

December 24, 2022

4:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Charlie Kurowsky

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Joe Fernandez and Family

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

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy.

To us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!

Let us go now to Bethlehem.

Come, let us worship the Lord!

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

You are a holy people, redeemed by God; sought out and not forsaken. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Amen. Thanks be to God.

*HYMN #28 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

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

Luke 2:1-20 (N.T. pg. 58)

Psalm 98 (O.T. pgs. 551-552)

John 1:1-14 (N.T. pg.91-92)

HYMN #31

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

*HYMN #60

"Silent Night, Holy Night" (Candle Lighting)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SERMON

"Dona Nobis Pacem"

Rev. Chris Houtz

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN #46

"On This Day Earth Shall Ring"

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

CARRYING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

INVITATION TO TITHES AND OFFERINGS & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY HYMN #23 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN #40 “Joy to the World!”

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” GO TELL IT

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

*Please stand if able

Rev. Chris Houtz Bio:

It's great to be joining you on Christmas Eve for worship! I have been the pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Iselin for a little over 3 years. As some of you may know, I have also served as the moderator of your session for just over a year, as well. And it has been a privilege to see the compassion and dedication each member of the session has for this church, and your mission as the body of Christ. My wife, Tanya, and I live in Fords with our three labs, Minnie, Bellmore, and Carl. Merry Christmas!

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

December 24, 2022



“Dona Nobis Pacem”

Rev. Chris Houtz

*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
Ed & Shirley Benkert	Edward Benkert Sr. William & Ruth Freist Nancy Leclair Reinhart Thorsen
Holly Ely-Calantoni	Howard & Edna Ely Marissa Kohler Christopher & Leslie Yuhasz
Richard & Cindy Culton	Esther Nielsen Kay Price
The Gillian Family	Don Gilligan Mary Sandor Alfred A. Seddon
Danetta Juarez	Frank Juarez Friends & Family no longer with us
Stan & Elaine Kaczmarek	Charles & Mae Dudas Bronislaus & Marie Kaczmarek
Millie Knotts	Al Knotts
Hanna Pallitto	Bruce and Jane McKee

These gifts were given by:	IN MEMORY OF:
The Palmer Family	Bryan Palmer William and Rose DeVito George and Rose Palmer
Gay Patrouch	Walter & Eliose Emery
Gail Sheets	Robert and Lillian (Sam's Parents)
Gary & Carolyn Stevenson	Ernest & Arleen Schreiber George & Stella Stevenson
Bob & Lois Toro	The Dowd and Toro Family

These gifts were given by:	IN HONOR OF:
Sandra Kosakowski	My Granchildren
The Palmer Family	Emily and Ezra Palmer
Jake and Carolyn Stockl	Our Church Family for all their prayers and support
Colette & Oliver Zelazny	Gaga & Pa Culton



GREETINGS TO THE CONGREGATION

Danetta Juarez

Stan and Elaine Kaczmarek

The Sammartino Family

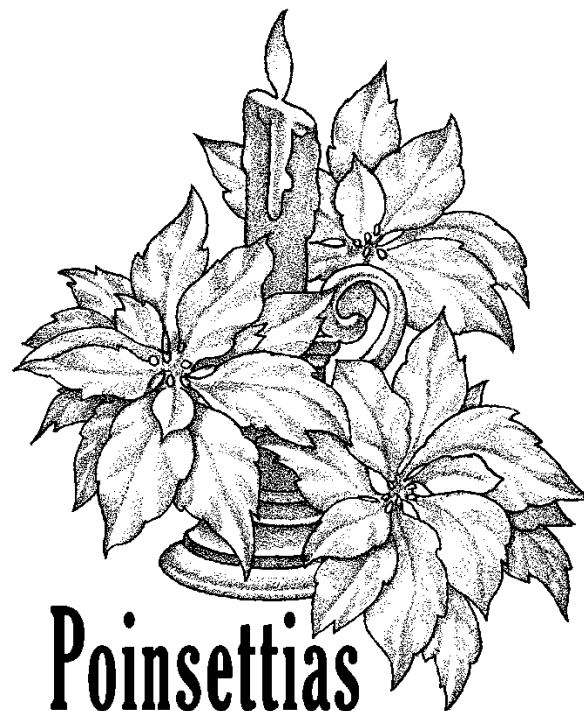
Gail Sheets



THANK YOU TO THE MUSIC PROGRAM

Danetta Juarez

Stan and Elaine Kaczmarek



***GREETINGS
&
GIFTS***

*First Presbyterian Church
of Avenel
Christmas 2022*