

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

9:00 a.m.

**All who are able may stand.*

Bold type spoken by the congregation

Self-service assistive listening devices are located on top of the bookcase at the rear of the Sanctuary on the Princess Anne St. side.

GATHERING. . .



*Masks are to be worn throughout the service.
Please remain seated for the hymns.*



The Prelude *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night* arr. James Mansfield

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit *Creator of the Stars of Night*

The Call To Worship *Lighting of the Advent Candle, Hannah Fisher*

...As we light our first Advent candle,
we pray for holy hope of God.
Come now, O Child of Mary.
Come now, O Prince of Hope.

The Hymn 82 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

*Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

*Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.*

*The Prayer of Confession

Restore us, O God of hosts. Let Your face shine, that we may be saved. Save us, O Lord, from traps of our own creating: from fear that blocks the way of love, from worry that blocks the way of joy, from isolation that blocks the way of relationship, from structural injustices that keep the world bound. In Your mercy hear our prayers ... (time for silent confession) ... Forgive us, O God of hosts, until the stars fall from heaven and we live as people transformed through Christ our Lord by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*The Assurance of Pardon

(1 Corinthians 1:4, 8, 9)

The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus, strengthens us to the end
so that we may be blameless when Christ comes again.

**Thanks be to God, Who is faithful and has called us
into the fellowship of the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord! Alleluia! Amen.**

*The Gloria (spoken)

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*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 worshipping 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 64:1-9*

The Epistle Lesson: *I Corinthians 1:3-9*

The Anthem

The Yearning

Craig Courtney/Susan Boersma

Patti Kerns, soprano; Mary Ann Casey, alto, Roy Jarnecke, tenor; Larry Casey, bass

There is a yearning in hearts weighed down by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow.

There is a yearning in hearts that in the darkness hide and in the shades of death abide, a yearning for tomorrow.

There is a yearning, a yearning for the promised One, the first-born of creation.

There is a yearning for the Lord who visited His own, and by His death for sin atoned, to bring to us salvation.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts the yearning. Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts the yearning.

There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those who wait the day of His appearing.

There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased and we shall see the One who placed within our hearts the yearning.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts the yearning. Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts the yearning.

The Gospel Lesson: *Mark 13:24-37*

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

The Communion Meditation

The Time Approaches

Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD. . .

*The Affirmation of Faith

(Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.18, 9.27)

God expressed love for all humankind through Israel, whom God chose to be a covenant people to serve him in love and faithfulness. When Israel was unfaithful, God disciplined the nation with judgment and maintained the covenant through prophets, priests, teachers, and true believers. These witnesses called all Israelites to a destiny in which they would serve God faithfully and become a light to the nations. The same witnesses proclaimed the coming of a new age, and a true servant of God in whom God's purpose would be realized.

The one sufficient revelation of God is Jesus Christ, the Word of God incarnate, to whom the Holy Spirit bears unique and authoritative witness through the Holy Scriptures, which are received and obeyed as the word of God written. Amen.

The Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

TO CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT. . .

The Presbyterian Church welcomes and invites everyone - children and adults - baptized in the name of Jesus Christ to come to The Table of the Lord and participate in The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

The Invitation

The Call To Prayer

God be with You. **And also with You.**

Let us open our hearts. **We open them to our God.**

Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God.

It is right to lift up thanks and praise.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

. . .eagerly awaiting our Savior to come again from heaven.

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 our God. Hosanna in the highest.

...in the great mystery of our faith:

Christ had died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

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.**

The Communion

The Prayer After Communion

God our hope, we give you thanks that You have given us this foretaste of the justice, righteousness, and peace of Your promised new creation. Strengthen us with this heavenly food as we seek to serve Your holy realm. Lead us to live in joyful expectation of the coming again in glory of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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

The Hymn 357

The Days Are Surely Coming

*The days are surely coming, says God to all the earth,
when you will see my promise: salvation come to birth.
My righteousness and justice will spread through-out the land
and you will be delivered by my almighty hand*

*The days are surely coming, says Christ, the promised one,
when you will read my warning in moon and stars and sun.
Though earth and heaven tremble, stand up and do not fear,
for I am your redeemer, and I am drawing near.*

*The days are surely coming when we will know at last
The fullness of God's presence, God's promise, come to pass
Then righteousness and justice will spread through-out the land
and we will be delivered by God's almighty hand.*

The Charge & Benediction

The Postlude

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

arr. Edward Broughton

● ● ●
*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.*
● ● ●

Announcements for November 29 - December 6

Christ is Coming!

Advent comes to us each year in the four Sundays before Christmas. Sometimes we feel more or less surprised by the calendar. But the promise of God coming to us is always more than we can bottle, box, wrap, or contain in our plans and designs.

Sunday, November 29 is the first Sunday of Advent and we will celebrate communion in worship. If you plan to join us online at 9:00 a.m., or watch the recording at any time, please set aside two things for each member of your household: -- A morsel of bread and a drink of your choosing are sufficient. Kindly place them in front of you as you prepare to worship, perhaps on a plate and/or in a special cup or glass.

During worship, at the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving you may wish to touch or hold the plate or glass as we consecrate the elements in prayer. You will be invited to share with us in the sanctuary after the Lord's Prayer as is our custom.

Please join us in worship Sunday, or soon!

Allen



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.

Church Family News:

Capsule of Concern: Doris Glidden, Doris Gulatsi, Karl Karch, Karla Lewis, Sharon Moser, Billie Plank, Larry Repanshek, Cindy Watson, Pam Werner

Heartfelt Christian love and sympathies are extended to the family and friends of Kay Lanceley, who died on November 20, 2020.

