

OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Veni, Emmanuel
Creator of the Stars of Night*

Gerhard Krapf
Plainsong, 9th Century

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

 Chuck & Sue Fienning

One: Blessed be the God of Israel, who has come to set us free.
All around the world there are wars and rumors of wars.
Peace appears to be a distant dream.

All: Through the prophets of old, God promised peace.

One: Like the people of old, we too, long for peace, not only as
release from armed conflict, but as a way of living our lives
freed from fears and anxiety.

**All: Today, on this second Sunday of Advent, we light the
candle of PEACE.**

One: May we find God's peace in our hearts, and be bearers of
God's peace in our world.

**All: God of promise, God of hope, God of peace, into our
darkness come.**

* **HYMN** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL
*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel!*
*O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel!*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of grace, we have strayed from the ways of peace. We have
buried you so deeply in our hearts that the world cannot see you.
We have not followed Christ and have ignored your teachings. We
have constructed fences that divide and separate. We have
pushed people away and silenced the cries of those in need.
Forgive us. Free us from our sin and break down the walls
between us. Empower us to live lives modeled after the Prince of
Peace. We ask this in the name of Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.**

(Silent Reflection)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE COME, COME EMMANUEL
Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel. (Twice)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* **GLORIA PATRI** GLORIA
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

* **PASSING OF THE PEACE**
CHILDREN'S MOMENT Kelly Hickey

SCRIPTURE READINGS Isaiah 40:1-11
Mark 1:1-8

MEDITATION "Stories of Hope, Peace, and Joy" Cary Coker
Chuck Fienning
Kimberly Land

ANTHEM *Aria in E Flat* Wayne L. Wold
Lauren Decker, Violin Soloist

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

* **HYMN** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* HYFRYDOL
*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.*

* **BENEDICTION**
CLOSING VOLUNTARY John Ferguson
Savior of the Nations, Come

* **Please stand as you are able**

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'TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING

If you who would like to remember or honor a loved one, please consider making a \$10 donation that will be donated to the Fireside Fund to help those who have been affected by lost or reduced wages this year. There are many in our own community who are struggling to make ends meet. We will place an insert in our bulletin on December 20 with names of those honored and by whom. Please join us in spreading cheer to those in need this Christmas. Forms can be found in the Focus; all donations must be received in the Church office no later than Sunday, December 13. Please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church and note "Fireside Fund."

ANGELS FOR UNITED MINISTRIES

Angels are still available in the Fellowship Hall during church office hours. When choosing an angel, please remember to sign the sheets provided. **Wrapped gifts must be returned to the church no later than Wednesday, December 9.** Please be sure to tape the angel to the top of the gift. Gift cards should be enclosed in a sealed Christmas card envelope with the angel taped to the top of the envelope. Do NOT wrap gift cards as a present.



December 13, 10:30 a.m. – “JOY”

45th Annual Service of Lessons and Carols (online worship only)
The extraordinary story of the birth of Christ told through scripture and special music.

This Sunday is also Stewardship Sunday.

December 20, 10:30 am – “LOVE”

Children’s Nativity (online worship only)
A special service of the nativity brought to you from the many homes of our young families. Sit back and enjoy the show!

December 24, 5:00 pm – Christmas Eve

(online and outside in-person)

Bundle up and join us in the green space behind the church for a candlelit service celebrating the birth of Jesus.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Home: David R. Brown, Dave McInnis, Sr., Bill Scobee,
Max Goodson, Tiny Owens, Serena Davell (Marie Mills’ Sister),
Charles King (Greg King’s Father),
Ken Brown (Hope Alexander’s Father)

St. Jude: Elizabeth Williams

West Chester, NY: Rhodes Danner (Pam George’s Nephew)

Austin, TX: Robert Cain (George Cain’s Father)

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to Laura Brogdon on the death of her mother, Margarete Sholar Iseman, who died November 28.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



December 6, 2020