

*The Assurance of Pardon

(from *Psalm 126*)

In Jesus Christ, the Lord has done great things for us!
Even if we have gone out in tears,
God brings us home shouting for joy. Believe the Good News in Christ.
Thanks be to God: we are forgiven! Amen.

The Gloria Patri (spoken)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: World without end. Amen.

*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**

(Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ. For those worshiping at home, please share Christ's peace with someone outside Your home this week.)

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Lesson: *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*

The Anthem

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Howard Helvey, arr.

Chris Fisher, soprano; Mary Ann Casey, alto, Roy Jarnecke, tenor; Larry Casey, bass

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.

Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.
Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near
Calling us to new repentance since the kingdom now is here.

Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him and the hills bow down to greet Him.
Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token that the word is never broken.

The Psalter Lesson: *Luke 1:46b-55*

The Epistle Lesson: *I Thessalonians 5:16-24*

The Gospel Lesson: *John 1:6-8, 19-28*

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

The Sermon

On The Way
Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD. . .

The Prayers of the People

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.

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE IN GOD'S NAME. . .

The Hymn 852

When the Lord Redeems the Very Least
When the Lord redeems the very least, we will rejoice.
When the hungry gather for the feast, we will rejoice.
REFRAIN: We will rejoice with gladness. We will rejoice.
All our days we'll sing to God in Praise. We will rejoice.
When the Lord revives the world from death, we will rejoice.
When the word of God fills every breath,
we will rejoice. REFRAIN
When the Lord returns in victory, we will rejoice.
When we live in glorious liberty, we will rejoice. REFRAIN

The Charge & Benediction

Rejoice always and pray without ceasing. Give thanks to God, whatever your circumstances.

God has done great things for us.

We rejoice that we are part of God's family.

Listen for the word of the prophets. Be open to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit

The Spirit of God has come to us.

We have a mission to accomplish for God.

God is faithful and will stand by you. You are valued in God's covenant community.

We are blessed with joy as we go out to serve.

We are thankful for the Good News we carry. Amen.

Postlude

Cling Wide the Door

arr. Henry Balcombe



Kindly remain seated during the Postlude.
You will be dismissed by our Safety Ushers from the back to the front of the Sanctuary.
We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.



The flowers today are given by Carole Green to the glory of God and in memory of G. Graham Green III, loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather. *"Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure... You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure."*

Announcements for December 9-16

God's Gifts: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love

Finding hope—even in the midst of bleak and trying times—is one of the great challenges for us as people of faith. In a year when we have collectively lost so much, it is easy to feel trapped in cynical cycles of disillusionment and despair, and that is a natural and real response that we shouldn't reject in a Pollyannaish way. However, this season of Advent is an invitation to ignite God's gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love within our hearts and spirits—to open ourselves up to the God who will give to us a new heart and a new spirit, removing our hearts of stone and giving us hearts of flesh. God's promises to us are unchanged, and this season calls us to trust in them once more.

May God, who is loving and compassionate, continue to work in us as we wait for whatever is to come.

Blessings,
Brittany



Reserve Your Seat for Sunday Worship by FRIDAY NOON

If you would like to participate in Worship in the Sanctuary this Sunday, please make a reservation by calling the church office, 540-373-7057, Monday - Friday between 9:00 a.m. and Noon.

You may also make your reservation online by using ACSReservations by clicking on this link: https://secure.accessacs.com/access/login_guest.aspx?sn=90894. This is a new system so don't hesitate to call the church office if you have questions.

Plans for **worship on Christmas Eve** are still tentative. We are carefully watching local health advisories and restrictions on gatherings as circumstances change. -- Watch your email for updates!

Church Family News:

Capsule of Concern: Doris Glidden, Doris Gulatsi, Karla Lewis, Elliott McGhee, Billie Plank, Larry Repanshek, Pam Werner, Lindsey Williams

Lectionary Readings for Sunday, December 20:

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55
or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 ;
Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

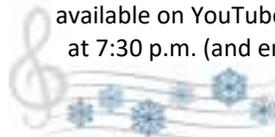
Birthdays this week December 13-20

14. Tristin Fidler, Susie Gillespie, JoAnn Robinson
16. Chrissy Conway, Carol Johnson, Cayden Jones
17. Gray Dameron, Mitchell Spinnanger, Isabel Steven
18. Sherman Brown, Jan Putnam, Mike Sidebotham
19. Carol Jackson, Schuyler Sweet
20. Jason Hole, Amanda Wimberly

