



# *First Presbyterian Church*

Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost  
November 26, 2023, 10:00 AM

## GATHERING

**Handbell Chimes** – *The ringing of the chimes invites you to a time of Rest... Renewal... Hope*

**Prelude** Adagio from Sonata No. 9 - Henry Purcell Lucas Brown, organ

### Opening Sentences

**All:** Eternal God, you set Jesus Christ to rule over all things, and made us servants in your kingdom. By your Spirit empower us to love the unloved, and to minister to all in need. Then, at the last, bring us to your eternal realm where we may worship and adore you and be welcomed into your everlasting joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

**\*Hymn #142** "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"

### \*Invitation to Experience God's Grace (Ezekiel 34:11-12)

**One:** Thus says the Lord our God: "I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out the scattered sheep, so I will seek out my people." Trusting that God is indeed seeking us, let us confess our sin together:

### \*Laying Down Our Burdens

**All:** Shepherding God, you have called to us, but we have not answered. You have sought us out, but we have continued to wander. You have tenderly gathered us together and cared for us, but we have not extended that same care and mercy to others. Forgive us. Remind us. Teach us. Set us free from sin that we might turn toward your love and justice for the whole world. Guide us so that, tentative step after tentative step, we may walk your way. Amen.

### \*Silent Prayer

### \*Declaration of Forgiveness (Ezekiel 34:15-16)

**One:** Thus says the Lord our God: "I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind

up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak." The relentless grace of Jesus Christ always finds and forgives us.

**All: Thanks be to our ever-seeking God!**

**\* We Celebrate God's Forgiveness**      Hymn #579 "Gloria Patri"

**\*Sharing the Peace of Christ (Colossians 3:12-14)**

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

Whitechapel Bells "An English Christmas", incorporating "Good King Wenceslas" and "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" Arranged by Michael Helman

**Sacrament of Holy Baptism and Reception of New Members**

**Celebrating the Life of the Church**

## THE WORD

**Prayer for Illumination:**

**All: O God, by your Spirit tell us what we need to hear, and show us what we ought to do, to obey Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading**

Matthew 25:31-46

<sup>31</sup>"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' <sup>41</sup>Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' <sup>44</sup>Then they also will

answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

One: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Sermon**

"Good King Jesus"

Rev. Marvin Lindsay

## GIVE THANKS

### 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.

Practicing Abundant Generosity <https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyteri11244/give/now>



Offertory: "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" -Mark Andrews, Chancel Choir

\* Doxology #592 "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

\* Prayer of Dedication

## LEAVE TO SERVE

† \*Hymn #153

"He Is King of Kings"

### Charge and Benediction

Choral Amen, Chancel Choir

**Sending Music** BRYN CALFARIA from Three Preludes Founded on Welsh Hymn

Tunes - Ralph Vaughan Williams

Lucas Brown, organ

*Please use the Postlude time and music to reflect on today's worship experience and how it will support you in the week to come.*

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**WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!** It is good to have you here in person or online. Please be in touch if you have news to share or would like more information or to talk to a pastor. Staff contact information is below. Read full announcements in our weekly [email newsletter](#), available on the church website. Subscribe on the [Contact Us](#) tab.

**THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING** are given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Stedman and Mr. and Mrs. A. Weir Stedman by their family.

The cornucopia in the Narthex was lovingly created by Tina Novak.

Diane Thorne is the new flower coordinator. Diane's email address is [dthorne31@comcast.net](mailto:dthorne31@comcast.net) and cell phone is 609 707-8122.

**NURSERY** care is available during worship (9:30 - 11:15) for those with young children. The nursery is located in the Preschool (level 1R) in the Red Balloon Room near the Preschool office. Stay tuned for Christmas Eve nursery schedule.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Parents, please register your preK-5th graders for Children's Church using the QR Code. PreK-Kindergarten must be signed out from the Sunday School room. First-fifth graders will reunite with their families in the Bean Parlor after worship.



**Reminder: No Children's Church for prek-5 on Dec. 24 and 31.**

## WORSHIP NOTES

† First Presbyterian's Session recognizes that throughout U.S. history African American composers have not been compensated equitably for the music they have created. To remedy this in "our little way," the congregation is invited to make a donation, using this QR code, whenever we sing an African American Spiritual, whether it's the choir anthem or a hymn. Donations can also be made using this link: <https://www.essenceofharmonycs.org/sponsorship-opportunities> or this mailing address: Essence of Harmony Choral Society, PO Box 811, Moorestown, NJ 08057. Donations go directly to The Essence of Harmony Choral Society to assist them in purchasing music, supporting professional musicians, and paying venue fees. The Essence of Harmony Choral Society was formed in 2018 by Cherisse Bonefont. The Choir was born from a need she saw to create the presence of, space for, and a medium through which singers of all skill levels can share their musical gifts with the Burlington County community at large. This diverse group of singers has a cohesive and creative performance style. EHCS focuses explicitly on celebrating the works of both classical and under-recognized African American composers. In addition, the group presents classics and anthems, spirituals, and contemporary gospel music.



