

December 22, 2024

10:00 a.m.

4th Sunday of Advent

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

ORGAN PRELUDE (If you must speak, speak to God)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Carolyn Stevenson

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE William Gorman

THE INTROIT Musical Selection Rich Culton

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

God has done great things for us!

God's love is heralded in the promise of Christ.

Holy is His name!

God's promises are fulfilled in the coming of Christ.

God's mercy extends from generation to generation.

God's salvation is offered in the gift of Christ.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION Rev. Dr. Glen Misick

OPENING HYMN #41 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, even in the midst of this season of goodwill, there is much to confess. In spite of holiday cheer, stress and anxiety rule our lives. We miss the reason for the season, focusing instead on Christmas parties, long to-do lists, and trying to get the shopping done. We fail to think about your reordered world — a world where the lowly are lifted up and the hungry are filled with good things. Help us adjust our Christmas priorities, that we might join

with You, O God, in preparing a world that welcomes the one who brings us peace.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS Rev. Dr. Glen Misick

The ancient promises of God are fulfilled. God does not forget us.

God's mercy extends from generation to generation. Let our souls rejoice in God!

Amen. Thanks be to God.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Apostles' Creed)

Let us confess the faith of the Church as one, using the words of the Apostles' Creed. Church, what do you believe?

I believe in God the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic* church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

(*universal)

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 9:6-7 (O.T. pg. 638)

Luke 2:1-14 (N.T. pg. 58)

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT FPCA Young People

ANTHEM "Silent Night" Franz Gruber

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SERMON: "An Encounter with the Child Born in A Manger"

Rev. Dr. Glen Misick

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*RESPONSE HYMN #24 "Away in a Manger"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

INVITATION TO TITHES AND OFFERINGS & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CARRYING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

*CLOSING HYMN #40 "Joy to the World!"

*BENEDICTION

MUSICAL POSTLUDE (A QUIET TIME OF REFLECTION)

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

+++WE ENTER TO WORSHIP; WE LEAVE TO SERVE!!!

*Please stand if able

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

Rev. Dr. Glen Misick

December 22, 2024



FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

"An Encounter with the Child
Born in A Manger"

Prayers for those with long-term concerns

We ask that these friends have God in their lives, that they and their families feel His loving presence, and comfort during their continued struggles. Updates will be printed as available.

Jennifer Perez – RSD/CRPS, & gastroparesis

Maria - a friend of the Knotts and Haggerty families; she is in an acute care facility for traumatic brain injury.

Friends and Loved Ones in the Service and their Families

STATESIDE

Robert L. Gillis – invasive cardiovascular technologist in the US Navy and stationed at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington DC, grandson of Barbara & Bill Morgan.

Lauren Hansen-Salmond –Stephanie & Charlie Kurowsky’s niece

Jeffrey Hansen –Stephanie & Charlie Kurowsky’s nephew

OVERSEAS

Daniel Hedner – deployed to Japan – Jake & Carolyn Stockl’s nephew

Steven Stockl – deployed to Iraq – Jake & Carolyn Stockl’s nephew

The children and youth in our congregation and our youth ministry
Racial equality reconciliation in Woodbridge Township and our nation.

Our ministry partners –

Christian Appalachian Project, Kentucky

International Justice Mission, Washington DC

Mr. Matt Barany Jr., who serves with Second Level Ministry

Navajo Ministries

Salvation Army of Perth Amboy, NJ

Saint Jude’s Children’s Hospital of Memphis, Tennessee

Walter Hoving Home

World Vision

Prayer Concerns and Praises

December 22, 2024

The Prayer Chain - provides immediate prayer for *critical and emergency situations*. All other needs will be taken care of through the prayer list. To place someone on the prayer chain call Millie Knotts at 732-382-9391.

The Prayer List - provides opportunities to share prayer within our church family. Prayer requests will be published for up to 6 weeks unless updated. To add someone to this list call the church office at 732-634-1631.

(Note: Please be sure the person you are adding to this list has given his or her permission to do so).

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people”

Ephesians 6:18



New Joys and Concerns

2nd Week

Prayers for Robbie.

Prayers for Joan who is in assisted living.

3rd Week

4th Week

5th Week

6th Week

Prayers needed for Tom who fractured his neck vertebrae and is recovering at home.

Prayers and Sympathies

SHUT-INS

Please continue to keep in your prayers those members who are unable to join us for worship on Sundays.

