

# First Presbyterian Church

New Haven, Connecticut

## 3rd Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017

10:45 a.m.

Prelude *Fugues on the Magnificat* Pachelbel

Introit *Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree* Poston

Call to Worship/ Candle Lighting The McCloskey Family

We are those who are making a journey.

**We travel through life, accompanied by faith, in search of the living God.**

In this season of Advent, we are journeying to a humble stable in long-ago Bethlehem.

**And so we light these candles, as we have lit before, as steps on the journey, as acts of hope and peace. And, we light a third – allowing for the love of God to illuminate our path.**

As we take gather together in this place,

**Let us worship God, our companion on the journey.**

\*Hymn 105 *People, Look East* BESÇON

Call to Reconciliation

Silence is kept.

Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, we open our hearts to you this day, and offer the truth of our lives:**

**The fear that stifles us,**

**The prejudice that blinds us,**

**The ignorance that hobbles us,**

**The doubt that plagues us.**

**Help us, we pray, that we will**

**Find courage in unlikely place,  
See the world with new and gracious eyes,  
Move to those places where love is needed,  
Have faith that you are with us.  
This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the Good News: we are forgiven! We are set free to go out into the world and be the loving, gracious, hopeful people of God!

**Alleluia! Amen.**

\*Song of Praise *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL

**O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

\*The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

(Before sitting, please greet those around you with words of Christ's peace.)

Words of Welcome

Please sign the black friendship pad and pass to others in your pew.

Children will remain in worship this morning.

Response *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* REJOICE, REJOICE

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11 (pp. 691-692)

Hymn 355 *O Hear Our Cry, O Lord* Psalm 80  
(remain seated)

Second Lesson John 1: 6-8, 19-28 (pp. 91-92)

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

The Choir Carols and Choruses for Advent and Christmas

*Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates* (Psalm 24) Mathias  
*There Is No Rose, from Ceremony of Carols* Britten

*Tu scendi dalle stele* St. Alfonsus Maria de Liguori  
*Torches* Joubert

*Up! Good Christen Folk and Listen* German Carol  
*Rejoice and Be Merry* English Carol

*He Sleeps* (Angela Daniels, solo) Garner  
*His Yoke Is Easy, from Messiah* Handel

Please refrain from applause and accept this as an act of Advent worship.

\*Hymn 106 *Prepare the Way, O Zion* BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

\*Affirmation of Faith from "A Brief Statement of Faith"

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation.**

**Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.**

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

The Offering  
Offertory *Pastorale* Zipoli

\*Doxology OLD HUNDREDTH

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

\* Prayer of Thanksgiving

**God of Love, everything we have comes from you. You fill us with good things. Our hearts and loves overflow with your abundant love. Use these gifts that you have given us to love our neighbors as you love us. Amen.**

The 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

*See Amid the Winter's Snow*

HUMILITY

**See amid the winter's snow, Born for us on earth below,  
See the tender Lamb appears, Promised from eternal years.  
Hail that ever blessed morn, Hail redemption's happy dawn,  
Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

**Lo, within a manger lies, He who built the starry skies,  
He who throned in height sublime, Sits amid the cherubim.  
Hail that ever blessed morn, Hail redemption's happy dawn,  
Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

**Say, ye holy shepherds, say, What your joyful news today?  
Wherefore have ye left your sheep, On the lonely mountain steep?  
Hail that ever blessed morn, Hail redemption's happy dawn,  
Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

**Teach, O teach us, holy Child, By thy face so meek and mild,  
Teach us to resemble thee, In thy sweet humility.  
Hail that ever blessed morn, Hail redemption's happy dawn,  
Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

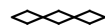
\*Benediction

Postlude

*Offertorium*

Zipoli

\*Those who prefer to do so may remain seated.



**Welcome to the First Presbyterian Church of New Haven.** We are glad you are here. We seek to be a warm and welcoming community of Christian people. If you are new to this congregation, please introduce yourself to others sitting around you, and to the pastor, so that we may welcome you personally. During the Words of Welcome, add your name to the Friendship Pad. Please plan to stay for the Friendship Hour following the service.

**Participating in worship leadership this morning are:**

Liturgist: Charles McEnally

Ushers: George and Nancy Rupp

**Thanks to all the members of our choir for the music in our service this morning.**

Sopranos: Lucy Ambach, Becky Cline, Angela Daniels, Masumi Gonda, Mattie Hatcher Long, Beth Aura Miller, Fiona Scott Morton, Mary Porterfield, Nancy Woodington; Altos: Alisa Dunovant, Lucy Fales Evans, Linda McCreless, Bonnie Sherman, Martha Smith, Deborah Tenney, Nancy Walker; Tenors: Steve Latham, Tim McCloskey, John Meeske, Bruce Peabody, Arthur Shippee; Basses: Ken Balakrishnan, Scott Funston, Michael McBride, John Purvis, Eugene Smith, Michael Tenney.

