

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2017

\* *ALL WHO ARE ABLE ARE INVITED TO STAND.*

**GATHERING**

Please prayerfully allow the silent, sacred space of the sanctuary

and the quiet stirrings of the Spirit to prepare your heart and mind for worship.

**PRELUDE** *“Schafe können sicher weiden, BWV 208, No. 9”* J.S. Bach

("Sheep may safely graze”)

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP -** Psalm 100 Rev. Paul E. Gilmore Minister: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

## People: Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Minister: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.

## All: For the Lord is good, his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

**\* THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 142** *“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”* CORONATION

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Rev. Kathryn Kibbie Laird Minister: God both loves and judges us, expects much of us, and calls us to a more disciplined life.

Let us confess our resistance.

## People: Righteous God, you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him, and are slow to acknowledge his rule. We give allegiance to the powers of this world, and fail to be governed by justice and love. In your mercy, forgive us. Raise us to acclaim him as ruler of all, that we may be loyal ambassadors, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**KYRIE ELEISON** James MacMillan

## DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Minister: Christ the King is a merciful ruler.

## People: The One who judges us loves us the most.

Minster: Leave behind that which is less than kind and loving within you.

## People: For in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE – No. 155** *“Rejoice, the Lord Is King” (*vs. 3)

## Rejoice in glorious hope!

**For Christ, the Judge, shall come**

**To glorify the saints for their eternal home: Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!**

**Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

**SHARING OUR LIFE AND MINISTRY**

Please sign the card and pass it to your neighbor. As you pass it back to the center, take note of who is here so we can become better acquainted. Visitors, please give your address, telephone, and e-mail information.

## A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

(Children are invited to Sunday’s Cool, please bring your buck and a can offering with you)

## T H E W O R D

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** (unison) John Servidea **Holy God, open your Word to us by the power of your Spirit, that we may know the hope to which we have been called in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**FIRST LESSON** Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 (OT pages 803-804)

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

## People: Thanks be to God.

**ANTHEM** *“The Lord ascendeth up on high”* Michael Praetorius The Lord ascendeth up on high, the Lord hath triumphed gloriously, in power and might excelling;

the grave and hell are captive led. Lo! he returns, our glorious Head, to his eternal dwelling. Our great High Priest hath gone before, upon his Church his grace to pour; and still his love he giveth. O may our hearts to him ascend; may all within us upward tend to him who ever liveth!

**SECOND LESSON** Matthew 25:31-46 (NT page 29)

Minister: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

## People: Thanks be to God.

**SERMON** *“Sheep & Goats”* Rev. Paul E. Gilmore

## R E S P O N D I N G T O T H E W O R D

**\* HYMN No. 153** *“He Is King of Kings”* HE IS KING

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Minister: The Lord be with you.

## People: And also with you.

Minister: Let us pray...

## LORD’S PRAYER (unison)

**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.**

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES**

**OFFERTORY** *“From the Rising of the Sun”* F.A. Gore Ouseley From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same, my name shall be great, among the Gentiles; and in ev'ry place incense shall be offer'd up unto my name: for my name shall be great among the heathen, thus saith the Lord!

\* **DOXOLOGY** OLD HUNDREDTH

## Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**S E N D I N G**

* **HYMN No. 150** *“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”* MADRID
* **CHARGE AND BLESSING** (Please be seated for the Choral Response & the Ringing of the Church Bell)

**CHORAL RESPONSE** *“In Wisdom’s Lovely Pleasant Ways”*

## RINGING THE CHURCH BELL

* **POSTLUDE** *“Fugue in G major, BWV 550”* J.S. Bach

## SPECIAL CALLED CONGREGATION MEETING

**TODAY AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**

Welcome to the Service of Worship for the Lord’s Day. Parents of **infants through age four** are encouraged to take their children to the Nursery School classrooms during our services. **Students in Pre-K-7th grade** should follow their teachers to the Common Room.

**Today in Sunday’s Cool,** the two classes will join together to watch A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving and make a special Thanksgiving wreath with Psalm 100:4 “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.” Please bring your buck and a can and join us. **In the Barn,** our Tweens will discuss Advent and the beginning of the church year.

Teachers assisting with preK-4th grade Spark Rotations today – Brooke Werhane; 5-7th grade in the Barn for Feasting on the Word with Anne Wagner and Megan Wunderlich.

**Youth News:** What is happening at FPC for our ESYG (4th- 5th graders and their friends),

MSYG (6th-8th graders and their friends), and HSYG (9th-12th graders and their friends). All are welcome!