Thank you to my wonderful church family for the prayers, cards, calls and love during my cancer journey. I have finished Chemo and will be scheduled for surgery and possible radiation soon. Your prayers and kind words brought many tears. I am truly blessed and will count all of you as blessings this Thanksgiving.
Kaci LeFebre

Birthdays this week November 29 - December 6

- 29. Josh Hoover, John Parkinson,
Jim Van Hulzen, Alicia Veil
- 30. Bill Stewart
- 1. James Avery, Mary Ann Casey, Charlotte Horne
- 2. Linda Benn, Bill Nix, Elizabeth Smith
- 3. Bill Neely, Linda Spratt, Kathy Stephen
- 4. Heather Eland, Jon Fritz, Monica Fritz, Betty Hume,
Bev Newlin
- 6. Heather Carelock, Kaci LeFebre

Weekly Meetings & Activities

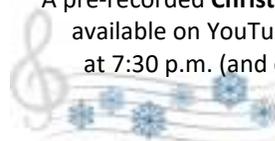
- Wed. (11/25) — Meditation Group, 5:30pm (Zoom)
Contact Marsha Luckett (luckett@juno.com).
- Thurs. (11/26) — Happy thanksgiving
Office Closed
- Fri. (11/27) — Office Closed
- Sun. (11/29) — Worship, 9am (Sanctuary & Youtube)
Adult Church School Classes—Schedule on page 2
Sacred Dance, 3:30pm (Undercroft)
- Tues. (12/1) — Men's Breakfast Group, 7:30am (FH & Zoom)
Contact John Howe (jhowe1969@cox.net).
- Wed. (12/2) — Meditation Group, 5:30pm (Zoom)

Lectionary Readings for Sunday, December 6:

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13;
I Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

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.

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

Share a Meal With Your Neighbors--Part 2!

Would you like to make 6 meals for the December 19 Community "Dinner?" You would prepare either a ham, meatloaf, chicken or turkey dinner plus sides of your choice and deliver the hot meals to the church parking lot at 4:15 p.m. on the 19th. Teams will deliver the meals to homeless Micah guests staying in local motels. Takeout boxes may be picked up beforehand in the Education Building Lobby or Karen Johnson will deliver them to you. Bakers are also needed to donate 6 baggies with 6 cookies in each bag. Contact Karen for more information and to sign up: 540-371-2719, 540-621-5685, (ksjohnson422@msn.com).

The Salvation Army is having a Collection Drive for items to be distributed during the holiday season for "Seniors in Need" and children. If you would like to participate, you may bring the following items to the Education Building Lobby.

For "Seniors in Need" -- Personal items (hand lotion, shampoo, shaving cream), paper products (paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, wipes), cleaning products (laundry detergent, dryer sheets, dish detergent,), and linens (bath towels, and dish towels, sheets).

For children (under 12) -- Art supplies (crayons, coloring pencils, coloring books), puzzles, hair accessories, purses, footballs, basketballs, legos, and coats.

If you have questions, contact Marsha Luckett, 372-2050. Items will be delivered to the Salvation Army on December 4.



Many, many thanks to all who donated, transported, and distributed the Thanksgiving boxes for families in need that were identified through the city schools. Together with our friends from Beth Shalom Temple and the Islamic Center of Fredericksburg, along with the support of LifePoint Church, we were able to provide Thanksgiving meals for 100 families!

Perhaps not over the river and through the woods, but closer to circumventing a closed bridge and negotiating traffic cones throughout town, the Community Dinner volunteers came together in the Church parking lot to provide HOT meals and gourmet pies to Micah guests staying at local hotels and those who have chosen not to be sheltered. Smiling eyes above masks met one another as trunks and tailgates popped open to yield the present day equivalent of loaves and fishes on the Saturday afternoon before Thanksgiving. Not Grubhub drivers, but closer to meal deal deliverers gathered the meals and pies for dispersal throughout the area, all done within the Covid guidelines.

Many THANKFUL and GRATEFULS to all who made meals and baked the pies which delighted our friends. AND a special acknowledgement to Karen Johnson who sent the emails, texts, made the phone calls and was the liaison with Micah to make this unique Community Dinner was another success in a continuum of successes. In a year as weird and as unusual as 2020, we take comfort in sharing *the tender mercies* and *loving kindnesses* we have all received.

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

Holy Disunity: How What Separates Us Can Save Us ~ Sunday – 10:30 a.m. Coordinators: Jim and Patty Toler

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83350523383?pwd=bmdyTTFkZkgyNTh4ZlJzWXR2bm95dz09>

Faith and Movie Class ~ Sunday – 12:00 p.m. Coordinators: Eric and Kathy Rocholl; Marty and Vicky Wilder

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86844083632?pwd=YlZlMjVJT1hnSWg5WHlZcDZ2a0lhUT09>

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

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

On December 13, Layton Williams, author of *Holy Disunity* will be joining the class at 12:00 p.m. Note: The Holy Disunity class is switching time with the Faith and Movie class on December 13, only.

Furthering the Conversation: Resources to Engage Issues of Race

For months, we have been sharing resources to encourage conversation and engage issues of race. As we approach the season of Advent and look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ, we will continue to engage in these conversations, exploring how we as a community of faith might better live out Christ's call for justice and peace. A good place to start is by taking the 21-Day Racial Justice Challenge. The challenge invites us to do something every day to raise awareness about the perniciousness of racism and encourage action in response to that awareness. Use the link below to read about how you can participate:

[Presbyterian Mission Agency Dismantling structural racism | Matthew 25 in the PC\(USA\): A bold vision and invitation | Presbyterian Mission Agency](#)