**Nursery care is provided** each morning in the Owens Community Building nursery. Infants and children are also welcome in the service and encouraged to participate fully in worship. A rocking chair is available nearby in the Copeland Room, and bulletins for ages 3-6 and 7-12 are found at the entrance.

**The Reverend J.C. Cadwallader** may be reached at her email: [PastorJC@fpcnh.org](mailto:PastorJC@fpcnh.org) or the church phone (203) 562-5664. Mondays are her day off.

**This Advent Sunday and next**, the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be offered during a brief service following the postlude. The Reverend Diane Goudreau will lead the service today. All are welcome.

**All are welcome to our Christmas Dinner** following worship today. Join friends around tables in the Miller Gathering Hall for this festive meal.

**Let's watch Disney Pixar's *Inside Out!***--Today after the Christmas Potluck; children, youth, and adults of all ages are welcome to attend and encouraged to see the film sometime before our joy-themed Advent service on December 17th (hint-hint). See Kimberley Fais for more details.

**Giving Tree:** The Mission Committee has set up a Giving Tree in the Miller Hall to give FPCNH folks a chance to give very special gifts this season to three groups of people in our community:

- 1) On its branches will be 20 tags with the names of 10 children who are students at New Haven's King-Robinson Interdistrict Magnet School and have been identified by school administrators as coming from needy families. Gift requests will be on the tags. If you would like to provide one of these gifts, please write your name on both halves of the tag and take your piece home, leaving the other half on the tree so we can keep track of everything. Bring back the gift (unwrapped) by Sunday the 17th of December with the tag attached to it.
- 2) Similarly, there will be tags on the tree for our friends from the Emerge tutoring program, with gift ideas for them also written on the tags. We'll use the same procedure for the Emerge gifts.
- 3) As a third option, you can join our church's efforts with other local faith groups supporting immigrants seeking sanctuary. There are tags to purchase either \$25 or \$50 Visa Gift cards for food to be given to either the First and Summerfield Church in New Haven or the Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden, who are currently sheltering immigrants. Delivery instructions will also be provided on the tags.

**Session & Nominating Committee:** Are you or someone you know sensing a call to get more involved with the First Presbyterian Church community? If so, now's a great time to explore that call with the Nominating Committee! The Nominating Committee is now receiving names of those interested in and called to serve in the role of Ruling Elder (class of 2020) or on the 2018 Nominating Committee. To submit a name, please email Jane Hindenlang by Dec 12.

**Next Sunday, December 17th:** The children and youth will proclaim the scriptures and lead the congregation in worship next Sunday.

**Abraham's Tent is coming!** Our church will be hosting 12 men from Columbus House starting Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> (Martin Luther King Jr. observance day) until Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Sign-up sheets are posted on the white boards in the Miller Gathering Hall starting today. We seek people to host, provide dinner, stay overnight and/or greet the men. Your participation is encouraged and greatly appreciated! Any questions, please contact Brian Gray at [brian\\_gry@yahoo.com](mailto:brian_gry@yahoo.com).

### Notes on this Morning's Music:

William Mathias (1934-1992) was a prolific Welsh composer who contributed enormously to the repertoire of British sacred music. Perhaps his most famous sacred choral piece is "Let the People Praise Thee, O God," which was written for the royal wedding of Prince Charles and Diana in 1981. "Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates" is his snappy contemporary setting of the initial verses of Psalm 24.

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976) composed *A Ceremony of Carols* at sea in 1942, on his way from the United States back to his native England. The work consists of eleven movements, and was written originally for a three-part treble chorus and harp. The version heard today is Britten's own arrangement for four-voice mixed choir, with the harp part transcribed for piano. "There Is No Rose" is the third movement of the eleven. The text is that of an English carol from the first half of the fifteenth century: "There is no rose of such vertu as is the rose that bare Jesu, *Alleluia*/For in this rose containèd was heaven and earth in little space, *Res miranda* [marvelous thing]/By that rose we may well see, there be one God in persons three, *pares forma* [of equal form]/The aungels sungen the shepherds to, *Gloria in excelsis Deo, gaudeamus* [we rejoice]/Leave we all this worldly mirth, and follow we this joyful birth, *transeamus* [let us go (from earthly to heavenly things)].

The tune of the popular Italian carol "Tu scende dalle stele" is attributed to St. Alfonso Maria di Liguori (1696-1787), the founder of a Catholic congregation in Naples--although it is thought that he simply transcribed a carol sung by shepherds in the mountains around the city. The text used now is from much later, and was composed by Pope Pius IX (1846-1878). Its opening lines are "You descend from the stars, O King of Heaven/and come in a cave, with cold and chill/O my divine Child, I see you here shivering . . ."

Of the three carols "Torches," "Up! Good Christen Folk and Listen," and "Rejoice and Be Merry," the first is a jovial contemporary tune of the British composer John Joubert; the second is a German carol from *Piae cantiones* (1582); and the third is a traditional English carol.