**CALL FOR USHERS:** Help us extend hospitality in this season! We need ushers for Christmas Eve and beyond. For more information or to sign up, please email [support@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:support@haddonfieldpres.org).

## NEWS AND EVENTS

**THE ADVENT FESTIVAL:** This year the festival will be after worship on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Use the QR code to RSVP if you plan to attend and also if you can bring a soup or dessert to share, sign up here too! Looking for Youth volunteers to help with the crafts.

Questions? Contact Cheryl Tarditi: [cheryltarditi@gmail.com](mailto:cheryltarditi@gmail.com)



**ADVENT BIBLE STUDY: Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent.**

This four-week one hour gathering on Zoom will explore the themes in the stories of Jesus's birth. Our study will be resourced by author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine. Dr. Levine will trace the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi. These stories will open conversations around connections of the Gospel stories to the Old Testament, the role of women in first-century Jewish culture, the importance of Mary's visitation, and the revolutionary implications of Mary's Magnificat, the census and the stable, and the star of Bethlehem and the flight to Egypt. Begins November 29.

To register and get Zoom link, use the QR code.



**PAPER QUILLING WORKSHOP: Sunday, December 9 at 1pm:** Discover the beautiful art of rolling and shaping strips of paper into intricate designs. Learn the history of quilling and quilling techniques to create your own unique art. Expert instructor Trish will help you master the craft. You will gain new skills, meet fellow crafters, and take home a beautiful, quilled holiday card. *Hosted By Presbyterian Women. Seating is limited. • \$20.00 per participant. Please RSVP via email to [judygrantham@comcast.net](mailto:judygrantham@comcast.net)*

**HOSPITALITY:** Calling all who anticipate and appreciate after-service social time! The Hospitality Committee is soliciting volunteers to provide snacks and to host the hospitality table on Sunday mornings. As we continue to offer this ministry of camaraderie and connection in our beautiful parlor, we will soon have an online signup system on which folks can volunteer for any Sunday of their choice. Please consider this easy and fun way to connect with old and new friends. If you would like to help us develop additional ways to serve, we would also be happy to welcome you as a member of the Hospitality Committee. Please contact Joan Fiorella at [jmfiorella@gmail.com](mailto:jmfiorella@gmail.com) or 856 889-9185 for more information.

**TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY: Need a ride to and from worship?**

We have a **new procedure** to ask for a ride, beginning in November. To request transportation to worship, call the church at 856-429-1960. When you hear the auto attendant

message, press 103 and **you will go directly to the deacon voice mailbox.** Leave a message and a deacon will call you back regarding your request.

**Transportation requests must be received no later than the Tuesday prior to the Sunday when the ride is needed.** Make sure to leave your phone number and a convenient time to call. Please take note: if you call later than Tuesday at 4 p.m., there may not be a deacon or church member available to drive you. This procedure will efficiently simplify the needs of our members. We look forward to seeing you in worship! Questions? Call the church office, or Joan Fiorella at 856 889-9185.

**THE PORCH BIBLE STUDY** The Porchers will begin meeting in person in December. We will meet Tuesday, December 12, from 2:30 to 4 p.m., in the Parlor of the Church. We will do a special Advent class that afternoon. In January, we will return to the Colossians & Philemon study. Our December Porcher lunch is at noon, Tuesday, December 5, at Treno. For additional Porcher information, see Deb Nussbaum or Jill Mascena at church or email Deb at [debranussbaum1987@gmail.com](mailto:debranussbaum1987@gmail.com).

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: CHERISHED** women of First Presbyterian! If you're looking for a Bible study, a walking group, a quilting group, or any number of things, click her to check out the fall activities that Presbyterian Women are offering: at [www.haddonfieldpres.org/presbyterian-women](http://www.haddonfieldpres.org/presbyterian-women).

Esther Circle will meet in the Bean Parlor, Tuesday, November 21 at 10:00 am. Our Bible study will focus on the Pw Horizon's study, Sacred Encounters, Lesson 3, A Bleeding Woman Encounters Christ", Luke 8 43-48. All women are invited to join!

**WALKING GROUP:** Meet Linda Hess for a Slow and Steady Walk at the Crows Woods pavilion parking lot on Tuesday, November 28th at 10 am. We'll be walking on a paved, flat path.

**STARTING October 1,** you can have your blood pressure taken in the Bean Parlor following morning worship. Screenings will occur monthly. If any medical professionals are interested in supporting this ministry, please email Linda O'Neill at [ElonMail@yahoo.com](mailto:ElonMail@yahoo.com) or Bonnie Manskopf at [BonnieManskopf@yahoo.com](mailto:BonnieManskopf@yahoo.com).

