

**ADVENT 2 B
DECEMBER 6, 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 Little Town of Bethlehem”

by Lewis H. Redner

Arranged by Marty Parks, Piano arr. By Lloyd Larson

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH – THE CANDLE OF PEACE

Light the candles of Hope and Peace.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Rev. Susan A. Blain, posted the United Church of Christ's *Worship Ways*)

We dream God's dream, of a world at peace

Where enemies are reconciled, and children play in safety;

Where the poor and powerless find justice.

**We remember God's promise of a Ruler of Peace,
Filled with the Spirit of God, of wisdom and understanding,
Of counsel and might, of justice and faithfulness.**

We light this Advent candle, and we pray:

Come Lord Jesus!

Open our lives to the Peace which you bring;

let us turn to you, and get ready!

PRAYER OF THE DAY (Rev. Karla Miller, Minister of Community Life at Old North Church UCC in Marblehead, MA.)

Oh Holy One,

in this season of Advent, we wait for you to break into our worlds, unexpectedly.

Help us to stay awake, to be aware, to hope against hope. We pray for your peace

in this world when You will settle things fairly between nations, and make things right between peoples.

We pray for your peace when all will turn their weapons into something useful but not for war. We pray for you to show us how to simply be advocates for your peace and hope. Help us to know that what we do makes a difference.

We pray for the peace you bring within families. We pray for the peace you bring within ourselves. We pray for your peace to come for those who are ill, those who are grieving, those who are struggling, those who are suffering, those who are lonely, and those who have been devastated by disaster.

Surprise us with the possibilities of how your vision of peace and hope might take root, and how we might live into this vision of justice and love for all of creation.

Even so Lord Jesus Come. Amen.

HYMN 88 O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL (vss. 1-4)

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily:
To us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION (Thom Shuman, and posted on *Lectionary Liturgies*)

We don't know when Jesus will return, and we are not to worry about it.
But we do know when we do wrong, when we hurt people, when we disappoint God.
But God will change our sins into acts of mercy, and our failures into faith.
Join me as we pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of tenderness and love, breathe your grace into our lives. Forgive our wandering ways, and guide us along your paths of peace. When we lose our way, and forget the reason and purpose of this season, carry us back to you. Lead us up to that high mountain of faith and hope, that we might truly proclaim: "Here is our God!" In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Thom Shuman, and posted on *Lectionary Liturgies*)

This is the good news: you will be swept away in the waters of mercy, salvation carrying you home to God's heart.

Peace, serenity, healing, hope— these gifts, and more, are ours in this Advent season of watching and waiting. Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Advent Prayer”

Words by Patrick M. Liebergen

Flutist: Kathy Siegrist

Based upon Panis Angelicus and Lo.

How a Rose E'er Blooming Arranged by Patrick M. Liebergen

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Rev. Andy James, First Presbyterian Church of Whitestone, New York)

Speak to us, Lord.

Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS

ISAIAH 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶ A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹ Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;^[a]

lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,^[b]

lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

¹⁰ See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep

PSALM 85:1-13

LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

² **You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.**

³ You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.

⁴ **Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation toward us.**

⁵ Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

⁶ **Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?**

⁷ Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

**⁸ Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.**

⁹ Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

**¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.**

¹¹ Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.

¹² The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

MARK 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

SERMON

WHAT SHALL WE CRY?

HYMN 87

COMFORT, COMFORT NOW MY PEOPLE

**“Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God.
“Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.
To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare is over.”**

**For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,
Calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.
O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.
Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.**

**Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH~ We Believe (inspired by Isaiah 11: 1-10 from *Third World Solidarity Day*, from the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, 1987)

**Jesus has taught us to speak of hope as the coming of God's Kingdom.
We believe that God is at work in our world turning hopeless and evil situations into good.**

We believe that goodness and justice and love will triumph in the end, and that tyranny and oppression cannot last forever. One day 'all tears will be wiped away' and 'the lamb will lie down with the lion.'

True peace and true reconciliation are not only desirable, they are assured and guaranteed. This is our faith, and our hope.

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 593 IN THE SINGING

**In the singing, in the silence, in the hands expectant, open,
In the blessing, in the breaking, in the Presence at this table
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace;
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.**

**In the question, in the answer, in the moment of acceptance,
In the heart's cry, in the healing, in the circle of your people
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace;
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE (Copyright Carol Penner www.leadinginworship.com, modified)

All are invited; the young and the old, the rich and the poor, the lowest and the least; sinners and saints together in communion. Come find your place here where there are no strangers or foreigners, only brothers and sisters in the sight of God.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

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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=TEVQNTYwN3FuWHVpFa2xySkRQUT09>**

**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

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

