-21

Prayer of Thanksgiving

### Response

#### **Blessed Be That Maid Marie**

Old English

Adult Choir

### Way of the Week #11: Make Others at Home Here

Speaker: Cheryl Gaskill

**11. MAKE OTHERS AT HOME HERE.** Warmly welcome newcomers and visitors. Offer your name with a smile. Reach out and greet the person you don't know after worship, during Coffee Hour, in Youth Group or Sunday school. Show a genuine interest in others.

### Offertory

Rev. Allen



**Throughout December, Christmas Green envelopes are in the pews for your holiday offering to First Presbyterian Church.** Thank you for your faithfulness and for blessing FPC Moorestown with your giving, especially in this important stewardship season. Your offerings and donations allow us to sustain our church programs year-round. Donate easily from your device via the Church Center app for your tithes, offerings and other fund contributions. 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

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## Offertory Music

Kathy Gunsallus, Piano

### *Sussex Carol*

Arr. Teichler

Adult Choir

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## \*Doxology No. 809

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### LESSON 3: Jesus is the Son of David

Elder Cheryl Gaskill

*Thanksgiving for God's Covenants*

Scripture: II Samuel 7: 10-14, 16, Luke 1: 30-33, 2:4-7

Prayer of Praise

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### Response: Hymn No. 190 (verse 1)

Congregation

#### *Song of Thankfulness and Praise*

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### LESSON 4: Jesus is the Good Shepherd

Rev. Spencer

*Scripture: Psalm 23, John 10:11-17*

The Lord is my shepherd. He takes care of all my needs.

**The Lord is my shepherd. God takes care of all my needs.**

The Lord watches over me. God gives me a home to live in, water to drink, and food to eat. God gives meaning to my life.

**The Lord is my shepherd. God takes care of all my needs.**

The Lord guides me along the right way. Even when I'm walking by myself in a strange place, I don't feel scared because I know that the Lord is with me to help me and give me courage.

**The Lord is my shepherd. God takes care of all my needs.**

The Lord has blessed me with so many things. I will never be able to repay God for His faithfulness and kindness to me.

**The Lord is my shepherd. God takes care of all my needs.**

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### Response: Hymn No. 157

Congregation

#### *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

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

Rev. Spencer

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### Music in Preparation for Service

#### *Ding Dong Merrily on High*

English Carol

Bell Choir and Chimes; Kathy Gunsallus, Director

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### \*Benediction and Going Forth

Rev. Spencer

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### 9:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

**Advent Lighters:** Connlain Family; **Ways Speaker:** Cheryl Gaskill; **Beadle:** Elder Ginny Weber; **Audio Technician:** Harris Ransom; **Live Stream Technician:** Jonathan Nawrocki; **Ushers:** Dave Rebeck, Brett Couvillion, Paul Grossmann; **Flower Arrangers:** Gretchen Birdsall and Sally Bishop; **Trustee Greeter:** Joe Molloy; **Sanctuary Greeter:** Stephen Minister Melissa Corbin; **Deacon Greeters/Welcome Centers:** Deacons Diane Samuel and Joshua Leonard; **Bagel Pickup:** Sue Piper or Sherrell Fitts; **Coffee Hospitality:** Sue Piper and Sherrell Fitts; **Nursery Care:** Chelsea Margerum.

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

**Deacons Food and Coat Drive** (I Will Give) -- Our Blessing Box supply is once again depleted and food needs are critical in these winter months. Next time you're grocery shopping consider picking up some **nonperishable food** items so we can restock the Blessing Box. Please leave food in the Commons Lobby. **ALSO:** We are also asking congregants to bring in **gently used and new coats** for local Haitian and Ukrainian refugees. Coats may be dropped off in the bin outside the Grace Boutique and are greatly appreciated as the weather is turning colder.

**Family Advent Kit** (I Will Pray) - Families are encouraged to pick up an *Advent Kit* in the Commons Lobby, as we prepare ourselves for Christmas. Everything you will need is included for you. See *Connections* for information.

**Christmas Worship Services:** **Monday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Christmas Eve Eve Worship (3:00 pm & 7:00 pm (outdoor); **Tuesday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve:** 4:00 pm Family Service (Sanctuary); 6:00 pm Lessons & Carols (Miller Commons); 8:30 pm Communion Service (Sanctuary); 10:45 pm Chapel Choir Concert/11:00 pm Lessons & Carols (Sanctuary); **Wednesday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day:** 9:30 am, preacher Dr. Jonathan Miller, Communion; **Sunday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>:** 5th Sunday (9:30 am combined, no Sunday School or nursery care, adult class meets AFTER worship.)

*See our event page or the Advent Activity Guide for a complete list of Christmas worship times*

**Alternative Gift Fair** (I Will Give) is available through 11:00 a.m. **Tuesday, Dec. 24.** See tables at church to purchase your gifts. Gifts begin at \$5.00 and a broad range of gifts is available to assist our ministries. Cash or checks. Please contact Donna Leatherman at <mailto:donna.leatherman@comcast.net> or (856) 304-8001.



**Epiphany Concert and Celebration** (I Will Invite)– Enjoy this holiday performance of carols, songs and anthems of the season as we celebrate Epiphany. The concert will be held during the 9:00 am Sunday traditional worship on **Sunday, January 5, 2025** and feature Choristers (gr. 5-8), Chapel Choir (gr. 9-12) and Adult Choir. Communion celebrated.

**PW Winter Gathering** -- All women of the Church are encouraged to come to the Presbyterian Women Winter Gathering. Enjoy delicious pastries and hot beverages as we begin a new year. Speaker will be Linda Jagiela, who will share about Baker Industries, a nonprofit workforce development program serving hard-to-employ adults in our community since 1980.

**2024 Annual Report, Meeting** (I Will Serve) -- Ministry area leaders are asked to provide a report summarizing their area's highlights and activities for the 2024 Annual Report. Please email to Jan Martin at [jmartin@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:jmartin@fpcmoorestown.org) by **Friday, January 10**. The *2024 Annual Report* will be available **Sunday, January 26, 2025**. The Annual Meeting will be held **Sunday, February 2, 2025** in Fellowship Hall.

**Early Bird Registration** -- Register by **January 31, 2025** to take advantage of Early Bird Special of \$400 per couple for the Couples Retreat April 11-13, 2025. Secure your spot with a \$100 deposit. Must be paid in full by April 4.

***THANK YOU for your generosity last week for Manger Sunday.***

***Our partners at Oaks Integrated Care were incredibly grateful!***