

**FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
December 26, 2021
1st Presbyterian of Rockaway**

Join Zoom Worship (login beginning at 10:30 AM EST)

<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

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the Lord! Praise God in the heavens.

Praise the Lord from the earth!

Young and old alike,

men and women together. Praise the Lord!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, into a realm of clerics and kings you sent your child to teach the wise and show the world what power there is in love. Keep us vigilant to hear the voices of those who speak your truth. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

***HYMN 140 ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY**

**Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Because we have passed through the waters of baptism, we dare to bare our souls before God and reveal the bitterness that dwells in our hearts. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of wonder, you surround us with signs of your glory and surprise us with your presence, yet we often miss the marvels you place before us. Forgive our dullness and make us alert to the ways you make yourself known, that we might be witnesses to your good news and proclaim your extravagant love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Silent Prayer

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

In Jesus Christ God saved us, not because of any good works that we have done, but according to God's mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. People of God, rejoice! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***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.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

By the breath of your Spirit inspire us, that in the hearing of your Word we may be filled with new understanding and fresh desire to please you in all we do, for the sake of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 SAMUEL 2:18–20, 26

¹⁸Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home. ²⁶Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

PSALM 148 (*Responsive*)

¹Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

²**Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!**

³Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴**Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

⁶**He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

⁸**fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

⁹Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰**Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**

¹¹Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹²**Young men and women alike, old and young together!**

¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

¹⁴**He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!**

LUKE 2:22-52

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” ³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after

her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. ⁴¹Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

ANTHEM

SERMON

"Getting to Know Him"

Elder Carl Kline

***HYMN 158**

BORN IN THE NIGHT, MARY'S CHILD

**Born in the night, Mary's Child,
a long way from your home;
coming in need, Mary's Child,
born in a borrowed room.**

**Clear shining light, Mary's Child,
your face lights up our way;
Light of the world, Mary's Child,
dawn on our darkened day.**

**Truth of our life, Mary's Child,
you tell us God is good;
yes, it is true, Mary's Child,
shown on your cross of wood.**

**Hope of the world, Mary's Child,
you're coming soon to reign;
King of the earth, Mary's Child,
walk in our streets again.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God — the source of all light and life. I believe that God sent Jesus Christ, as the Word Incarnate, into this world so that all might be bathed in his light and know the true source of life. On the witness of the disciples, I believe that Jesus was crucified, died and was buried — then brought back to life that we might also have new life in him. I believe the Word of God still speaks today to those who have ears and hearts to listen. I believe, with the power of the Holy Spirit, that my life can be a witness to God's living presence and grace. Amen.

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 683**

LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

