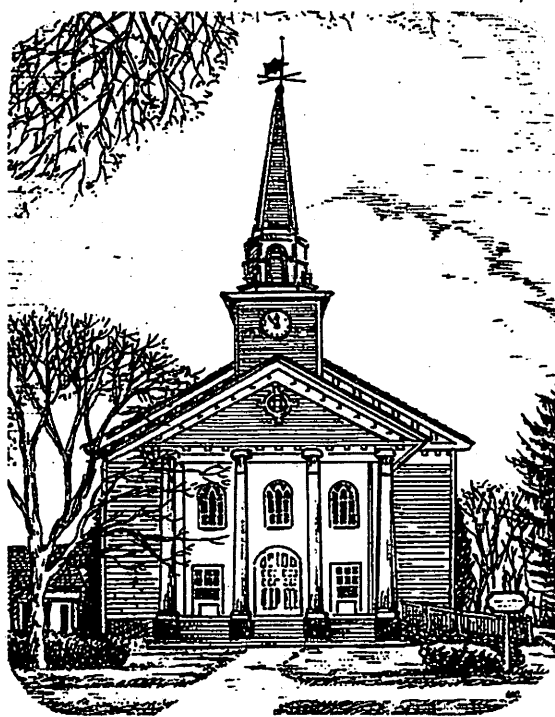


*First Presbyterian Church of East Hampton
The Old Town Church
founded in 1648*



December 4th, 2016

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 4th, 2016

2nd Sunday of Advent

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Chimes

Bringing in the Light of Christ

Welcome and Parish Concerns

Prelude

Henry Purcell

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Response:

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verse 2)

*O come, Thou Day-spring, 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!*

***Call to Worship (Isaiah 2:5; 11:1-2, 6)**

Pastor: A new branch will grow from the root of Jesse.

People: **The Spirit of the lord will rest upon him.**

Pastor: We will live in peace, and a child will lead us.

People: **Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

***Hymn 205**

"All Hail to God's Anointed"

Noble

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

We long for you to come to us, Creator of Goodness. But too often, we do not seem to share your vision of how the world should be, or we are to live. You dream of resentful enemies sitting down together, but we feast on bitterness. You would have us serve others, but we sit quietly, expecting you to come and fill our every need. Forgive us, Approaching God, and help us to turn to welcome you with open arms. May we prepare for your coming by opening our hearts to that healing hope and surprising mercy which is ours in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Silent Confession

Kyrie (*Hymn 572*)

"Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us"

Merbecke

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor: This is God's word of acceptance and affirmation: we are forgiven, we are loved, we are called to be servants to all creation.

People: **Forgiveness falls like a gentle shower upon us, sinking deep into our hearts and souls, so we might be nourished and nurtured as God's children. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

** denotes please stand as you are able*

*Passing the Peace

*Gloria (*Hymn 579*)

“Glory Be to the Father”

Gloria Patri

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Advent Prayer

Scripture Reading

Epistle Lesson: Romans 15:4-13 (NT page 163)

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 3:1-12 (NT page 2)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Stealing Christmas

*Hymn 10

“On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry”

Monk

RESPONDING TO GOD WITH THANKSGIVING

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer (*Traditional*)

Hymnal Page 16

Prayer Response

Invitation to Offering and Pledge Dedication

Offertory Anthem

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

William Rowan

*Doxology (*Hymn 592*)

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Old Hundredth

*Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

Pastor: We give thanks to you, Loving God, for all good things: for this universe and for Earth itself, for creatures and plants, for water and food, for light and darkness;

People: For Jesus, our brother, who enlarged our vision, setting himself before us as the bread and wine of abundant life; and for the Holy Spirit, who comes to us in baptism and moves in our midst with the power to lead us to you.

Pastor: Turn our offerings of today and our commitments for the next year to your good will, and turn us always to you in gratitude.

People: Amen.

Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(continued on next page)

The pastor continues...

...Therefore with the angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, we worship and adore your glorious name, praising you forevermore:

People: 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 the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The pastor continues...

...Great is the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

The pastor continues...

...Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

(To signify our oneness in Christ, please hold the bread and cup until everyone has been served.)

Communion Prayer (*unison*)

Gracious and abundant God, even as we wait for the fulfillment of your desires for your creation, at this table, and in this meal, you have met us in Christ. We thank you for feeding us with the bread of life and quenching our thirst with the cup of salvation. As we have been nourished and strengthened here, send us out into the world by the power of your Holy Spirit to share your life and salvation with all whom we meet. Amen

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| *Hymn 5 | "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" | <i>Picardy</i> |
| *Benediction | | |
| *Response (586) | "Threefold Amen" | <i>Danish</i> |
| *Chimes Recessional Taking the Light of Christ into the World | | |
| Postlude | | <i>L. Wely</i> |

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon are from *Playing Hopscotch in Heaven: Lectionary Liturgies for Year A* by Thom M. Shuman. Copyright 2013. Thom M. Shuman

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Participating in this morning's service: Scot McCachren, Pastor; Harriet Edwards, Organist; Chancel Choir; Bell Choir; Jean Hodgens, Lay Reader; Peter Cooper, Hilary Malecki, Ann Roberts, Sherry Wolfe and Aleaze Hodgens, Elders.

Welcome to the First Presbyterian Church of East Hampton! Whether today is your first time worshipping with us or you are part of one of our founding families, we welcome you. If you are visiting, we would appreciate your completing the "Welcome" card found in the pew rack and placing it in the offering box.

Prayer Request cards can be found in the pew. If you prefer that the pastor read your request during the Prayers of the People rather than voicing it yourself, please give to the pastor before the service. If the card is completed after the service begins, please have an usher hand to the pastor prior to the prayer time.

Flowers today are offered to the glory of God by the Deacons' Fund. To offer flowers in memory or honor of a loved one, please contact Summer Borsack, 631-903-0778, or summerborsack@gmail.com.

"Care Notes" are available in the Narthex--please help yourself. Send a note to someone and brighten their day!

PARISH CONCERNS

FOOD PANTRY this week: Pasta and Sauce.

OUR 2017 PLEDGES will be dedicated this morning, asking God's blessing for our hopes and intentions for the coming year. If you did not bring your prayerfully completed pledge card today, and have not already returned it, please complete and return it to the church office at your earliest convenience, to assist Stewardship and Budget committees in their planning efforts.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTY!! – for grades 6,7, and 8. We will gather today, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm for games, a pizza dinner, and an early Christmas gift exchange. Bring an unmarked, wrapped gift worth no more than \$10.

WHITE GIFTS will be offered during worship today, December 4th. These gifts will be offered to Maureen's Haven and Food Pantry participants.

THOMAS BOHLERT'S RETIREMENT PARTY – You are invited to help celebrate Thom's retirement on Friday, December 9th, 2016 at 6:00 pm in the Session House. If you have not yet RSVP'd, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – has been called for next Sunday, Dec. 11th, immediately following worship, for the sole purpose of hearing and acting on the report of the Nominating Committee. All active members are encouraged to participate! Nominated to serve on Session, for the class of 2019 will be Josh Borsack, Ken Brown, Debbie Mansir, and Wendy Mott; class of 2018, Ann Roberts; class of 2017, Alice Wood. Nominated to serve on the Board of Deacons for the class of 2019 will be David Cataletto, Zanetta Classens, Joy Anne Dixon and Vicky Roarick. Nominated to serve as at-large members of the Nominating Committee in 2017 will be Bitt Cooper, Dana Lester, Brittany MacVittie, Linda Miller, and Peggy Sherrill.

CALLING ALL ANGELS AND SHEPHERDS – Our Christmas pageant will be on December 18th; the more angels and shepherds the better. The songs for the pageant will be taught during Sunday School. Dress rehearsal will be on Saturday, December 17th at 9:00 am. On pageant day, please arrive early (9:30 am). We are looking forward to a memorable Christmas pageant.

Continued on last page....

