

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**December 19, 2021**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian of Rockaway**

**Join Zoom Worship (login beginning at 9:30 AM EDT)**

<https://zoom.us/join>

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

<https://zoom.us/j/4683220487?pwd=OHBUb2V4RmJVMGF2U3VEVEFLMWNjUT09>

**Meeting ID: 468 322 0487**

**Passcode: FPCR2021 One tap mobile)**

**+16465588656,,4683220487#,,,,\*67022253# US (New York)**

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

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**                    **“What Child is This/God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”**

Saxophonist: Roger Bryson

*Please use this time to silently prepare your hearts and minds for worship.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

The angel of the Lord said to Mary,

**“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born<sup>1</sup> will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>3</sup>**

For nothing will be impossible with God.” 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 God, we light the fourth candle of Advent.

*(Light all four candles)*

We hear your angel Gabriel and witness the faith of Mary. Fill us with your grace and light.

Mary was a young, strong, spiritual woman. Even though her life was not easy, she heard God’s voice and said yes. Her song was a prayer that would uplift those who were downtrodden. Her lyrics shattered the proud and called the world to change. She would bear within her the promised child, Jesus, the Light of the World. This Advent, we respond to God’s beckoning to us as well.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Revealing God, visit us and fill us with your Spirit. Bring your good news to life within us. Give us courage to carry your light into the injustices and shadows of this world. Amen.**

**\*HYMN 105**

**PEOPLE, LOOK EAST**

**People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.  
People look east and sing today:  
Love the Guest, is on the way.**

**Stars keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.  
People look east and sing today:  
Love the Star, is on the way.**

**Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People look east and sing today:  
Love the Lord, is on the way.**

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

We are a sinful people in need of restoration,  
but sometimes we are too stubborn or ignorant to even realize it.  
We are capable of such evil as well as such goodness.  
Let us confess our sins that we might be washed of evil  
and welcome the goodness that God intends for us.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Give ear, merciful God, to our confession. Forgive us for the things we have  
done. Forgive us for the things we have left undone. For the people we've hurt,  
and the relationships we've broken. For the societal illnesses we ignore, and the  
injustices we dismiss. Forgive us, for we are sorry and recognize our need of  
your grace.**

**Make your face to shine upon us that we might be saved!**

*Silent Prayer*

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, **Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

God has given ear to our confession and God's face has shined upon us!  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you and I are saved: saved from our sins,  
saved to our faithful savior, whose steadfast love is gifted to the world!

**\*GLORIA PATRI (581)**

**Glory be to the Father; and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen, Amen.**

## CHOIR ANTHEM

## “Mary Did You Know?”

Words & Music by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, Holy Word, may your love leap within us  
and your stories seal themselves to our hearts.

As we prepare to welcome Jesus Christ,  
may we first welcome your wisdom to our worship. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### MICAH 5:2-5a

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

### PSALM 80:1-7

<sup>1</sup> Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!  
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

<sup>2</sup> **before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.**

**Stir up your might, and come to save us!**

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

<sup>4</sup> **O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people’s prayers?**

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

<sup>6</sup> **You make us the scorn of our neighbors;  
our enemies laugh among themselves.**

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

### LUKE 1:39-55

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled

with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be<sup>[a]</sup> a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

**SERMON**

**Nothing is Impossible with God**

**Rev. Dr. Nancy K. Young**

**\*HYMN 100**

**MY SOUL CRIES OUT WITH A JOYFUL SHOUT**

**My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,**

**And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.**

**You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,**

**and my weakness you did not spurn,**

**so from east to west shall my name be blest.**

**Could the world be about to turn?**

***Refrain***

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.**

**Let the fires of your justice burn.**

**Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,**

**And the world is about to turn.**

**Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,**

**And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.**

**Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,**

**You will show your might, put the strong to flight,**

**For the world is about to turn. *Refrain***

**From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry pour shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;  
There are tables spread; every mouth be fed,  
For the world is about to turn. *Refrain***

**Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,  
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.  
*Refrain***

#### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Lisa Frenz)**

**We believe in one God, who is Creator,  
maker of all we see and all we don't see.  
Who is Ruler of the universe: Source of all creation!**

**We believe in one God, who is Jesus Christ,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God and true human.  
He is one with the Creator;  
the Word made flesh, our Messiah: Savior of all creation!**

**We believe in one God, who is Holy Spirit,  
Breath of God moving among us;  
Who is one with the Creator; one with the Christ;  
our Comforter and our Guide: Mentor of all creation!**

**SPECIAL MUSIC                      "Silent Night"                      Saxophonist: Roger Bryson**

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

##### **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 106**

##### **PREPARE THE WAY, O ZION**

**Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!  
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.  
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.**

**Refrain:**

O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.  
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.  
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. *Refrain*

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace,  
and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.  
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing. *Refrain*

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** "Joy to the World/Angels We Have Heard on High"  
Saxophonist: Roger Bryson

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**GIVING TO 1<sup>ST</sup> PRESBYTERIAN OF ROCKAWAY**

- Go to our web page ([fpcrockaway.org](http://fpcrockaway.org)), scroll down to "donate" and give electronically
- Mail your donation to:  
1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian of Rockaway  
35 Church St.  
Rockaway, NJ 07866

Offering plates are available in the narthex and at the exit door

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***THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING***

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families.

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**Christmas Eve Service  
December 24, 2021 at 6PM in the Sanctuary, via Zoom and Facebook**



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*The Christmas Poinsettias that Beautify our Sanctuary are Given to the Glory of God...*

**By:**

Kay & Jack Philips  
Betty Shuman  
Dee Helman  
Pat Budis  
Karen & Rich Basile  
Doreen & Robert Scheetz  
Barbie Restaino

**In Memory of:**

Loved Ones  
Tom Shuman  
Mom, Pop, Sister & 3 Brothers  
Donald P. Budis  
Parents  
Alvin Yeager, Viola & Floyd Scheetz  
Leila Wheeler Braun

**In Thankfulness for:**

The Duggan Family  
The Duggan Family  
The Duggan Family  
The Duggan Family  
The Duggan Family

Mark Kuschke  
Ken Blair  
Karen Basile  
Debbie Salierno  
Donna VanDuyne

*Donations to the Music Fund are Given to the Glory of God:*

**By:**

John & Cathy Pope

**In Memory of:**

Doris & Stuart Pope

**In Thankfulness for:**

Pat Budis  
  
Betty Shuman  
Barbie Restaino

The Men & Women in the Military Around the World  
My Family  
Noelle Restaino and her many gifts

If you purchased a poinsettia please remember to take it home after the worship service on December 26!

Thank you!

*Advent Evening Prayer*  
*Tuesdays, 7:00 pm*

**December 21**

**ZOOM LINK**

**Topic: Advent Evening Prayer**

**Time: Nov 30, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81827612671?pwd=SGRIMWxveFE3MFo0cUIBUjA2SWJCQT09>**

**Meeting ID: 818 2761 2671**

**Passcode: 017713**

**One tap mobile**

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