

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ISELIN

Minds, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

1295 Oak Tree Road, Iselin, NJ 08830

www.1stpresbyterianiselin.org - (732) 283-1188

The 2nd Sunday in Advent – the Service of lessons and Carols

Led by The Elders of the Session:

Betsy Christensen	Jennifer Morgan
Andrea Harrison	Sue Ramirez
Heather Meyers	Ron Stamboly
Roy Meyers	

We request that you silence all electronic devices **before** service begins.

****Please rise in body or spirit.***

Sunday, December 5, 2021

10:30 A.M.

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR THE PROMISE



PRELUDE

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sue Ramirez

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Andrea Harrison and Ron Stamboly

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 the days to come, the Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child.

She shall bear a son, and name him Emmanuel: "God is with us."

Let us walk in the name of the Lord.

Amen.

CHORAL INTROIT #85 (vs. 2)

Light One Candle to Watch 85 for Messiah



1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
2 Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
3 Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
4 Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the



light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall bring sal -
light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall feed the
light ban - ish dark - ness. Lift your heads and
light ban - ish dark - ness. He is com - ing;



va - tion to Is - rael, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
tell the glad ti - dings. Let your light be shin - ing.

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Sue Ramirez

John came out of the wilderness to preach repentance; he preaches to us still.

Make straight the paths we now walk and prepare the way for God's reign of justice and love.

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

Sue Ramirez

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*** HYMN #140**

Once in Royal David's City

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Andrea Harrison

Saints, let us trust in God's love for us and confess our sin, confident in God's mercy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Andrea Harrison

Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened. We have not always determined what is best or made way for your reign in our lives, our church, and our society. Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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

PERSONAL CONFESSION

Andrea Harrison

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Andrea Harrison

Friends, I am confident of this: if we repent, God is sure to forgive us. The One who began a good work in us will bring it to completion. 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**

Sue Ramirez

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sue Ramirez

Beloved in Christ, it is our duty and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, and the babe lying in a manger. Therefore let us hear again from the holy scriptures the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our sin until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy child; and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise. But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people; for peace upon the earth he came to save; for love and unity within the one Church he did build; for goodwill among all peoples. And particularly at this time, let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and

all who do not know the Lord Jesus, or do not love him, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love. Lastly, let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in the Lord Jesus, we forevermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words that Christ himself has taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sue Ramirez

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.

Service of Lessons and Carols

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Heather Meyers

Holy One, through your Holy Spirit instruct us by the light of your prophets. Illumine our hearts, that we may hear your call to become your path into the world. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Adam and Eve disobey God

Heather Meyers

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

⁸ They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." ¹⁴ The Lord God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel."

¹⁷ And to the man he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife,
and have eaten of the tree
about which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
¹⁹ By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread
until you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

Hymn #121 O Little Town of Bethlehem

God's promise to Abraham

Roy Meyers

Genesis 22:15-18

¹⁵ The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, ¹⁶ and said, “By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, ¹⁸ and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.”

Hymn #88 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

A great light in the darkness

Ron Stamboly

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷ His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Hymn #123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

A little child will lead them

Betsy Christensen

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

1 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
2 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
3 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
6 The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
7 The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
9 They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

Choir Anthem "A Tiny Child Will Come" (by Besig & Price)

An angel appears to Mary

Sue Ramirez

Luke 1:26-35, 38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born^[c] will be holy; he

will be called Son of God. ³⁸ Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

“O Favored One” (by Purifoy)

Solo

Mary gives birth in Bethlehem

Jennifer Morgan

Luke 2:1-7

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Hymn #114 Away in a Manger

Angels announce the Messiah

Andrea Harrison

Luke 2:8-16

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Hymn #113 Angels We Have Heard on High

Magi come from the East

Betsy Christensen

Matthew 2:1-11

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:
⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

HYMN #151 We Three Kings of Orient Are

And the Word became flesh* *Ron Stamboly* **John 1:1-14*

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

HYMN #122 Silent Night, Holy Night

THE OFFERING

Andrea Harrison

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

***THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE #652 A Grateful Heart (vs. 1)**

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

Andrea Harrison

God of all righteousness, receive these gifts of gratitude, the offerings of our lives. Purify them with your refining fire so that they may serve your purposes and shine with your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN #134**

Joy to the World!

BENEDICTION**Sue Ramirez**

May the Christ, who, by his incarnation, gathered into one the things of heaven and earth, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and good will, and the blessing of God Almighty, be upon you and remain with you always. Alleluia!

Go forth in peace and joy.

Thanks be to God!

CHORAL BENEDICTION**Soon and Very Soon (vs. 1, 2x)**

Soon and Very Soon

Rev. 22:20
Liturgical Year/Funeral/Advent

Words and Music by
Andraé Crouch



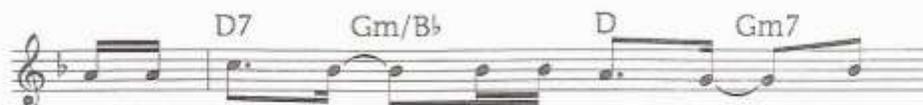
1. Soon and ver - y soon, we are going to see the King.
2. No more cry - ing there, we are going to see the King.
3. No more dy - ing there, we are going to see the King.



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



going to see the King!
going to see the King!
going to see the King!

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Friendly Reminders!

Rev. Chris will be out of the office Monday, December 6st, and will return to the office on Tuesday, December 7th.

Advent Fellowships will be held in Fellowship Hall Wednesdays, 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.

Communion Sunday is on December 12, 2021.

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

Children's Christmas program is Sunday, December 19th, during worship.

Session Meeting is Sunday, December 19th, after worship.

The Longest Night Service is Tuesday, December 21st at 6 pm.

ChildFund is the Mission Focus for December, 2021. If you have any questions, connect with Mission Chair, Elder Jennifer Morgan.

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,



Visit our website www.1stpresbyterianiselin.org using your mobile device, scan QR Code. To participate with us on social media, "Like" us on Facebook & Instagram, or follow us on Twitter, @FPresIselinNJ