**GO GREEN FOR CHRISTMAS!** As you shop for gifts this year, don't forget to care for God's Creation. Shop local. Reuse old wrapping paper and bows. Swap the wrap with reusable bags. Avoid plastics and single use tableware. Limit packaging and deliveries. Be festive but reduce lights and heat settings to conserve energy. For over two decades, families in our congregation have given alternative gifts by donating to organizations serving those impacted by climate change or groups protecting the environment in a loved one's name. The Presbyterian Gift Catalogue and Heifer Project have many choices including token gifts to go with your card or note announcing the donation. Create new traditions to celebrate the birth of Christ in ways that help preserve all God's gifts to us for generations to come.

**CPR classes** are available for anyone in the church who would like to become certified. Marsha Reed will be teaching a class that takes about 3 hours and is being offered at no charge. If you would like a Certification Card, the cost is \$20. Once we know how many of us are interested, we can decide on a date. Class will take place on Sundays, most likely in the afternoon. Please contact Joan Fiorella at [jmfiorella@gmail.com](mailto:jmfiorella@gmail.com) or Marsha Reed at [marsbarr83@gmail.com](mailto:marsbarr83@gmail.com) if you are interested.

**CHRISTIAN HERITAGE CLASS** - *Our 34th Year Learning about Our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church through an in-depth study of Church history, theology, art, music – and (sometimes!) pilgrimage travel.* Topic for Fall 2023: **Jesus and His Followers**. All are invited to join Church historian David Stedman after worship!

November 26. St. Andrew the First-Called: Andrew bar Jonah was with John the Baptist when Jesus was hailed as the Lamb of God. Jesus then called Andrew, who in turn brought his brother Peter to Jesus. Andrew (feast day Nov. 30) is the patron saint of many nations and peoples, with countless churches dedicated to him, notably the domed basilica St. Andrea della Valle in Rome.

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE** 11/19/23: 196 in person and 28 online.

**2023 CHURCH OFFERING UPDATE** – Please note that target numbers on the right now represent a 12month budget.

	<u>Received to date</u>	<u>Twelve-month budget goal</u>
Envelope Giving:	\$ 519,925.00	\$ 570,270.00
Loose Offering:	\$ 9,398.00	\$ 12,000.00
Per Capita:	\$ 9,321.00	\$ 16,000.00

### CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

Please pray for these individuals and situations throughout the week. If you would like to add a personal prayer request, please contact one of the pastors. In making requests on behalf of others, please obtain the permission of the person needing prayer. The requestor will have their name printed as the originator of the request. Pastors will revisit these requests every 30 days.

#### Prayers for the Church

- Pray for the people, government, and country of **Ukraine** as war continues.
- Pray for a just and peaceful resolution to the **Israeli-Palestinian** conflict.
- Continue in prayer for Linda's brother **Roy**, as he undergoes radiation and further cancer treatment (**11/16- L. O'Neill**)
- Pray that **Nancy** would feel God's love as she recovers from extensive surgery (**11/15-C. Carty**)

- Please pray for **Jeff's family- his wife Wanda and his daughters Lisa and Karen.** Jeff lost his battle with cancer this week; they miss their husband and dad very much (11/13-**W & S Seddon**)
- Continue in prayer for **Jean Yount**, her medical team, and her family (11/13-**C. Yount**)
- Please pray for **Kevin** who is in HUP with an infection and may need heart valve replacement surgery (11/12-**J. Wackes**)
- Please pray for **Patrick and his family** (11/11-**pastors**)
- Continue in prayer for **Isabel Pross** as she continues cancer treatment (11/10-**pastors**)
- Pray for **Gary Roven** who is being treated for heart problems (11-09- **Pastors**)
- Prayers for **Lauren**, a young mother with metastatic thyroid cancer (11/07-**J. Stout**).
- Pray for courage and faith for **Savannah**, a mother of two undergoing chemotherapy. (11/06-**L. Kirsch**).
- Pray that God would raise **Ebony** out of anxiety and depression to complete a medical training course (11/06-**L. Kirsch**).
- Prayers for nine-year-old **Jake S.**, who is being treated for cancer (11/06-**L. Kirsch**).
- Pray for **Vivian**, who has been diagnosed with lymphoma (11/06-**J. Grantham**).
- Pray for **Amy** as she begins treatment following surgery (11/03-**J. Russell**).
- Prayers for **Tom Rowe** and wife **Suzanne**, as Tom receives experimental cancer treatments (11/02-**J. Blank**).
- Pray for family friends **Lynn, Yair, Daniela, Omri, Emily and Dean, Miriam, Aron and family** who are in Israel and are hoping to get their children to America for safety (11/2-**The Nussbaums**)

**Thank You!!!** A big thank you to everyone who brought us turkey last Sunday. We collected 93 birds and \$731. in cash. Thank you to the anonymous donor who donated \$300. And as always thanks to my family, Kathryn, Drew and Andy. -Margot Dark

#### CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Marvin Lindsay, Ph.D., Senior Pastor and Head of Staff- [mlindsay@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:mlindsay@haddonfieldpres.org)  
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