



December 8, 2024 ~ Second Sunday in Advent; Christmas Joy Offering

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) -- *please stand as you are able

*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 approx. 8:55 am.***

Welcome & Work of God's People

Rev. Stuart Spencer

Music in Preparation for Worship

Kathy Gunsallus, Piano

From "Sonata No. 2 in Eb Major" - Siciliano

J.S. Bach

Sawyer McNab, Flute

Introit

Lord, For Thy Coming Us Prepare

Isaak

Adult Choir

Lord, for Thy coming us prepare; may we to meet Thee without fear at all times ready be:
In faith and love preserve us sound; Oh, let us day and night be found,
Waiting with joy to welcome Thee.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Week 2: Peace (purple)

Lighters: Lorenzo and Kelly Eagles, Loren and Kathryn Eagles

*Call to Worship (based on Romans 11)

Eagles Family

Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!

For who can know the Lord's thoughts?

Who knows enough to give him advice?

And who has given him so much that he needs to pay it back?

For everything comes from God and exists by his power and is intended for God's glory. All glory to the Lord our God forever! Amen. Let us worship God!

*Hymn No. 136

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

***Seating interlude

Call to Confession & Prayer of Confession (unison)

Elder Engle

God of steadfast love and mercy, we confess our sins before you. In your light of your truth, we recognize how many of our decisions and our priorities are shaped by the wisdom of this present age. We have brought much trouble, confusion and heartache upon ourselves, and we have contributed to the trouble and pain of others. Forgive us in your grace and mercy, and teach us your ways of humility and wisdom, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son and our Savior. Amen.

(Silence for our personal prayers of confession and surrender.)

Assurance of Pardon

Elder Engle

The good news of this Advent season is forgiveness of our sins and God's promise of new life. Let's commit our lives to Jesus' way of hope and peace.

Thanks be to the Advent God, who comes among us, setting us free to love and serve. Amen.

*Gloria Patri

Anthem

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Holst

Adult Choir; Amanda Schkeeper, Alto; Frank Mitchell, Bass

Sharing with our Young Disciples

Rev. Spencer

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

Rev. Wes Allen

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

Speaker: Jim Cole

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.

Offertory

Rev. Spencer



TODAY only in the pews (Dec. 8): envelopes for the Christmas Joy Special Offering for PCUSA supporting Presbyterian church workers. 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

continued

Offertory Music

Kathy Gunsallus, Piano

Come Thou Redeemer of the Earth

Praetorius – Haan

Choristers; Sawyer McNab, Flute; Bells: Barbara Fletcher, Melissa McNab, Peg Pierce, Vicki Terry

*Doxology No. 809

Sermon

Rev. Stuart Spencer

“Come, Wisdom!”

Scripture: Proverbs 8: 22-36 (Pew Bible p. 591 OT); 1 Corinthians 1: 18-26 (Pew Bible p. 166)

Sermon Series: O Come Emmanuel!

*Hymn No. 133

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Music in Preparation for Service

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

Savior of the Nations Come

Vetter

*Benediction and Going Forth

Rev. Spencer

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Worship flowers (1 vase) are given by Michael and Joan Welch in loving memory of Evan Michael Welch from his family, friends and all who loved him. Flowers (1 vase) are also given in loving memory of Margaret Jane Valora by her mother Peggy Valora.

9:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

Advent Lighters: Lorenzo and Kelly Eagles; Loren and Kathryn Eagles; **Ways Speaker:** Jim Cole; **Beadle:** Elder Pam Engle; **Audio Technicians:** Harris Ransom and Taylor Adair; **Live Stream Technician:** Jonathan Nawrocki; **Ushers:** Paul Lewis, Barry Leatherman, Leonard Fitts; **Flower Arrangers:** Debbie Heller and Stacy Schaffer; **Trustee Greeter:** Mike Welch; **Sanctuary Greeter:** Stephen Minister Doris Kahley; **Deacon Greeters/Welcome Centers:** Deacons Bobbi Voglesong and Alex Wilkie; **Bagel Pickup:** Donna Leatherman or Sarah Dietz; **Coffee Hospitality:** Donna Leatherman and Sarah Dietz; **Nursery Care:** Chelsea Margerum.

Deacons Food and Coat Drive

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 Haitian and Ukrainian refugees. Coats may be dropped off in the church office and are much appreciated!

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

[NEW: Young Artists: Artwork for Christmas Eve Bulletins](#) -- We would like to showcase the artistic talents of our youth on our four Christmas Eve worship guides. *This year, we are asking for artwork that pictures Mary riding a donkey and Joseph.* Make the colors bold, and when pictures are colored in, please make sure no white paper shows through. Be creative! **Digital submissions are due by Dec. 15 to Holly Ascitutto at hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org.**

“2024 Advent Activity Guide” and “Advent Devotional” Available (I Will Serve) – Pick up a copy of these two Advent publications. The *Advent Activity Guide* details all the activities of the Advent season leading us to Epiphany. Download from our website, events page and Friday eblast. The *“Advent Devotional”* offers daily reflections through Dec. 24, many from our young people. Contact the church office to have a copy mailed to you.

[Advent Candle Lighters](#) (I Will Serve)-- During Sundays in Advent, members of our church family will serve as candle lighters for the Advent wreath. The Worship Team is looking for individuals for both worship services during December, as well as four Christmas Eve services on **Dec. 24** at 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 8:30 pm and 11:00 pm. Contact Worship Chair Kevin Fauvell at (609) 220-0177 or kevindfauvell@gmail.com to take part in this Advent worship experience.

[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. Boxes will be available beginning **Sunday, Dec. 1**. Everything you will need is included for you. See *Connections* for information.

See our website for a complete list of Christmas worship times

[Alternative Gift Fair](#) (I Will Give) is now available **Nov. 24-Dec. 24**. See tables at church to purchase your gifts and shop. Gifts begin at \$5.00 and a broad range of gifts is available to assist our ministries. Cash or checks. Fulfillment volunteers are needed to staff the Alternative Gift Fair on Sundays in December. Please contact Donna Leatherman at mailto:donna leatherman@comcast.net or (856) 304-8001 if you can help.



[Manger Sunday Dec. 15](#) (I Will Give) - Members are invited to bring unwrapped gifts on **Dec. 15** for Manger Sunday to both services to place in the manger. Gifts will be given to Oaks Integrated Care clients to use as gifts for their own families. For those NOT attending, gifts may be dropped off before or after services outside on the steps by the Sanctuary Courtyard (off the Lobby, Blessing Box side) by **12 noon**. Contact Deacons Susan Shaffer and Mike McNeil. [See our event page](#) for a list of Wish List gift items.

Looking for Drivers (I Will Serve) -- Would you like to help the Deacons deliver poinsettias to connect with some of our less mobile members? Please contact Bobbi Voglesong at (856) 206-7190 or Gail Sorin at (856) 608-1495. Poinsettias will be available on Manger Sunday December 15 after the second service.

[Men's Winter Retreat](#) (I Will Pray)--- Men: start 2025 with a weekend away in the mountains. Dr. Stephen Henziel-Nelson is our guest speaker. Bring your sons, grandsons, sons-in-law (high school age or older). One of the two cabins will be a youth cabin. Led by Stuart Spencer. Online registration due by **December 8**. \$150/person.