

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
November 28, 2021
1st 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 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Adapted from Plainsong by
Thomas Helmore
Arranged by John DeVries

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

CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Barbara Weinberg

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.

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

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

Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever.

Now consider, we are all your people.

O God, we light the first candle of Advent.

(Light the first candle.)

We kindle it with hope. We long for you to come to our world, to break through and reign with compassion, justice, and peace.

The prophet Isaiah also cried to God to tear open heaven and come down. He called God's people to do right. Isaiah called them to be refashioned like clay by God, the potter. This Advent, we call out to God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Mighty God, creator of the world, break through all that keeps us from you. We ask for your mercy and reform us in your image. This Advent, visit us with your justice, love, and peace. Amen.

***HYMN 357**

THE DAYS ARE SURELY COMING

**The days are surely coming, says God to all the earth,
When you will see my promise: salvation come to birth.
My righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land
And you will be delivered by my almighty hand.**

**The days are surely coming, says Christ, the promised one,
When you will read my warning in moon and stars and sun.
Though earth and heaven tremble, stand up and do not fear,
For I am your redeemer, and I am drawing near.**

**The days are surely coming when we will know at last
The fullness of God's presence, God's promise, come to pass.
The righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land
And we will be delivered by God's almighty hand.**

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

**God of night and day, there is no shadow that can conceal our sin from you and no secret that you will not bring to light. For the sins we commit, forgive us. For the good we left undone, the possibilities of compassion ignored, forgive us. For the sins of pride, arrogance, and judgment, forgive us.
O God forgive us our sins, renew us in love, and teach us to live in a way that brings honor and glory to your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Silent Prayer

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

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.

***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

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 READING**JEREMIAH 33:14-16**

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

PSALM 25:1-11

³ As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble,
in whom is all my delight.

⁴ **Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.**

⁵ The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.

⁶ **The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.**

⁷ I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

⁸ **I keep the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.**

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.

¹⁰ **For you do not give me up to Sheol,
or let your faithful one see the Pit.**

¹¹ You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Luke 21:25-28

²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So

also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴ "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

SERMON

WATCH FOR FALLING STARS

Rev. Dr. Nancy K. Young

HYMN 352

MY LORD! WHAT A MORNING

Refrain

**My Lord! What a morning; my Lord! What a morning;
O my Lord! What a morning, when the stars begin to fall,
when the stars begin to fall.**

**You will hear the trumpet sound to wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***

**You will hear the sinner cry, to wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***

**You will hear the Christian shout, sound to wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Rev. Rebecca Harrison*)

We are an Advent people, a people of hope.

For us, Advent is a time of waiting, and so we wait.

We wait for the coming of the One

**who is the fulfillment of God's promise, the fulfillment of hope,
the declaration that we have been redeemed.**

**Even so, we know that the world in which we live
will continue to be filled with pain and sorrow.**

We know that hatred and violence will continue to exist.

We know that death and separation will continue to be a part of our lives.

But because we are an Advent people,

we know that none of these things will win in the end.

**The Holy One is coming, to make holy once again
all that was, is, and ever will be.**

And in our waiting and our hoping, we work and worship,

**pray and play, in all things hoping that peace, love and joy will reign
in our lives and in our world, now and forever.**

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 88 O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL (verses 1,2,3)

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 and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“The First Noel”

English carol, c. 17th cent
Setting by John Leavitt



The Flowers that beautify our Sanctuary this morning
were given by
Alfred and Jean Caloz

In Loving Memory of Cindy Janda
daughter of Alfred and Jean Caloz and mother of Lisa Basile

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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 07866

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

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ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

SUNDAYS, 9:00 AM GENESIS

For next Sunday

We meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Email Pastor Nancy for further information and the schedule.

Youngnancy501@gmail.com

TUESDAY MORNING STUDY – OUR FAVORITE ADVENT & CHRISTMAS HYMNS

9:30 am. We meet on Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83842008669?pwd=MnFSQlpgZXNKK2NvVIA4eFhoVTNnQT09>

Meeting ID: 838 4200 8669

Passcode: 749308

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83842008669>

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HOLIDAY WISHES

There are almost 200 children who attend school in Rockaway Borough or Township who qualify for the federal program providing free (or reduced price) lunches. We have the opportunity to help them enjoy the holidays this year.

If you would like to provide gifts for one or more children you can contact Brenda Budd at Rockawayholidaywishes@gmail.com.

If you would rather send a check, make it out to Holiday Wishes and send it to her at 43 Willow Ave. Rockaway, NJ 07866. She is asking that all gifts be collected by Nov 30.

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Christmas Luncheon

The Christmas luncheon is scheduled for December 12th following the church service.

Tickets go on sale on November 21, November 28, and December 5th.

The price is \$10.00 per person.

One of the committee members will be available at the end of each service for ticket sales.

Join us for delicious food and fellowship

AMAZON SMILE FUNDRAISER

The First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway is a registered charity on AmazonSmile. Every time you make a purchase at smile.amazon.com, 0.5% of your eligible purchases will be directly donated to our church. It costs you nothing and the church gets income to continue its ministries in the community. All you need to do is sign up at AmazonSmile.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND MUSIC

Would you like to help carry on the music and flower traditions we enjoy during the holiday season? A donation of any amount to the MUSIC FUND enables us to enjoy wonderful music for Christmas and Advent. A donation of \$10.00 to the

Flower Fund buys one Poinsettia Plant. As a special bonus, the plant is yours to take home on Sunday, December 26. You can print the form below. Forms will also be available in the church office. Place you form and check in the offering plate, bring or mail to the church office no later than December 12.

-----Cut Here-----

Christmas Flowers and Music Fund

From _____

In Memory of _____

For _____ Flower Fund _____ No. of Poinsettias or _____ Music Fund

In Thankfulness for _____

For _____ Flower Fund _____ No. of Poinsettias or _____ Music Fund

WREATHS AND GRAVE COVERS FOR SALE



The Youth Group will be making grave covers and wreaths again this year. They will be taking orders beginning Sunday, November 28 after church in Fellowship Hall. The last date to order is December 2. Also check the church's Facebook page for a post to place an order.

Grave Cover - \$30

Wreath - \$25

Pick Up Date: December 4th - 3pm in Fellowship Hall.

Pay at the time of pick up.

Scrip Cards

We will be ordering gift cards through Scrip again this year. The gift cards will 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 and the order forms are available in the narthex and church office. The last day to order is Monday, December 6th and the cards will be in by the 21nd of December and possibly before.

LeeAnn Robinson will be coordinating this program and she can be emailed at danochas@aol.com for forms and the vendor list if you cannot pick them up at the church. When returning your order by email please note SCRIP in the subject line. Checks are to 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.

CAPITAL FUNDS CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Dear Congregation:

We deeply appreciate the tremendous support you have given the First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway over the years.

We have presently received 32 commitments for a total of \$82,750

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

We received 65 pledges for a total of \$155,480

Advent Evening Prayer

Tuesdays, 7:00 pm

November 30

Psalm 27:1

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

December 7

Revelation 21:23

And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it,
for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

December 14

1 Peter 2:9

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him
who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

December 21

Isaiah 60:1

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

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

+19292056099,,81827612671#,,,,*017713# US (New York)

+13017158592,,81827612671#,,,,*017713# US (Washington DC)