

December 29, 2024
10:00 a.m.
1st Sunday of Christmas

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Carolyn Gilligan

THE INTROIT "In The Bleak Midwinter" Harold Darke

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because He has come to His people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David.

As He said through His holy prophets of long ago, salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us

to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember His holy covenant,

the oath He swore to our father Abraham: to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,

and to enable us to serve Him without fear in holiness and righteousness before Him all our days.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION Rev. Dr. Ken Macari

OPENING HYMN #2 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Triune God, we confess that we are not people of peace. You call us home from exile, yet we continue to wander. You came to

dwell among us, yet we fail to welcome You. Forgive us and restore us to fellowship with You. May we be people of praise, hope and joy! Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS Rev. Dr. Ken Macari
Take to heart these glad tidings. The birth of the Lord Jesus who died and rose from the grave years later guarantees our union with the Triune 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: Luke 2:21-35 (N.T. pg. 59)

ANTHEM "Mary Did You Know"
sung by Gracie and Madelein Grabiell

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SERMON: "The A-B-C's for 2025"

Rev. Dr. Ken Macari

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*RESPONSE HYMN #8 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

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

Rev. Dr. Kenneth J. Macari Bio:

Rev. Dr. Ken 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.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

Rev. Dr. Ken Macari

December 29, 2024



“The A-B-C’s for 2025”

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 29, 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

3rd Week

Prayers for Robbie.

Prayers for Joan who is in assisted living.

4th Week

5th Week

6th Week

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 29, 2024

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

MONDAY, December 30, 2024

TUESDAY, December 31, 2024

NEW YEAR'S EVE

WEDNESDAY, January 1, 2025

NEW YEAR'S DAY – CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

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

THURSDAY, January 2, 2025

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

FRIDAY, January 3, 2025

SATURDAY, January 4, 2025

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

SUNDAY, January 5, 2025

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

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OR SHARE

CHANCEL FLOWER AVAILABILITY – The following dates are open 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 – is scheduled for **January 15th** at 6:30pm (EST) on-line and will continue every Wednesday evening on the Gospel of John taught by Rev. Misick.

Weekly: <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/83487004683?pwd=bnNS9lclhsXjuoY2LPlszxof045Nbf.1>

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83487004683?pwd=bnNS9lclhsXjuoY2LPlszxof045Nbf.1>

Meeting ID: 834 8700 4683

Passcode: 012019

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

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 WEDNESDAY, 1/1 FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY

Scripture for Sunday, January 5th

Joshua 1:6-9

Matthew 28:18-20