Unceasing Prayer

"...in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6b-7)

You will find in your pew racks a "Request for Prayer" card. Please use these cards to request

- a prayer to be included in "Prayers of the People" this morning
- prayers by the Pastor, Deacons &/or Elders of the church (if confidential)
- names to be included in the prayer list below

Unless otherwise requested, names on this prayer list will be included in the prayers of our congregation and pastor for the next four weeks. Requests can always be renewed.

Trusting that God knows each person and need, please hold in your prayers...

Congregation members hospitalized or shut-in:

Jean Symer	Greg Fariel
Catherine Verhaegen	Don Halsey

Others for whom prayer has been requested:

The family of Elbert Edwards	Jean Knoesel
The family of Allene Talmage	Shane Hamley
Dell Cullum	David King
Halvorsen family	Carmen Rosa Lopez
Elizabeth Carol	Jo Ella Holman
Virginia Backlund	Raymond Wodarski
John "Kenny" Wessberg III	Tricia Olszewski
Family of Richard Wheaton and Aimee Edwards	
The Rev. Alan Widerquist	Wendy Mott

CALENDAR

(Italics indicate non-church event)

This Week:

9:00 – 11:00 am Session House Preschool (*Monday, Wednesday and Friday*)

Sunday, December 4, Second Week of Advent

10:00 am Worship w/communion, *White Gifts*.. Sunday School for PreK through grade 5.

5:00 pm Middle School Party! For grades 6, 7 & 8. the Session House.
(please see *Parish Concerns* for details)

Monday, December 5

Office Closed

12:30 pm *Al-Anon, Session House*

Tuesday, December 6

7:30 am Men's Club at John Papas Café.

1:00 pm Prayer Shawl Knitting at Mary Siska's house.

Thursday, December 8

12:30pm *Al-Anon, Session House*

7:00 pm Choir

Friday, December 9

6:00 pm Thom Bohlert's Retirement Party, (*RSVP with office or sign-up in Narthex*)

Next Week:

9:00 – 11:00 am Session House Preschool (*Monday, Wednesday and Friday*)

Sunday, December 11, Third Week of Advent

10:00 am Worship, *Christmas Joy Offering*. Sunday School for PreK through grade 5.

Monday, December 12

Office Closed

12:30 pm *Al-Anon, Session House*

2:00-5:00pm *LVIS Christmas Meeting, Narthex*

Tuesday, December 13

7:30 am Men's Club at John Papas Café.

1:00 pm Prayer Shawl Knitting at Mary Siska's house

Thursday, December 15

12:30pm *Al-Anon, Session House*

4:00 pm Worship & Music, Session House.

6:00 pm Deacon's Meeting, Session House

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

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Office hours: Tuesday - Friday, 9am-2pm
Christine Cadarette, Office Administrator

The Rev. Dr. John Ames, Pastor Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. Fred Schulz, Pastor Emeritus

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Elder of the Month—Aleaze Hodgens
Deacon of the Month—Polly Bruckmann

Parish Concerns continued...

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING – will be received on December 11th and December 18th to support the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Half of the offering supports the continued ministry of educating and forming Christian leaders. The other half honors those leaders who serve and have served us well

LAUNDRY LOVE – a local on-going mission effort “to help people who are struggling financially by assisting them with doing their laundry.” See the labeled container in the Narthex. All monies are accepted, but quarters are especially helpful. Thank you! (*Deacons*)

PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING – Tuesdays at 1:00 pm, Mary Siska’s house. Please direct all prayer shawl needs to Nancy Andrews at 631-324-1347 or nancylee0523@yahoo.com.

MEN’S CLUB – John Papas Cafe: breakfast and fellowship - Tuesday mornings at 7:30 am.

THE EAST HAMPTON FOOD PANTRY – will be temporarily re-locating to the Hampton Country Day Camp, 191 Buckskill Road.

CLOTHING FOR MAUREEN’S HAVEN--Slightly used or new season-appropriate clothes for the homeless may be placed in the labeled basket in the Narthex, or brought to the Session House during office hours (Tues.- Fri., 9:00 am - 2:00 pm).

KEEPING IN TOUCH: to care for our members and friends, please notify the church office (631) 324-0711 if you (or a family member) are hospitalized.