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| **ESYG (4th- 5th)** | **MSYG (6th-8th)** | **HSYG (9th-12th)** |
| **11/26** 5-6:30pm Advent Fair, Hanging of the Greens | **11/26** 5-6:30pm Advent Fair, Hanging of the Greens with Advent WreathWorkshop | **11/26** 5-6:30pm Advent Fair, Hanging of the Greens with Advent Wreath Workshop |
| **12/3** after worshipMission Trip Shareholder’s Luncheon “Mission Stocktrip” | **12/3** after worship -Mission Trip Shareholder’s Luncheon “Mission Stock trip” | **12/3** after worship - Mission Trip Shareholder’s Luncheon “Mission Stock trip” |
| **12/10 4pm** FIB Secret SantaShopping Extravaganza | **12/10** 4pm FIB Secret Santa ShoppingExtravaganza | **12/10** 4pm FIB Secret Santa ShoppingExtravaganza |
|  | **12/17** 5pm White Elephant Gift Swag,dinner | **12/17** 5pm White Elephant Gift Swag, dinner |

**Greeter**: Lynn Quinn

**Worship Coordinator:** John Servidea

**Ushers:** Margaret Cooper, Peggy Hooker, Bill Knobloch, Barbara Wentzel

**Cross Bearer:** Kathleen Servidea

**Lay Reader:** John Servidea

**Musicians:** The First Presbyterian Church Choir

**Flowers** are in loving memory of Hudson G. Stoddard, from his family.

**Let us keep in our thoughts and prayers: *Continued concerns:*** Neil Coakley; Ann Depuy; Anita Gilmore; Graham Harden; Vince Lombardi; Doris Mierendorf; Nancy Russell; The Stricos family (friends of Joe and Diana Ruszkowski); John Voorhies. *The Abo Noktah family (our Syrian refugees):* Khaldoun (father), Khawla Alzob (mother), daughters Hanin and Zain, and sons Yaman and Ahmed.

**Flower Memorials:** If you wish to have flowers in the sanctuary to celebrate an anniversary, a baptism, a birthday, or to memorialize a loved family member or friend please call Barbara Wentzel, Flower Coordinator, at 203-966-5402 or email at barbarawentzel@mac.com.

**No Gift Too Small!** The Bell Tower Society welcomes gifts and bequests of all sizes. Every dollar given makes a difference in serving the long-term welfare of our church. If you have questions about remembering the church in your estate plans, please contact Peter Flournoy in the church office.

**Cents-ability:** On November 5, we collected $350. Our total collection since we began Cents-ability at our church in November 2011 is $18,263. Thank you for your awareness and generous response to hunger. If you would like more information on Cents-ability or need a Cents-ability cup, please see Robin Lewis. Remember to fill up your Cents-ability cup ‘til it runneth over! **Our next collection is December 3.**

**New Canaan Food Pantry:** Items in need now due to low/no stock are Mayonnaise, Herbal Tea, Crackers, Cookies, Canned Tuna, Canned Chicken, Coffee – Regular & Decaf, Cereal, Pancake Mix – Add water only. **No beans or soup are needed now.** Please

drop these items in the shopping cart at the back of the Sanctuary and Robin Lewis will make sure they are delivered to the New Canaan Food Pantry.

FPC is privileged to have the opportunity to prepare and serve dinner on the first Saturday of each month at the **New Covenant House of Hospitality** in Stamford. This is a rewarding way to give your time and efforts. We are seeking volunteers for these upcoming dates: - December 2, February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5 and June 2 - to help prepare meals (2-4 pm) or serve meals (4-6 pm). To sign up, or if you have any questions, please contact Glenn Mierendorf at glennmierendorf@gmail.com, or 203-564-3448. Also, if you are interested in being part of the soup kitchen shopper team, please let Tina in the church office know. Thank you!

## Genesis: The Book of Beginnings with Rev. Mary Marple Thies

Beginning Tuesday, November 7 – December 12, 11:00 – 12:30 in the Common Room

How do you understand the two accounts of creation in Genesis? Why didn't Adam and Eve die when they ate the forbidden fruit? What do you do with the anger of God which wipes out most of humanity in the flood? Why do we Christians even care about Abraham and Sarah and their infertility problem?

Genesis is a book of new beginnings at various stages in Israel's early existence, but even more, it is a book of God's promises to God's people and to all peoples. The roots of all the rest of scripture are planted deep in Genesis; it is not only a book of beginning, it is the beginning of our understanding of God and ourselves in relation to God. So, come, explore with us these beginnings.

