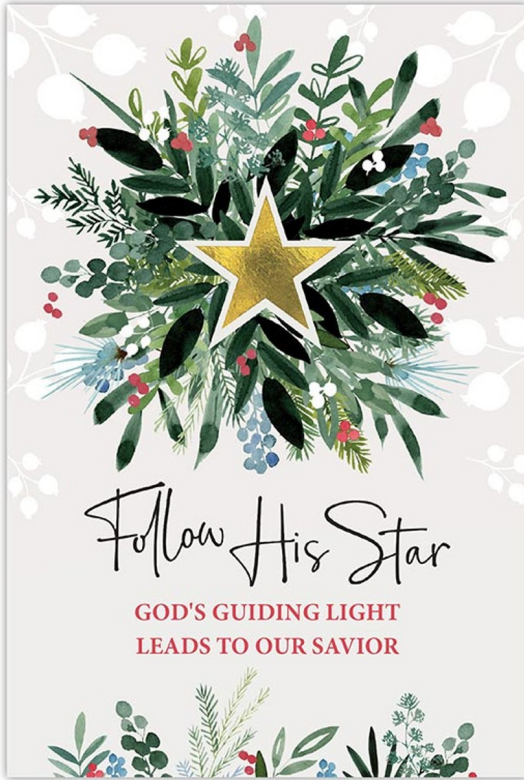


*FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*



1st Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 3, 2023
10:00 A.M.

119 WEST COMMERCE STREET
BRIDGETON, NJ 08302
PHONE (856)455-0809 WWW.FPCBRIDGETON.ORG

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

David Cherwien

WELCOME

Liturgist

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

We are waiting for the dawn of God’s incarnation.

Restore us, O God. Let us see your face.

We are like clay awaiting the potter.

Restore us, O God. Let us see your face.

Teach us to keep alert as we wait.

Restore us, O God. Let us see your face.

Sustain us this day as we worship you.

Amen. Let us worship God!

***HYMN #2** “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Norlita Kaul

Together let us confess our sin and lament the ways in which we have been separated from God, praying:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Norlita Kaul

Merciful God, as we watch and wait for signs of your expansive love,

forgive our narrow thinking.

As we repent in the wilderness with John,

we confess that we often lack the imagination to testify to the coming light.

As we visit the home of Elizabeth,

we lament our loss of wonder and our failure to recognize miracles among us.

Even as we hear the witness of the angels and the shepherds, **we confess that we do not make haste to go and**

see the Christ. Forgive our apathy and small-mindedness. When the wait is over and all is finished, open our minds to recognize the strength and wisdom of Christ, God with us. Amen. (*Silent Reflection*)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Norlita Kaul

The invitation to follow Christ is filled with hope, peace, joy, and love. There is hope: **a new journey with Christ brings transformation.** There is peace: **in Christ, the old has passed away and the new can now emerge.** There is joy: **nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ.** There is love: **God so loved the world that God became human in Jesus, our savior.** Now is the time to respond to God's love and accept the invitation to follow this Christ. Be filled with hope, peace, joy, and love! **In Christ there is strength and wisdom, expansive love and everlasting grace. We are forgiven and transformed to go and proclaim the wonder of the one who is coming.**

***GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO.....**

THE ADVENT WREATH - ADVENT 1 ISAIAH 2:1-5

PRAYER : Holy God, heaven and earth.....

.....In whose powerful, glorious name we pray.

Come, let us follow the star's light, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

HYMN "O Come O Come Emmanuel" (vs.1)

Booklet

A TIME TO BE YOUNG

ANTHEM Advent Carol

C. McClure/A.V. Fedak

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (HYMN)

"While We are Waiting, Come" (vs.1)

Booklet

O.T. READING

Liturgist

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

² as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³ **When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.**

⁴ 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.

⁵ You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

**But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.**

⁶ **We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.**

**We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.**

⁷ There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸ **Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.**

⁹ **Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.**

GOSPEL READING

Mark 13:24-37

Rev. Norlita Kaul

SERMON

“Stay Tuned”

Rev. Norlita Kaul

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN**

“Soon and Very Soon”

Booklet

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Von Himmel hoch (from Heaven above)”

Johann Pachelbel

***Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise,

.....Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the Highest. Blessed is he, who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy O God of majesty, blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord.

.....Let us pray now with confidence as children of God the prayer Jesus taught his disciples to pray saying:

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.

SHARING THE MEAL

(Please **hold the bread** until everyone has been served; Rev. Norlita will lead us in partaking, everyone together. Please follow **the same process with the cup**)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Gracious Father, giver of all good things: For our home on earth and for your unfailing mercy,

we give you thanks.

Christ, our Redeemer: For your sacrifice on the cross and rising from death that we might live,

we give you thanks and praise.

Holy Spirit, giver of life: For your abiding presence in our lives and for comforting and guiding us,

we give you thanks, praise, and glory.

O triune God: To you be glory and praise now and forever

***HYMN # 59**

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” (Vs. 1,2,3,6)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune on “Wachet Auf”

Martha Sobaje

Serving Today

LITURGIST- Curtis H.

USHERS-Team 1-

Curtis H., Debbie H. & Frank P.

COUNTERS-Team 1-

Debbie F. & Sherry M.

FLOWERS- Curtis & Debbie H.

In Memory of Debbie's mom, Nancy K.
(90th Birthday in Heaven)

ADVENT WREATH LITURGIST-

The Husted Family

Rev. Norlita Kaul, Pastor

EMAIL: BridgetonFPCPastor@GMAIL.COM

CELL # (248) 342-6190

Gae Finch, Organist and Choir Director

Christie Sever, Administrative Assistant

EMAIL: firstpresbridgeton@gmail.com

John Ambrose, Clerk to Session

Bob Woodruff, Treasurer

