



The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell
326 Bloomfield Avenue
Caldwell, NJ 07006
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November 29, 2020
The First Sunday of Advent

REFLECTION

“Our hope is not ever in our ability to be hopeful. It is not in our ability to be politically correct. It is not in our ability to get anything right whatsoever. Our hope is in the God of scripture. Because, foundationally, we are a people of a story. And that story is fundamentally a story of God’s promises.” - Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber

PRELUDE

*“Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”
“Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying”
“People, Look East”*

arr. Larry Shackley
arr. John Carter
arr. Lloyd Larson

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Matt & Karen Ibold
Sam, Grace & Faith

Let us pray:

Faithful God, out of death you bring life. Renew us in hope, that we may be alert to the flowering of Christ’s advent among us. God of light, God of hope, into our darkness come. Amen.

OPENING HYMN No. 93

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

TRURO

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
Behold the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven’s employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here Lord abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel;
Thy grace and love in me reveal.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

It is so easy for us, Lord, to let the anger, frustration, and fear overshadow our lives. We can't seem to escape it. We try to find some way to cover it up, but it remains. And in our anxiety, we act out our fear in ways which are not helpful and, far too often, go against the ways you have taught us to live. We feel the pressure to give,

and resentment in giving. Help us, Lord. Heal our wounded spirits. Free us again to look to you for Hope. Let us see the many ways in which you are present to us..... guiding, healing, loving, encouraging us. Forgive us for our fears and our stubbornness. Bring us again to your light, for we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

“The days are coming,” God says through the prophet Jeremiah, “when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.” These promises of hope, peace, joy, and love are for you. Receive the hope that God offers to you today.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Glory to God in the highest. Amen.

HYMN No. 92

“While We Are Waiting, Come”

WAITING (Cason)

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 2:1-5

GOSPEL READING

Mark 13:24-27, 32-37

SERMON

“A Shepherd Still Waits”

Rev. William Schram

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Star-Child”

Text by Shirley Erena Murray
Music by Carlton R. Young

Please join the soloist on singing the Refrain:

This year, this year, let the day arrive
When Christmas come for everyone, everyone alive!

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE 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.

HYMN No 117, St. 1-4

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

WINCHESTER OLD

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.

“Fear not,” said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind:
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and humankind.”

“To you in David’s town this day, is born of David’s line
The Savior, who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign:”

“The heavenly babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
All humbly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid.”

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE, Hymn No. 117, St. 6

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

WINCHESTER OLD

“All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;
Good will to all from highest heaven begin and never cease!”

POSTLUDE

“Rise Up, Shepherd”

arr. Karl Osterland

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram

Rev. Barbara Piercy

Noel Piercy & Susan Jones

Michael Hardenberg, Cantor & Soloist

Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers