

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ISELIN

Minds, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

1295 Oak Tree Road, Iselin, NJ 08830
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First Sunday in Advent

Service and Message by: Rev. Chris Houtz
Liturgist: Elder Jennifer Morgan

Sunday, November 28, 2021

10:30 a.m.

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR THE PROMISE



PRELUDE

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Jennifer Morgan

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Elder Chris Madsen & Cayleigh

Jesus says: I am coming soon.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. As the Lord has promised, in days to come the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Amen.

CHORAL INTROIT #85 Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (vs. 1)

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)**

Elder Jennifer Morgan

There will be signs in the heavens and distress among the nations.

When Christ returns in power and glory people will faint with fear.

But when you see these things, lift up your heads:

Our redemption is drawing near!

Heaven and earth may pass away,

But the Word of God will stand unshaken.

LITANY FOR ADVENT: O ANTIPHONS

Rev. Chris Houtz

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, you order all things with strength and gentleness: Come now and teach us the way to salvation.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Adonai, Ruler of the house of Israel, you appeared in the burning bush to Moses and gave him the law on Sinai: Come with outstretched arms to save us.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Root of Jesse, rising as a sign for all the peoples, before you earthly rulers will keep silent, and nations give you honor: Come quickly to deliver us.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Key of David, Scepter over the house of Israel, you open and no one can close, you close and no one can open: Come to set the prisoners free.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, Sun of justice: Come, shine on those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Ruler of the nations, Monarch for whom the people long, you are the cornerstone uniting all humanity: Come, save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Emmanuel, our Sovereign and lawgiver, desire of the nations and Savior of all: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

Come, Lord Jesus.

God of grace, ever faithful to your promises, the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes, for he is Lord forever and ever. **Amen.**

*** HYMN #82 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Elder Jennifer Morgan

We have all sinned, not one of us is clean; but there is mercy for those who call on the name of the Lord. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Elder Jennifer Morgan

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

Merciful God, hear now our own personal confessions that we lift up to you in silence.

PERSONAL CONFESSION

Rev. Chris Houtz

In the strong name of Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Chris Houtz

Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low. Now the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

*** THE RESPONSE #92 While We Are Waiting, Come**

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(Please pass the peace with friends and loved-ones)

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Chris Houtz

ANTHEM

Adveniat II (by Stephen Beneking)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of our salvation, there is wisdom, peace, and joy for those who keep your Word. By the power of your Holy Spirit, lead us in your truth and teach us to do your will; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16 Elder Jennifer Morgan

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Psalter Reading (Responsive):

Elder Jennifer Morgan

Psalm 25:1-10

¹ To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

² **O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

³ Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴ **Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

⁶ **Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

⁸ **Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

⁹ He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰ **All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

New Testament Reading: Luke 21:25-36

Rev. Chris Houtz

²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and

foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

THE MESSAGE

Living in Two Worlds

Rev. Chris Houtz

***HYMN #87 Comfort, Comfort Now My People**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

THE OFFERING

With grateful hearts, let us bring our tithes and offerings to the God from whom they came.

***THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

***THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)**

God of righteousness, you have saved us from the worst the world can do and have promised to redeem the whole creation when Christ comes again. In faith and hope we offer our gifts of money and self, that we may be part of what you are doing in the world even now, as we watch for Christ's coming in glory. Amen.

***HYMN #93 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates**

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION (vs. 1)

Soon and Very Soon
Rev. 22:20
Liturgical Year/Funeral/Advent

Words and Music by
Andraé Crouch

1. Soon and ver - y soon, we are going to see the King.
2. No more cry - ing there, we are going to see the King.
3. No more dy - ing there, we are going to see the King.

Soon and ver - y soon, we are going to see the King.
No more cry - ing there, we are going to see the King.
No more dy - ing there, we are going to see the King.

Soon and ver - y soon, we are going to see the King.
No more cry - ing there, we are going to see the King.
No more dy - ing there, we are going to see the King.

Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! We're
Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! We're
Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! We're

1., 2., 3.
going to see the King!
going to see the King!
going to see the King!

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142. SOON AND VERY SOON

THE POSTLUDE

In Loving Memory

The flowers gracing our sanctuary today were donated by Ruth Davie in loving memory of her mother, Emilia Lochner

Friendly Reminders!

Deadline for Christmas Flowers is Today!

Advent Fellowships will be held in Fellowship Hall Wednesdays, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, and 12/22 beginning at 6:30 pm. There will be fellowship, dessert, and advent lesson led by Rev. Chris. **We encourage you to bring your favorite dessert! A signup sheet will be available in Fellowship Hall starting today!**

CLEF Ladies Breakfast will meet on Saturday, December 11th at 9 am in preparation for the Cookie Sale that takes place on Sunday, December 12th, after worship.

CLEF Cookie Sale Sunday, December 12th, after worship!

The Board of Deacons' Ministry of Compassion is asking for donations of whole chickens or turkeys to include in our holiday food baskets. Also needed is canned sweet potatoes, boxed stuffing mixes, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, pasta and canned broth. Please leave all donations in the church kitchen labeled for food pantry.

Thank you everyone for your generous donations.
Your Ministry of Compassion

Office Closed 12/24, 12/27 & 1/3/2022 in observance of Christmas Day, day after Christmas and New Year's Day.

Margarita Estrada in vacation 12/22/21 to 1/5/22. Back to work 1/6/22.

Regular Activities

Church Office open Monday-Friday, 9am to 1 pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Tuesdays at 12 noon

Rev. Chris' Congregational Call - Every Thursday at 11 am

Men's Breakfast - 1st Saturday of the month at 8 am.

CLEF Ladies' Breakfast - 1st Saturday of the month at 9 am

Sunday Bible Study - 9:00 am

Session meeting every 3rd Sunday of the month

Choir practice: 1st and last Sunday of the Month at 9:30 am

Divine Worship: In sanctuary and on Facebook Livestream
Sundays at 10:30 am

Per Capita Apportionment for 2021 is \$40.45

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We are a friendly, multi-cultural congregation that welcomes all to worship with us as we glorify our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; sing praises to God, the Father; and let the Holy Spirit guide our footsteps. As faithful witnesses to our Christian beliefs, we dedicate ourselves to worship, stewardship and discipleship. We will always endeavor to nurture the youth in our congregation to grow in their commitment to God and the Church and to become active participants in the life and work of the Church.

We commit ourselves to evangelism and mission to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to all people in a variety of ways in our community and beyond.

We will continue to be open to God's presence, leading us into new pathways of ministry and service for the betterment of the community and to the glory of Jesus Christ our Savior. -

-ratified by congregational vote, January 27, 2008

Dear Members and Guests, if you'd like to know more information about the latest news,



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