Health and Healing

Jen Perez



The mission of First Presbyterian Church is to grow in Christ and make Him known. This is based on John 15:5: "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches, apart from me you can do nothing." The Holy Spirit strengthens us to:

1. **Connect** to the vine,
2. **Grow** to maturity,
3. **Share** the fruit

Sermon Notes

Sunday:

Preacher:

Sermon Topic/Theme:

Scripture:

Point # 1:

Point # 2

Point # 3

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP THIS MORNING. WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE
HERE! WE BELIEVE YOU ARE HERE FOR A DIVINE PURPOSE.
LET US KNOW HOW WE CAN SERVE YOU TODAY!**

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

SUNDAY, December 22, 2024

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Live Stream–Facebook

MONDAY, December 23, 2024

10:00 a.m. JoAnn Breza and Jake Stockl Food Pantry – CE Bldg.

TUESDAY, December 24, 2024

CHRISTMAS EVE – CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

3:00 p.m. Family and Candlelight Service – Sanctuary
(Guest Minister-Rev. Alice Batcher)

WEDNESDAY, December 25, 2024

CHRISTMAS DAY – CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

6:30 p.m. Bible Study – On-Line (CANCELLED)

THURSDAY, December 26, 2024

8:00 p.m. Prayer Gathering – Dial In (CANCELLED)
(425) 436-6302 then enter code 773724#.

FRIDAY, December 27, 2024

SATURDAY, December 28, 2024

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

SUNDAY, December 29, 2024

10:00 a.m. Worship Service – (Guest Minister-Rev. Dr. Ken Macari)
Live Stream–Facebook

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OR SHARE

CHANCEL FLOWER AVAILABILITY – The following dates are open 12/29, 1/5, 1/12, 1/19, & 1/26. Please make reservations through the church office. The cost is \$30.00 for two arrangements and must be paid in advance.

PRAYER GATHERING – is every **Thursday** evening at 8 pm. Dial (425) 436-6302 then enter code 773724#. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Kosakowski at 908-930-3628.

WORSHIP SERVICE LIVE STREAM – via Facebook every Sunday at 10:00 am. We hope you will join us online if you will not be attending church. Please tell your friends, especially shut ins.

BULLETINS – are now on our website.

SIT AND KNIT (and CROCHET) – is on **Saturdays** from 9:30am to 11:00am in the Sanctuary's Choir Room. Bring your projects, a friend, and any patterns you would like to share or may need help with.

BIBLE STUDY – will begin **January** every Wednesday on-line beginning at 6:30pm taught by Rev. Misick.

STAFF APPRECIATION – We have begun our year-end collection for Staff Appreciation. Envelopes are located in the bulletin bin.

2025 GIVING ENVELOPES – are located in the rear of the Sanctuary.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES – for Family and Candlelight will be combined on Sunday, December 24th at 3:00pm.

GUEST MINISTER – for Christmas Eve, 12/24 Family is Rev. Alice Batcher. Reverend Batcher is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary in NYC. Originally ordained with the ABCUSA, Alice now has standing with the UCC. During the week, Alice is a hospice chaplain. In her spare time Alice enjoys working with her little poodles, COVID adoptees.

GUEST MINISTER – for 12/29 is Rev. Dr. Ken Macari. Reverend Macari is an honorably retired minister of the Presbytery Northeast New Jersey. He earned both a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from Gordon-Conwell Seminary in MA. He has served churches in his native Philadelphia, PA, Buffalo, NY, and, most recently, at Community

Presbyterian, Edison. Ken now currently volunteers at the Fanwood Church where his wife, Linda, serves on session. He regularly serves as a pulpit supply throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP SERVICE!

Visitors, we welcome you to this morning's time of worship. If you are looking for a church home or would like to explore the meaning of membership at Avenel Presbyterian Church, please ask an usher or the worship assistant.

<i>Pastor</i>	<i>Rev. Glen C. Misick</i>	<i>gmisick@gmail.com</i>
<i>William Gorman</i>	<i>Music Director</i>	<i>williamgormanmusic@gmail.com</i>
<i>Michael Peterson</i>	<i>Sexton</i>	<i>avenelpres@gmail.com</i>
<i>Belinda Kerchner</i>	<i>SS Superintendent</i>	<i>For 2024</i>
<i>Linda Vassallo</i>	<i>Church Office</i>	<i>(732) 634-1631</i>
<i>Hanna Pallitto</i>	<i>Webmaster</i>	<i>hannapallitto@gmail.com</i>
	<i>Church Email</i>	<i>avenelpres@gmail.com</i>
	<i>Church Website</i>	<i>avenelpresbyterianchurch.org</i>

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday – Friday 8:30am – 1:30pm

**PLEASE NOTE: THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
TUESDAY, 12/24 AND WEDNESDAY, 12/25
FOR CHRISTMAS**

Scripture for Sunday, December 29th

Luke 2:21-25