

December 24, 2021

4:30 p.m.

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

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Prayer of Preparation (*for silent meditation before worship*)

Great God, as you came at night when all was still, so enter our lives this night. Illumine our paths with the light of Christ's presence, that we may clearly see the way before us, to speak the truth and to live for Him, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Elaine Ferrie-Kaczmarek

PRELUDE "Welcome Home" John Angotti

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 11:1-9)

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

**The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.**

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear,

**but with righteousness he shall judge the poor and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.**

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his lions.

**The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.**

The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

**The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.**

They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth

will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

**Therefore, in the name of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—Let us worship God.**

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES Lois and Bob Toro

...who is called the Son of the Most High,  
**and of whose kingdom there will be no end.**

...to us is born this day in Bethlehem a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

**Heaven and earth will pass away, but the Word of God endures forever.**

ANTHEM "By the Star" Janet Vogt

\*HYMN #41 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord....(silence for personal confession)**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

....By God's grace, by trusting in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

\*HYMN #58 "While Shepherds Watched Their Flock by Night" (v.6)

### HEARING THE WORD

ANTHEM "Born This Day" Ken Canedo

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9:207 (O.T. pg. 638)  
Matthew 1:18-25 (N.T. pg.1)

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SERMON "Behold, Christ is Coming" Rev. Lydia Tembo

\*HYMN #53 "What Child is This?"

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PASTORAL, CONGREGATIONAL, 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.**

WORSHIP IN TITHES AND OFFERINGS

HYMN #592 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## CARRYING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

\* HYMN: #40 "Joy to the World"

\*CLOSING HYMN #60 "Silent Night, Holy Night" (Candle Lighting)

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Hymn #29 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

\*Please stand if able

### Rev. Lydia Tembo Bio:

Rev. Lydia Tembo is a Zambian born, semi-cradle Presbyterian, raised in Forest Hills, NY. Rev. Tembo earned a Master of Divinity and a Certificate in Theology, Women and Gender from Princeton Theological Seminary. Rev. Tembo serves on the boards of More Light Presbyterians and Princeton Presbyterians. More Light and Princeton Presbyterians both promote kin-dom building and inclusivity of God's creation in and beyond church walls. When Rev. Tembo isn't serving as the Assistant Director of Recruitment at Princeton Theological Seminary, she can be found reading, DIY crafting, facilitating discernment workshops, and taking long walks on the beach with her life-partner Michael.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

December 24, 2021



"Behold, Christ is Coming"

Rev. Lydia Tembo

*Our sanctuary is filled with the gifts  
of our members and friends as they  
remember and honor their loved  
ones.*

**These gifts were given by: IN MEMORY OF:**

Nick & Bobbie Altieri	Ilene & John Nisbet
Pat Battito	Bill & Ruth Barrett Frank Battito Frank & Angela Battito
Ed & Shirley Benkert	Edward Benkert Sr. William & Ruth Freist Nancy Leclair Reinhart Thorsen
Holly Ely-Calantoni	Howard & Edna Ely Christopher & Leslie Yuhasz
Selina Critelli	Marilyn Critelli Josephine Gamble Richard Miller
Richard & Cindy Culton	Pete & Dottie Allebach Esther Nielsen Kay Price
The Gillian Family	Don Gilligan Mary Sandor Alfred A. Seddon
Danetta Juarez	Frank Juarez

**These gifts were given by: IN MEMORY OF:**

Stan & Elaine Kaczmarek	Charles & Mae Dudas Bronislaus & Marie Kaczmarek
Millie Knotts	Al Knotts
Linda, Robynn, & Scott Herrington	Ron Herrington Edythe Pekar Ted & Eleanor Smith Tom Smith
Sandra Kosakowski	Mackenzie Kosakowski
Gay Patrouch	Walter & Eloise Emery
Gail Sheets	Special Friends: Gene, Ilene, Linda, & Marjorie
Gary & Carolyn Stevenson	Ernest & Arleen Schreiber George & Stella Stevenson
Jake & Carolyn Stockl	Our Loved Ones That Passed Away

**These gifts were given by: IN HONOR OF:**

Sandra Kosakowski	Luciana Iacovino
Jake and Carolyn Stockl	To Our Church Family
Colette & Oliver Zelazny	Gaga & Pa Culton



**GREETINGS TO THE CONGREGATION**

The Aumick Family  
Selina, Jim, Sophia, James, Laurel, Julianna, Linda, & Tyler

Danetta Juarez

Linda Sammartino

Gail Sheets



**THANK YOU TO THE MUSIC PROGRAM**

Pat Battito

Danetta Juarez

Delia Zelazny



***GREETINGS  
&  
GIFTS***

*First Presbyterian Church  
of Avenel  
Christmas 2021*