Weekly Meetings & Activities

- Wed. (12/9) — Meditation Group, 5:30pm (Zoom)
Contact Marsha Lockett (lockett@juno.com).
- Thurs. (12/10) — Women's Bible Study, 9:30am (Zoom)
Contact Marsha Lockett (lockett@juno.com).
- Handbells, 6pm (Sanct. Balcony)
NO Adult Choir
- Sun. (12/13) — Worship, 9am (Sanctuary & Youtube)
Deacons, 12:15pm (Zoom)
Adult Church School Classes—Schedule on page 2
Sacred Dance, 3:30pm (Undercroft)
Middle School Fellowship, 5pm (Zoom)
High School Fellowship, 5:pm (In-person)
Session, 7pm (Zoom)
- Mon. (12/14) — Mission Committee, 7pm (Zoom)
- Tues. (12/15) — Men's Breakfast Group, 7:30am (FH & Zoom)
Contact John Howe (jhowe1969@cox.net).
- Wed. (12/16) — Meditation Group, 5:30pm (Zoom)

A pre-recorded **Christmas Vespers Service** will be available on YouTube on Sunday, December 20, at 7:30 p.m. (and enjoyed anytime after).



Service and Mission

Belling ringing for the Salvation Army at Walmart in Central Park. We have 3 slots open for Saturday, December 12, 1 from 5-6 pm and 2 from 6-7 pm. To sign up, follow the link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0444ada622a4ff2-salvation>.

Share a Meal With Your Neighbors--Part 2!

Thank you to all who volunteered to make dinners and donate cookies for the **December 19th Community Meal Delivery**. No more meals are needed. If you would like to make cookies for the meal, contact Karen Johnson, 540-371-2719, 540-621-5685, (ksjohnson422@msn.com).

Micah Lunch

Our church is responsible for 100 lunches for Micah to be delivered the 4th week of each month. Volunteers are needed to pick up supplies, and groups of 2-4 people are needed each month to assemble sandwiches. To volunteer, contact Sue Williams at 540-850-9133 (willow69@hughes.net).

Refugee Feeding Ministry

As a part of our monthly Flash Food Drive, we will be preparing boxes with non-perishable food items and Christmas goodies for families that have been identified through the Fredericksburg School System as particularly in need of help. Ways to help:

Prepare a food box for a family. You may decorate the box and, if you'd like, include a Christmas greeting. Drop off your box in the Education Building lobby **no later than 12:00 noon on Tuesday December 14.**

Make a financial gift. Make checks out to The Presbyterian Church with "Refugee Feeding Program" on the memo line.

Serve as a volunteer for the Refugee Feeding Ministry. Contact Andrea Ilardia: (540) 395-9768.

Recommended Non-perishable items): *Pasta, *Tomato sauce, *Rice, *Sugar, *Oil, *Flour, *Canned Fruits and Vegetables, *Cereal, *Beans, *Tea/Coffee, *Soups, *Peanut Butter, *Jelly/Fruit Preserves, *Instant Potatoes

Christmas goodie suggestions: *Christmas Cookies, *Candy Canes or other candy, *Microwavable popcorn, *Cocoa mix, *Marshmallows, *Apples, *Oranges



Shopping at Amazon this holiday season? If you shop at AmazonSmile instead of the regular Amazon site and choose Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church as your charity of choice, a portion (0.5%) of eligible products you purchase will automatically go to our church. AmazonSmile is operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. To date, the AmazonSmile Foundation has contributed over \$200 million to charitable organizations.

To set up Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church as your charity of choice, **1)** log into Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com) using your Amazon ID and password. **2)** Below the search box, click the down arrow to the right of the Supporting box; **3)** in the box below the "Or pick your own charitable organization," line type "Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church;" **4)** click on the "Search" button. **5)** On the next screen, "Select" Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church.

Please note that this is not an endorsement of Amazon. This action recommendation only is for persons who already shop at Amazon. This program costs nothing and provides a way to help the church's finances. Session thanks you for your consideration and support.

Adult Ministry and Education (Youth participation is welcomed and encouraged)

Faith and Movie Class ~ Sunday – 10:30 a.m. Coordinators: Eric and Kathy Rocholl; Marty and Vicky Wilder

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86844083632?pwd=YIZIMjVJT1hnSWg5SWHIZeDZ2a0lhUT09>

Holy Disunity: How What Separates Us Can Save Us ~ Sunday – 12:00 p.m. Coordinators: Jim and Patty Toler

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83350523383?pwd=bmdyTTFKZkgyNTh4Z1JzWXR2bm95dz09>

This Sunday, Layton Williams, author of *Holy Disunity* will be joining the class at 12:00 p.m. All are welcome to join us this Sunday, regardless of whether or not you have been able to attend previous classes.

Parables and Peanuts ~ Sunday – 4:00 p.m. Coordinator: Bill Nix

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82114607291?pwd=dkZEU2R6eVYrOUVUeHIWYVQ5WWUydz09>

Thank for your faithful support of our ongoing ministries.

Please send your checks to the church office or give online through our website www.fredericksburgpc.org.