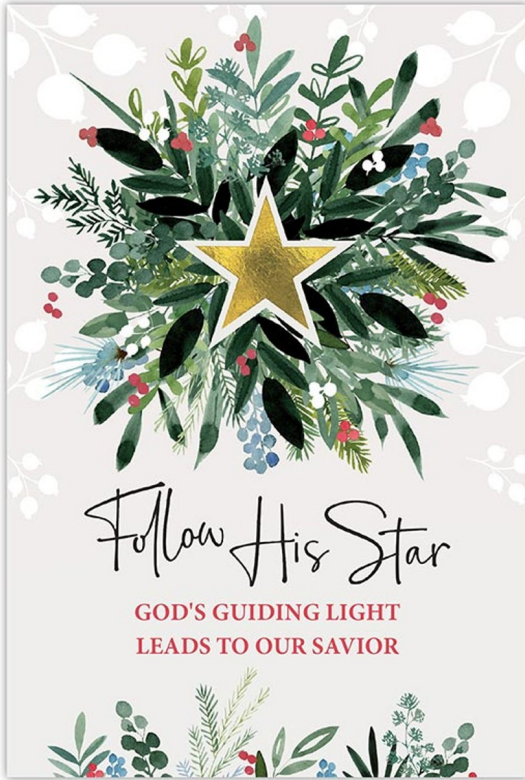


*FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*



4th Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 24, 2023
10:00 A.M.

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” David Cherwien

WELCOME Liturgist

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP Liturgist

Forever is a very long time.

We will sing of God’s steadfast love forever.

Forever is a very long time.

God’s faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Forever is a very long time.

We will trust God forever.

Let us worship God!

***HYMN** #16 “The Angel Gabriel”

CALL TO CONFESSION Rev. Norlita

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Norlita

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.

Hear this good news:

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.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Norlita

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!

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

THE ADVENT WREATH - ADVENT IV ISAIAH 7:10-16

PRAYER : God of generations, your promises come to birth..... In the holy name of Jesus, our savior.

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

HYMN "O Come O Come Emmanuel" (vs.1-4) **Booklet**

A TIME TO BE YOUNG

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (HYMN)

"While We are Waiting, Come"

Booklet

O.T. READING

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Liturgist

GOSPEL READING

Rev. Norlita

Luke 1:26-38

SERMON “Building Houses, Being God Bearers”

Rev. Norlita

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN** #49 “Once In Royal David’s City”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Liturgist

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

DEDICATION OF PARAMENTS, COMMUNION TABLE, COMMUNION SET, AND SOUND SYSTEM

We gather in prayer to dedicate our new church paraments, Communion Table, Communion set, and Sound System to the glory of God. Gracious God, we know that you delight in hearing the prayers and praise of your people.

Thank you, Lord, for making us your own, for the blessing of worship, for the comfort and beauty of this sanctuary, and for the praise and joy you prompt in our hearts.

Thank you for the many gifts which help to proclaim your

gospel: for language and poetry, for music, for art, architecture, and technology which focus our minds and our hearts on your marvelous grace.

Bless us whenever we gather in your name and move us to use these gifts to praise you.

You have given your church artisans, artists, and technological minds who create fine and beautiful works which inspire our worship and glorify your name. For all who use their gifts to your glory:

We thank you, O Lord.

For those who use their time and talent to prepare for our worship: for those who lead worship, preach the gospel, for singers, musicians, and technology crew, for those who prepare your house each week, for talent with flowers and with all the arts.

We thank you, O Lord.

Lord, you blessed those who designed, stitched and assembled these paraments. You blessed the hands that made our Communion table and Communion vessels. You gave them talents which they share so generously; you blessed them with the spirit of unity of purpose and joy in service.

We thank you, O Lord.

You gave us the beauty of liturgy in worship. As you walk with us on our pilgrimage through the Christian year, guide us with the changing colors of the paraments. May all who gaze upon our paraments, Communion table,

*HYMN # 40 "Joy to the World"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

"May the Lord watch over between me and thee, while absent, one from the other." (*Mizpah Benediction*)

POSTLUDE "O Come, All Ye Faithful" arr. Fred Bock
Rev. Norlita - organ
Gae F. - piano



Serving Today

LITURGIST- Curtis H.

USHERS-Team 4

Bruce H., Howard T., Bill F.

COUNTERS-Team 4

Marie D., Joyce I.

FLOWERS

Rev. Norlita

FELLOWSHIP

John & Linda A.

ADVENT LITURGIST-

Kyle S., Nicholas C. & Hunter C.



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

