

The Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair

Sunday, December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

*If you are able, please stand.

10:00 a.m.

Please turn off cell phones.



First Sunday of Advent

WE GATHER AROUND GOD'S WORD

"I can't claim to know what gift the birth of the Christ Child will bring this year, only that whatever God delivers, it will be needed, and unexpected. Like the first time.

Thank God. Because I need this birth to be...something I could not imagine. I need to be shocked by the glory of God shining on my mud-caked soul, and I will search like hell for even the tiniest sign of it. The tiniest sign of God's glory will do for me this year."

Nadia Bolz-Weber - *Christmas This Year*

† † † † † † † †

Prelude

Anne Marie Juliano

Introit

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord
Jordan Green

Stephen Schwartz

***Call to Worship – Lighting the First Advent Candle**

One: Today we enter Advent, the time when we compare "what already is" to the "not yet" that God is still, even now, bringing to life.

All: In Advent, we face the moments where brokenness seems unfixable, where the shadows appear to have extinguished the light.

In Advent, we hope together; we wait together.

Restore us, O God in this holy season; let our eyes see your shining face, so that we may know you are with us.

When hope appears lost,

Restore us, O God.

When people are hurting,

Restore us, O God.

When nations are fighting and violence persists,

Restore us, O God.

When children are hungry,

Restore us, O God.

Restore us, God of Life. Bring us closer to hope, which lights the way to Bethlehem. As we light this first Advent Candle in this season of waiting, open us to signs of your restoring hope.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine.

[We light first Advent Candle.]

Prayer of Confession and Preparation for Worship

Pastor Greg Horn

our silent prayers of preparation and confession

Prayer Hymn 90 (seated) *Wait for the Lord*

Taizé

Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

***We Give God Glory** (#582)

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen. (sing 3 times)
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

Welcome & Life of the Church

(Please fill out the Friendship Pad completely and pass it along.)

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Time for Children

(All children are invited forward. Afterward, all children may attend Sunday School.)

Scripture Reading (p.902 of OT)

Jeremiah 33:10-16 (NRSV)

¹⁰Thus says the Lord: In this place of which you say, 'It is a waste without human beings or animals', in the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without inhabitants, human or animal, there shall once more be heard ¹¹the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voices of those who sing, as they bring thank-offerings to the house of the Lord: 'Give thanks to the Lord of hosts, for the Lord is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!' For I will restore the fortunes of the land as at first, says the Lord. ¹² Thus says the Lord of hosts: In this place that is waste, without human beings or animals, and in all its towns there shall again be pasture for shepherds resting their flocks. ¹³In the towns of the hill country, of the Shephelah, and of the Negeb, in the land of Benjamin, the places around Jerusalem, and in the towns of Judah, flocks shall again pass under the hands of the one who counts them, says the Lord.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Stuck in Pre-Christmas"

Pastor Greg Horn

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

We Worship With Our Offerings

Offertory Anthem

Jesus, Hope of the World

Deanna Light & Paul Tate

Sierra Joy

Chancel Choir

Jesus, hope of the world, Jesus light in our darkness, here we await you, O Master Divine.

Here we receive you in bread and in wine: Jesus, hope of the world.

Come to us, O Son of God! Come to us, O Son of Man! Shepherd your people in love!

Come to us, O promised King! Come, O Promised Peace! Come and be Lord of our hearts!

*We Give Praise to God (Hymn #606)

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Communion Hymn 347 (seated) *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Picardy

(verses 1 & 2)

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Consecration

One: The Lord be with you

All: **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!

We lift our hearts to God.

Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God!

It is right to give God our thanks and praise...

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.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

*Closing Hymn 88

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

(verses 1, 6, 7)

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

GO WITH GOD – TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

*The flowers decorating the chancel this morning
are given to the glory of God by Bonnie McKenna,
in celebration of her mom Mary Ann McKenna's birthday today.*

WELCOME and thank you for your part in this service of worship. If you are a visitor here at the Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair (PCUM), you are especially welcome. May you sense in this place the presence and the love of God in Christ. After worship, you are warmly invited for refreshments and conversation on the church's East Lawn (inside in Fellowship Hall if raining).

PLEASE ASK AN USHER for anything you might need, and please help fellow worshipers by exiting and entering the sanctuary at times other than during prayers or scripture readings.

CHILDCARE for toddlers and a nursery for younger children are always available during worship in the North Wing, located off Fellowship Hall (adjacent to sanctuary). Ask an usher for directions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES for all children preschool through 7th grade are located in the North Wing. Ask the ushers or Christian Education leaders for directions. If you are sending your kids to Sunday School for the first time, please step out briefly with your children as they are dismissed to fill out an emergency contact form before returning to the sanctuary.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU to the Dickson family for providing and decorating PCUM's Chrismon Tree and to the Peterson family for its setup. The 'Chrismon' is a Christian symbol representing Jesus, the One who comes to be Emmanuel, "God With Us." A Chrismon Tree is decorated with white lights and Chrismon ornaments made of gold sequins, beads, piping, or other gold-colored adornments. Chrismon ornaments are made in white and gold, with white representing the innocence and purity of Jesus, and gold representing the glory and majesty of God.

YOU ARE WELCOME AT THE LORD'S TABLE TODAY – In the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Lord's Supper is the sign and seal of God's grace in the body and blood of Jesus Christ. The Spirit draws us to the Lord's Table, trusting that God's love, rather than our effort or faith, brings us into Christ's Presence, nourishes us in hope, and sends us out to share in God's work in the world. All who come seeking reconciliation with God and neighbor are welcome. Because experiencing the mystery and love of Christ's real spiritual Presence in Communion is not something earned or accomplished, children who are being instructed in the significance of the Lord's Supper at their level of understanding are invited to take their place at the table to receive Communion.

