



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEWTON

First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

Whether we worship in person or online,  
may the Spirit of God unite us  
in praise and prayer,  
worship and witness to the saving love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*\* indicates when to rise in body or in spirit*

(PH denotes *The Presbyterian Hymnal*,  
STF denotes *Sing the Faith Hymnal*)

## WORDS OF WELCOME

### PRELUDE

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Reader: Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.

Reader: In the beginning was the Word, spoken and breathed, a promise made and kept.

**People: Listen and hear, God's promise is true!**

Reader: The Word was in the beginning, and through him all things come into being.

**People: Eternal and near at hand, already and not-yet,  
God's promise is the foundation of all life.**

Reader: Listen! Hear the covenant anew, giving voice to a future with hope.  
(candle is lit)

Reader: Let us worship God.

\* HYMN PH #551

*"Come, Ye Thankful People Come"*

*Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home:  
All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin;  
God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied:  
Come to God's own the temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.*

*All the world is God's own field, fruit unto God's praise to yield;  
Wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown;  
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear:  
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.*

*For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the harvest home;  
From each field shall in that day all offenses purge away;  
Give the angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
But the fruitful ears to store in God's garner evermore.*

*Even so, Lord, quickly come to Thy final harvest home;  
Gather Thou Thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin;  
There forever purified, in Thy presence to abide:  
Come, with all Thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin, as though there were no justice. We live in fear, as though there were no grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation. (Our silent prayers continue...)

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: May the Lord guide our way, strengthen us in all holiness,  
and make us abound in love for one another and for all.

People: **Amen.**

### SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

In Christ, God has broken down the dividing walls between us and has bridged whatever distance separates us from God and one another. May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.** (Please take a moment to greet one another from a distance.)

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God our salvation, there is wisdom, peace, and joy for those who keep your Word. By the power of your Holy Spirit, give light to our path, lead us in your truth and teach us to do your will; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 25:1-10

Leader: <sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

People: <sup>2</sup>**O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

Leader: <sup>3</sup>Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

People: <sup>4</sup>**Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.**

Leader: <sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.

People: <sup>6</sup>**Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.**

Leader: <sup>7</sup>Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

People: <sup>8</sup>**Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

Leader: <sup>9</sup>He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

All: <sup>10</sup>**All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those  
who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

## TIME WITH CHILDREN

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 21:25-36

<sup>25</sup>“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. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup>Then Jesus told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>34</sup>“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>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.”

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

#### “A Light in the Darkness”

#### \* HYMN PH #8

#### “*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*”

*Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates,  
Behold, the King of glory waits;  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
The Savior of the world is here!*

*Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
Make it a temple, set apart  
From earthly use for heaven's employ,  
Adorned with prayer, and love, and joy.*

*Redeemer, come! I open wide  
My heart to Thee; here, Lord abide.  
Let me Thy inner presence feel;  
Thy grace and love in me reveal.*

#### \* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From the Iona Community

**We are not alone; we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### MINUTE FOR MISSION - CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

#### OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS TO GOD

**\* SUNG RESPONSE OF THANKSGIVING PH #591**

***“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.”***

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 PH #2**

***“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”***

***Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, joy every longing heart.***

***Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.***

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\* POSTLUDE**

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**OUR WORSHIP IS ENDED. OUR SERVICE BEGINS!**  
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**E-Giving - *It makes giving easy!***



**E-Giving** is a convenient way to support our ministries. Here's how:

Scan the QR Code to make a donation through your smart phone. You may be able to get to the secure website simply by taking a picture of the QR code with your smartphone. Or you may need to download a secure QR code scanner App.

**OR**

Go to the church website, [fpcnewtonnj.org](http://fpcnewtonnj.org) and click on the **E-donate** button and sign up using your email and a password. You can make a one-time donation or sign up for automatic recurring donations.

**More comfortable using a check?** No problem, just mail a check to the church office.

***As Always, we thank you for your generosity and support!***

*(continued on next page)*

## **Our Staff**

Pastor, David Young  
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Treasurer, Jane MacDonald  
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Organist: Ann Socha;  
Bell Choir Director: Melinda Kline; Child Care: Heather Woods

Church Office Hours:  
Monday through Thursday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Friday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Church Email Address: [admin@fpcnewtonnj.org](mailto:admin@fpcnewtonnj.org)  
Church Telephone # 973-383-4420  
54 High Street, Newton NJ  
Church Web Site Address: [www.fpcnewtonnj.org](http://www.fpcnewtonnj.org) [facebook.com/FPCNJ](https://facebook.com/FPCNJ)  
[www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) (Search for: "fpcnewtonnj")

***(See Next Page for Congregational Life Schedule)***



**Congregational Life at  
First Presbyterian Church  
November 28, 2021**

Sun. 11/28 **First Sunday of Advent**

**10:30 am Worship In Person!**

Our service will also be on our YouTube channel sometime after 12 noon.

Go to: [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) and search for: "fpcnewtonnj".

It will also be posted on the church Facebook page.

**11:30 am Fellowship Time and Hearts and Hands Sale**

Mon. 11/29 **10:00 am Wired Word**

Here is the Log in information for Wired Word: Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89333400136?pwd=TThiNCt2RFpBdWdnT1JueFovQzINZz09> Meeting ID: 893 3340 0136 Passcode: 148070

**Poinsettia Orders Due**

Wed. 12/1 **8:00 pm Midweek Vespers via Zoom**

Here is the **NEW** Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88438963402?pwd=ZlIMTFJyYjlpVpTeGFzUjlkNDNHZz09> Meeting ID: 884 3896 3402 Passcode: 317405

Thur. 12/2 **7:00 pm Bell Rehearsal**

Fri. 12/3 **1:00 pm Hearts and Hands Craft Group**

Sun. 12/5 **Second Sunday of Advent**

**9:00 am Birth of Jesus Intergenerational Program in Fellowship Hall**

**10:30 am Worship In Person!**

Our service will also be on our YouTube channel sometime after 12 noon.

Go to: [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) and search for: "fpcnewtonnj".

It will also be posted on the church Facebook page.

**Communion Sunday!** We are celebrating communion. If you are unable to be here for in-person worship, plan on having some bread and some "fruit of the vine" on hand when you see the service on YouTube. This could be grape juice, wine (if you prefer), or another juice that comes from a vine. If you plan to be here and would be willing to help by serving communion, please let the office know by Thursday.

**11:30 am Fellowship Time and Hearts and Hands Sale**