

ADVENT 1 B
NOVEMBER 29, 2020
1st Presbyterian of Rockaway

Join Zoom Worship (login beginning at 12 Noon EDT)

<https://zoom.us/join>

Phone in: (mobile or home phone) +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 742 347 8806 Passcode: 6562894

+19292056099,7423478806#, 0#,6562894# US (New York)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” Traditional Arranged by David Nevue

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH – THE CANDLE OF HOPE

CALL TO WORSHIP SEEKING LIGHT (from the website of Grace Church in Ealing, London.)

In this season of waiting, of longing,
of looking for you to come into our world
We are seeking light

[Light candles]

In our own lives
We are seeking light

In our neighborhoods
We are seeking light

In our families
We are seeking light

In our work
We are seeking light

In Grace
We are seeking light

In our nation
We are seeking light

In our world
We are seeking light

In... *[add your own longings]*

We are seeking light

Seek and you shall find
Knock and the door will be opened
Ask and it will be given to you

**Jesus Christ you are the light of the world
May we have eyes to see you
And ears to hear you
Come into our world today
Amen**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Holy One, though the earth trembles and the stars shake like leaves, your word will stand forever. Keep us watchful for the day when you will gather the faithful from all the ends of the earth, so that we may greet you in glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

HYMN 104

O LORD, HOW SHALL I MEET YOU

**O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,
To do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.**

**Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me;
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
In love all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.**

**You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,
To bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.
In patient expectation we live for that great day
When your renewed creation your glory shall display.**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

**We know the time; it is time to be awake. Our salvation draws near; we shall be ready.
Let us confess our sin in preparation for the coming of the Lord.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**Sisters and brothers in Christ, God's grace has no beginning and no ending. We are freed to love one another, for our sins are forgiven by the mercy of Christ.
Amen.**

ANTHEM

“Advent Meditation”

English words by Patrick Liebergen

Flutist: Kathy Siegrist

Music based on Dona Nobis Pacem

Soloist: Noelle Restaino

Arranged by Patrick Liebergen

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

ISAIAH 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

² ^[a] as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴ From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

⁵ You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed. ^[b]

⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷ There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered ^[c] us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸ Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

²before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

³Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

⁴O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

⁶You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

¹⁷But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.

¹⁸Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Mark 13:24-37

²⁴ "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸ "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he^[a] is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³² "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert;^[b] for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

SERMON

WATCH FOR FALLING STARS

HYMN 97

WATCHMAN, TELL US OF THE NIGHT

Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.
Traveler, what a wondrous sight: see that glorybeaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray news of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.

Watchman tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.
Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, shadows take their flight; doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home.
Traveler, we rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, maker of all things, provider of all things, who loves all people.

We follow Jesus, in whom salvation has come to us;

He sees us for who we are, heals the wounds of our hearts, and makes us new.

In his death and resurrection we see the deepest truth of life.

We live by the power of the Holy Spirit, which empowers us for self-giving love.

We give thanks for the Church, the Body of Christ, and for the gift of forgiveness, the power of the resurrection and the mystery of eternal life.

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.

HYMN 102

SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME

Savior of the nations, come; virgin's son, make here your home.

Marvel now, O heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

From God's heart the Savior speeds; back to God his pathway leads;
Out to vanquish death's command, back to reign at God's right hand.

Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue; let our faith shine ever new.

Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity praise we sing eternally.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Midnight Clear”

by Richard S. Willis

Arranged by Brian Duncan and Ray Jones

Piano arrangement by Lloyd Larson

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GIVING TO 1ST PRESBYTERIAN OF ROCKAWAY

- Go to our web page (fpcrockaway.org), scroll down to “donate” and give electronically
- Mail your donation to:
1st Presbyterian of Rockaway
35 Church St.
Rockaway, NJ 07886

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BIBLE STUDY – ACTS

SUNDAYS, 9:30 AM

Topic: Sunday Bible Study - Acts

Time: Nov 8, 2020 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86468468691?pwd=Z3ZNNzJabHdKaFNOTjhrOEVBYXIqdz09>

Meeting ID: 864 6846 8691

Passcode: 317165

Dial by your location +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

BIBLE STUDY – ISAIAH

TUESDAYS, 9:30 AM

Topic: Tuesday morning Bible Study

Time: Nov 10, 2020 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81660964669?pwd=TEVQNTYwN3FuWHVBV0pFa2xySkRQUT09>

Meeting ID: 816 6096 4669

Passcode: 666503

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,81660964669#,0#,666503# US (New York)



Alternative Christmas Giving

As the holidays approach there are several ways you can spread the Christmas spirit. Details are below for 4 opportunities.

Holiday Wishes Program

As a congregation we have participated in this program for many years. Due to Covid 19 precautions they have made some changes. They are asking that this year instead of purchasing toys and clothing for a child that you make a monetary donation. Another options is to donate Walmart or Target Gift Cards in \$25.00 increments. The average amount spent on a child is approximately \$100.00. Checks are payable to 'Holiday Wishes' and checks and gift cards can be mailed to Holiday Wishes, c/o Brenda Budd-Dunn, 43 Willow Avenue, Rockaway, NJ 07866 or you can contact Brenda to make other arrangements (email bab364).

In addition, they would like to continue providing a meal for the families and will be collecting \$25.00 ShopRite Gift Cards. You may buy these \$25 Shop Rite Gift Cards through our church by contacting Pat Budis (cell 201-230-2286). You may pick them up from her or she will deliver them to you. Remember our church receives 5% of each card purchased at no cost to you!!

Your support provides for over 400 children to have a happy Christmas season.

Scrip Cards

We will be ordering Scrip again this year to be available for Christmas. A portion of the cost of the gift cards becomes a donation to our church at no additional cost to you. The list of participating stores is attached as well as an order form. The last day to order is Monday, December 7th and the cards will be in by the 22nd of December and possibly before.

LeeAnn Robinson will be coordinating this and she can be emailed at danochas@aol.com for forms and the vendor list if you cannot open the attachment. When returning your order by email please note SCRIP in the subject line. The office will have order forms on hand for anyone that needs one. Checks can be made out to the First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway.

If you have any questions you can reach LeeAnn at 201-602-6052, call or text.

Amazon Smile

The holiday season is just around the corner and now is the perfect time to remind you to shop at smile.amazon.com. A portion of the cost of your items becomes a donation to our church with no additional cost to you.

Make a difference this holiday. Shop for gifts at smile.amazon.com/ch/22-1500517 to generate donations for First Presbyterian Church, Rockaway

Alternative Christmas Giving through Presbyterian Mission

This is a way of making a donation to mission causes that will make a big impact on Presbyterian Mission around the world. You might consider this as a Gift to a loved one or a grateful donation on your own behalf. Because we will not be having coffee hour in Fellowship Hall to collect your donations this year we are suggesting you go to the website for the Presbyterian Giving Catalog to see the possibilities and make your donation - **presbyteriangifts.org**. There you will see the many choices or you can simply make a donation for them to give to a project of great need. Some suggestions are: Sewing Machine \$50, Supplies for Displaced Students \$30, Fishing Net \$15, or a Piglet \$40. If you need help call the church office or Betty Shuman's phone number. 973-398-6775

Thank you for participating in these programs.