

Fanwood
Presbyterian
Church



Growing
In God's Love,
Serving
All God's People
through
Rejoicing
Renewing
Reaching out

www.fanwoodpc.org

A Service for the Worship of God

10:30 a.m.

December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent Gathering Around God's Word

Prelude

Luyang Liu

Welcome and Lighting of the Advent Candle

Jamila, Mario and Sarai Banfield

Leader: The joy and love of God be with you all.

People: And also with you.

(At this time, please sign and pass the fellowship book.)

One: Advent means coming. We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. We are preparing ourselves for the days when...

All: the wolf will dwell with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.

(Advent candle lighting.)

One: Sisters and brothers, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Advent Prayer of Praise and Confession

All: God of joy, help us to remember that our happiness doesn't primarily depend on what is going on in our life, our world, or the people that we are with. It doesn't depend on the gifts we give or the ones we find under the tree. No earthly thing can ever give us complete joy which comes only from you. Forgive us for not looking to You for joy, peace and love. And send us the same joy which flooded the hearts of the shepherds, the angels, the wise men and Mary and Joseph. Hear now our silent confessions...

***God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen**

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay
Remember, Christ, our Savior, was born on Christmas day
To save us all from Satan's power, when we were gone astray
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

Fear not then, said the Angel, let nothing you affright
This day is born a Savior, of a pure Virgin bright
To free all those who trust in Him, from Satan's pow'r and might
Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas all other doth deface.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

***Declaration of Pardon and Passing of the Peace**

Greeting: The peace of Christ be with you.
(or Peace be with you. or Peace.)

Response: And also with you.

Hearing God's Word

The Annunciation

Luke 1: 24-38

Hymn 19

To A Maid Engaged to Joseph

Jason Rivera, *Gabriel* Alexa Tebo, *Mary*
(*Verses 1, 2, 3 and 4 – soloists. Verses 5, and 6 – Congregation*)

Soloist (Gabriel):

To a maid engaged to Joseph, the angel Gabriel came.

All:

**From age to age all who fear, such mercy love imparts,
dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.**

**Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure,
Leaves hungry spirits satisfied; the rich seem suddenly poor.**

**Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,
remembering past promises with present faithfulness.**

Joseph Accepts Mary and Jesus Matthew 1: 18-25

The Birth of John the Baptist Luke 1: 56-67

(See below for the congregation's part)

Narrator -- When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

On the eighth day they came to the synagogue to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said,

Elizabeth- "No! He is to be called John."

Narrator- The people at the temple said to her--

Congregation- "There is no one among your relatives who has that name."

Narrator-- Then they made signs to his father Zechariah, to find out what he would like to name the child. Zechariah had been struck mute because he had not believed that Elizabeth could have a child. So he asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John."

Narrator-- Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak, praising God.

Zechariah— Alleluia! Praise the Lord!

Narrator-- The neighbors were all filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. ⁶⁶ Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking,

Congregation-- "What then is this child going to be?"

Narrator- The Lord's hand was with this baby who would grow up to be John the Baptist. His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and sang a prophecy...*(pause)* Let's stand and join Zechariah in his song of praise.

***Song of Zechariah** (Hymn 602) Luke 1: 68-79

1. Blest be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us, who grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of rescue and release;
God shall fulfill the promise to bring the gift of peace.
2. Now from the house of David a child of grace has come,
a Saviour who will lead us to our eternal home.
Before him goes his herald, forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation, the messenger of day.
3. On those who live in darkness the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness up on the sinner's eyes,
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace.
Oh bless our God and Saviour with songs that never cease!

Word to all God's Children Isaiah 11:1-5 Rev. Dr. Kenneth Macari

'Mentored by the Spirit'

Responding to God's Word

***Offertory Carol 49** Once in Royal David's City

Litany for the Homeless

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Macari

This week we remember Joseph and Mary's difficult journey to David's Royal City, Bethlehem, where they found no home in which to stay. Our Lord and Savior was born homeless. So let us lift up all women and men, boys and girls who are homeless this day.

Spirit of love, we pray for all your people.

For those sleeping under bridges, on park benches, in doorways or bus stations.

Light of all Life, shine upon them this Advent and give them hope.

For those who can only find shelter for the night but must wander in the daytime.

Shepherd of the lost and lonely, be their guide.

For families broken because they could not afford to pay the rent.

Spirit of love, shelter them under your wings.

For those who have no relatives or friends who can take them in.

Son of humanity, send your body to them.

For those who have no place to keep possessions which remind them of who they are.

Provider of life, send your Spirit of giving.

For those who have been betrayed by the social safety net.

Shield of the poor and weak, hear their prayer.

For all people, we pray that you will provide shelter, security and hope.

Spirit of love, hear our prayer.

We pray for those of us who have warm houses and comfortable beds that we not be lulled into complacency and forgetfulness.

Spirit of love, open our hearts that we may respond by sharing unselfishly. Help us to see your face in the eyes of every homeless person we meet so that we may be empowered, through word and deed, through all spiritual and political means, to bring justice and peace to those who are homeless.

Hear now our prayers for our loved ones and places around the world lifted up to you in silence or with voices raised...

And now we are bold to pray as Jesus taught us saying...

"Our Father who art in heaven... 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

Sent Out by God's Word

*Carol of Hope 40

Joy to the World

*Charge, Benediction and Postlude

Welcome to the Worship of God!

Thanks for joining us today. A special welcome to all of our guests. We hope you found the service meaningful and joyful and please let us know how we might ever be of service.

Food Bank Report from the December 18th Distribution

More than 80 families received 2 bags of food and cookies, which were baked by Newmark school's students led by Ms. Suzanne. Thank you to all volunteers!

Soups for Salvation

We were able to make 170 meals last Monday, three different soups - Curry Butternut Squash, Spicy Cabbage, Bean and Turkey Noodle. I know I say this every month but they turned out really good. Thanks to everyone who was able to make it. We will be able to share the soups with a lot of people over the holidays. Our next cooking date will be *January 9th* at 7 pm. Please save the date. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Joe

Calendar

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|------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sunday, Dec. 18 | 6:00 p.m. | Christmas Movie Night |
| Monday, Dec. 19 | 4:15 p.m. | Kingdom Kids (2nd through 5th grade) |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Christmas Pageant Rehearsal |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Pageant Music practice/Ignite Grow |
| Sunday, Dec. 25 | 10:30 a.m. | Christmas Worship Service |
| Sunday, Jan. 1 | 10:30 a.m. | Sunday Worship Service |

Worship on December 24th



"Will this Christmas Be Different?"

Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Pageant
with praise band and carols and...

8:30 p.m. Candle-Light Communion
with string quartet on carols
and special music

Rev. Dr. Ken and Elder Linda Macari
will be leading services.

 Fanwood Presbyterian Church
ReGeneration
Worship, Friendships & Missions in God's Love

Recent Prayer Requests:

Sister Cynthia, Denis Kelly, Swindlehurst family, Cena Pollitt, Betty Sharrett, Cathy Clark, Betty Gustafson, Florida and Puerto Rico hurricane victims, the Kelton and Cantalupo families on the loss of Marissa, the Krey family, Aiden Ramirez, Bassman Family, Gustafson Family, Mike and Patti Camfield, Joe Turso, Rosanne Lindemann, Carol Thomson's brother-in-law and son-in-law, William Murphy (Linda's uncle), Darcie Lubalin's mother, Rich Ledesma family, Nancy Feinberg and family, Jim Tway, Ginny Kraus, Liz Henderson, Eyad and Kristina Khalifeh, Dot Davis, Harpers, Rev. Ken Hudson, Bowers family, the people of Ukraine.

If there are matters of concern or thanksgiving you would like included in our prayers or if you would like a name removed from the list, [lease fill out one of the prayer cards that can be found in the front pocket of our new friendship pad folders and put them into the offering or contact Hailey at fanwoodpress@gmail.com.

Church Staff:

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Jason Rivera, Interim a.v. director, singer and guitarist -
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**FPC YOUTH
PRESENTS**
ALL AGES
**CHRISTMAS MOVIE
NIGHT**

Sunday Dec. 18th in the dining room
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**POPCORN - HOT CHOCOLATE
BINGO - PRIZES - AND MORE!**

Get Christmas movie ready with your favorite
pajamas and Christmas jumpers! Get yourself cosy
by bringing your own blankets and pillows!
Vote for your favorite Christmas film on the night!

Will we be watching:
The Grinch or Elf!

You decide!

RSVP to Lauren by December 16th at
lcomerfordfpcyouth@gmail.com