SUPPORT THE DEACONS' MINISTRY THE 1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH! On the 1st Sunday of each month, the PCUM family uses the green envelopes in your pew rack to support the Deacons' ministries of compassion, care, and community-building. You can also give through Zelle (treasurer@pcum.org) on the PCUM website (www.pcum.org) or mail your check to the church. Please *always* indicate "Deacons Fund."



Thoughtful, Nourishing Worship † *Vibrant Ministry to Children & Youth*
Relationships † *Participation* † *Service to Others and to the World* † *Relevance and Authenticity*

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Pastor & Head of Staff:
The Rev. Gregory A. Horn
Director of Music Ministries:
Anne Marie Juliano
Director of Christian Education: Millie Tourtelot
Co-Youth Leader: Garrett Pahl
Children's Programs/Co-Youth Leader: Sierra Joy
Church Administrator: Denise Silecchia
Livestream Techs: Tres Williams, Jerome Nelson
Custodian: Jimmy Abad



PLEASE SUBMIT 2025 PLEDGE CARDS! – Last Sunday was “Gratitude-Pledge/Commitment Sunday 2025,” when members & friends offer their 2025 pledges in gratitude for God’s grace and love. PCUM’s stewardship theme, *The Ripple Effect of Gratitude: Inspiring Impact Through Our Giving*, invites members & friends to support this church’s many worthwhile ministries in the year ahead.

If you would like to pledge but haven’t submitted your 2025 Pledge Card, please pledge today or asap! Privacy envelopes and 2025 Pledge Cards are placed at the ends of your pew and on the table in the Narthex (entrance to the sanctuary). If you wish to pledge online, you may do so at www.pcum.org/give.

PCUM’S MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP meets Wednesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. All teens and tweens 6th–8th grade are invited to come out to have fun, share dinner, and meet old and new friends.

DEDICATE FLOWERS – You can honor/memorialize loved ones by dedicating flowers for any Sunday worship service(s) throughout the year. Dates remain open! The suggested donation for two bouquets is \$80. Sign up on the Flower Calendar in the Deacons’ Corner or online at www.pcum.org.

SERVE HUNGRY NEIGHBORS – Twice each month, you are invited to join fellow volunteers serving hungry neighbors. PCUM prepares and serves an evening meal in Montclair on the 4th Saturday and a lunch meal in Newark on the 3rd Saturday of each month. *Sign up at www.pcum.org/serve-others.*

MONTCLAIR MUSIC CLUB (MMC) will host a special holiday program tomorrow evening, December 2nd, 7:30 pm in the PCUM sanctuary. This outstanding program features favorite Rossini, Donizetti, Mozart and Puccini arias with soprano Elizabeth Barsalou and pianist Eric Olsen; Bach Cello Suite No. 6 with cellist Tamar Sagiv, as well as Tamar’s Improvisation on the Suite with pianist Dana David; and Chopin’s Sonata No. 3 with pianist Beatrice Long. Free and open to the public. Donations welcome. Reception to follow.



SIGN UP FOR PCUM’S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: *Calling all singers, actors, stars, angels, and friendly animals!* Toddlers, children and youth in the PCUM family are all invited to take part in the Annual Christmas Pageant. This special telling of the Christmas story in costume and song takes place at the 5:00 p.m. Family Service on Christmas Eve, December 24th. Rehearsals will take place Saturdays at 10am on December 7, 14, and 21.

If you would like your child to participate, please sign up by visiting www.pcum.org and clicking on the scrolling link on the homepage. For questions about the pageant, or if you would like to volunteer to help, please reach out to Sierra Joy (sierra@pcum.org) or Anne Marie Juliano (annemarie@pcum.org).

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PARTY - Saturday, Dec 14th, 11am - 1 pm! After the pageant rehearsal on December 14th, there will be a pizza lunch, holiday crafts and group games! You do not need to participate in the Pageant or Pageant rehearsal in order to attend! Please RSVP to Millie Tourtelot at millie@pcum.org.



COFFEE, COCOA & CAROLS after worship on Sunday, December 22nd in Fellowship Hall. It’s a brand new PCUM tradition this year! Gather in Fellowship Hall for some Christmas treats and a bit of caroling during Coffee Hour.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS – Remember a loved one this Christmas by dedicating a Poinsettia in their memory or honor. Forms are available in the Narthex. Please drop your form & check in the church office. The deadline for poinsettia dedications is Sunday, December 15th.

PCUM TO RECEIVE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING ON DECEMBER 22nd: For over 70 years, Presbyterians have supported the unmet needs of church workers and their families who have devoted their lives to ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Christmas Joy Offering that the PCUM family will take on Sunday, December 22nd supplements inadequate retirement income for clergy and church workers, funds long under-supported ethnic colleges and universities, and provides supplemental medical insurance for former ministers, missionaries, church workers, and their families. Please give generously.

Advent & Christmas @ PCUM

Sunday, December 8 @ 10:00 am
Advent Festival of Music & Readings

Saturday, December 14 @ 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Sunday School Christmas Party

Sunday, December 15 @ 10:00 am
Worship & Sunday School
Children's Chrismon Presentation

Wednesday, December 18 @ 7:00 pm
Middle School Christmas Party

Sunday, December 22 @ 10:00 am
Worship & Sunday School
Christmas Joy Offering
Coffee, Cocoa & Carols after worship

Tuesday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve
5:00 pm ~ Christmas Pageant & Family Carol Service
8:00 pm ~ Candlelight & Carols w/ Chancel Choir
11:00 pm ~ Candlelight & Carols w/soloists & musicians

ALL ARE WELCOME!

WWW.PCUM.ORG


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