"He Sleeps," from the *African American Church Music Series* of GIA Publications, a Catholic publisher, is a lovely Christmas anthem for soprano solo and mixed choir. The composer is New Haven's own Charles Garner, Professor Emeritus of Music at Southern Connecticut State University, and longtime director of the music program there. The Charles Garner Recital Hall at SCSU was named in his honor.

"His Yoke Is Easy" is the final chorus of the Christmas portion of Handel's *Messiah*. The text is from Matthew 11:30.

**Christmas Eve Services:** Welcome the Christ Child into your hearts and into your lives. This year December 24th falls on a Sunday, so morning worship will be held in addition to the two evening services.

**Sunday Morning Worship Service – 10:45 a.m.** A simple, more meditative Sunday morning worship service.

**Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols – 7:30 p.m.** We will sing Christmas carols and hear again the words of the prophets and Gospel writers tell the wondrous story of Christ's birth. Childcare will be provided beginning at 7 p.m. A time of friendship and refreshments shared will follow the service in the Owens Community Building.

**Communion Service – 11:00 p.m.** This service of Lessons and Carols will also include the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

**Stewardship Campaign:** We are winding down this year's Stewardship Campaign, thank-you to all who have already returned your stewardship pledge card. If you've not had a chance to pledge yet, you can drop it in this morning's offering plate (pledge cards are available on the Friendship Table), mail it to the church this week or email a note *in confidence* to: [firstpreschurchstewardship@gmail.com](mailto:firstpreschurchstewardship@gmail.com). Your prompt response enables Session's responsible preparation this month of a budget to accomplish our bold hopes and dreams to serve God in our lives, church and community.

**Adult Sunday School in December:** During the 9:30 am next Sunday, we will share our Advent reflections and insights, learned from our daily devotional *Preparing for Christmas* by Richard Rohr. Come learn with us!

**Sewing Supplies needed by Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS):** The women's refugee sewing group is an important program for IRIS because it gives women with very little education a motive to be with others for a social time that comes with some assimilation. The sewing group is looking for donations of thread, material and scissors. Also needed are jewelry making supplies such as beads, tools and findings. If you have any of these items at home that you would like to donate, please place them in the labeled box in the Copeland Room.

**Sunday school for children and youth** includes Bible Stories class and Prayer & Preaching class. We're on a hiatus now, and we're using our usual Sunday school timeslot to prepare to lead our annual Children's Advent Service from start to finish on December 17th! Block 2 of our classes will resume in January.

**In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. (Philippians 4:6)**

When you pray, offer prayers for ...

Our country and its leaders.

Church members and friends who seek God's healing grace, including Ken Haynam, at Benchmark Senior Living in Hamden.

For Jeff Miller, brother of David, who is recovering from surgery.

Prayers for those who suffer from gun violence.

Prayers for those who do not have enough to eat.

Prayers for peace.

Prayers of thanksgiving for Andrew McCloskey's return home from serving with the Peace Corps in Mozambique.

James Smit and Patrick Copeland, who are serving in the armed forces.

Those who are unable to worship with us on a regular basis.

Prayers for other people and situations in need of our supplications.

### This Week

|                        |            |                            |
|------------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| Sunday, December 10    | 9:30 a.m.  | Sunday School for all ages |
|                        | 10:45 a.m. | Worship                    |
|                        | 12:00 p.m. | Christmas Dinner Potluck   |
|                        | 1:00 p.m.  | <i>Inside Out</i> movie    |
|                        | 1:00 p.m.  | Mission Committee          |
| Wednesday, December 13 | 9:00 a.m.  | PSNE Committee Meeting     |
| Saturday, December 16  | 9:30 a.m.  | Women's AA                 |
| Sunday, December 17    | 9:30 a.m.  | Sunday School for all ages |
|                        | 10:45 a.m. | Worship                    |
|                        | 12:00 p.m. | Friendship Hour            |

|               |                                   |                                   |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Class of 2017 | Lynn Autry<br>Jane Hindenlang     | Candice Gray<br>Bruce Peabody     |
| Class of 2018 | Gary Cline<br>Phillip Phiri       | John Dinkler<br>Robert Williams   |
| Class of 2019 | Lucy Ambach<br>Fiona Scott Morton | Rona Johnston<br>Mary Porterfield |
| Clerk         | Tim McCloskey                     |                                   |
| Treasurer     | Mike Spicer                       |                                   |

First Presbyterian Church of New Haven is a More Light Congregation and part of Presbyterian Promise. Both organizations are dedicated to the full inclusion of lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual and questioning individuals.

### **The Staff of First Presbyterian Church**

|                        |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Pastor:                | The Reverend J. C. Cadwallader |
| Music Director:        | Patrick McCreless              |
| Church Administrator:  | Martha Smith                   |
| Christian Educator:    | Kimberley Fais                 |
| Nursery Care Provider: | Emily Landino                  |

**The church office welcomes your announcements** and prayer requests for the bulletin. Please send the copy to [firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com) by Wednesday before noon to be included in the Sunday Bulletin.

**Please remember that parking is available** at the Hooker School on Sunday mornings when lawn or street parking is unavailable.

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