**Genesis Reading List:** Week 4, 11/28 “Hagar and Ishmael; Sign of the Covenant; the Promise of a Son” (Genesis 16-18) Week 5, 12/5 “Gerar; Hagar and Ishmael, continued; the Birth of Isaac” \*Genesis 20-21\*); \*We will not study Genesis 19 since we did so Spring 2017; Week 6, 12/12 “Isaac stories” (Genesis 22-25:18)

**The Stewardship program** is still proceeding with Stewardship leaders working their way through lists of members. If a leader has not yet communicated with you, you should hear from them in the near future. If you have any questions, please email or phone Barbara Wentzel or Armin Thies and pray for our efforts.

**Dove Boxes**

Dove boxes provide holiday food to families in need. This year marks the 49th year of the Person-to-Person Dove Program. Christmas Doves would never have been possible without the enthusiastic support of area churches. You can take a Dove and prepare gift-wrapped boxes of food -- this is a wonderful way to enlist children in the joy of giving; Participation is open to everyone. Or can be as simple as making a direct donation to families/adults through Person to Person.

Each year, our church joins with other churches, to participate in Person-to-Person’s Christmas Dove Program. Through this program, participants respond to the needs of families and seniors in our community who might otherwise go without this Holiday Season. Simply select a White or Green Dove on **Sunday, 11/26, 12/3 and 12/10.** Then *follow directions printed on it.*

**White Dove**: Fill a box or two with food and love for Christmas Day. All necessary food items and directions are on the reverse side of the Dove. A $15.00 contribution is required so Person-to-Person can purchase a supermarket gift card for each family to buy their own choice of meat/protein. The Doves will be hung on tree at the narthex. Fill in the back dove with your name, e-mail & telephone number and return it (along with the

$15.00) to the “Dove Lady” Karen Hanson (and her team).

**Green Dove:** A financial contribution to Person-to-Person’s Scholarship or Emergency Assistance Fund. Scholarship will enable eager students to continue their education. Emergency Assistance Fund will help someone with a fuel bill, rent or a medical bill not covered by Medicaid. Please mail your financial contribution directly to Person-to Person; the address being on the Green Dove.

The Doves will be available on the tree in the narthex beginning **today!**

RETURN your filled, closed, wrapped boxes to the **Narthex** on or before **Saturday, December 16**. If you fill your box or boxes prior to December 16, you may certainly bring it to church earlier. If you have any questions regarding the Person-to-Person Christmas Dove Program, please contact **Karen Hanson at 203-966-5140 or** karenh81@optonline.net

## Children and Youth Mission - The Blessing Tree

This winter we hope you will consider helping K-12 students in Fairfield County who come from low income homes. Please purchase hats, gloves, and mittens for our **HORIZON’S MITTEN TREE** or used (or new) children’s coats and fleeces for ages K-12. **Collection begins November 26 and ends on December 20.**

## Hanging of the Greens/Advent Fair & Advent Wreath Workshop

**Sunday, November 26**

5:00 PM in the Common Room and Sanctuary

Kick off the Advent season with friends and family-all are welcome!

Wreath-making, Children’s crafts, Decorating the Church for the Christmas Season.

We’ll conclude the evening with a Carol Sing. Casual pizza dinner to follow.

# Next IceBreaker!

## Saturday, December 2 from 5-7pm

Hosted by Julie and Michael Reeves and Tracey Mackle 81 Rilling Ridge Road, New Canaan

Please bring an hors d’oeurve to share and what you would like to drink!

RSVP: Lisa Gifford at ldagbg@aol.com or (203) 594-9826

# Shareholder's Luncheon

## December 3 following the worship service

Shareholder’s Luncheon on Dec 3. The youth who went on our summer mission trips to Providence, RI and Palmer, Alaska will give short talks about the incredible mission and ministry we experienced on our summer mission trips. We will also show brief slideshows of each trip. Be our guest for lunch! Many thanks again for your prayers and support. We raised $8,883.00 for the work and ministry of these two trips, and we are extremely grateful for your help in making these mission trips possible and for providing scholarship funds for those in need. We could not have done it without all of you. Blessings, Rev. Kibbie Laird

# FPC Families Christmas Caroling

## Please join us on Sun, Dec 3rd, at 3:45pm.

Join us as our FPC families (with children birth-grade 7) come together to spread holiday cheer at the Waveny Lifecare Center - we'll do some Christmas Caroling and brighten the residents' day. Families meet at Waveny Lifecare Center at 3:45, Caroling at 4, and then head back to FPC for pizza after.

# SAVE THE DATE!

***“A Christmas Tea”***

Please put Tuesday, December 5 on your Calendar!

3:00 pm in the Common Room Everyone is welcome!

RSVP: Tina at 203-966-0002

**MUSIC IN A SACRED SPACE at FPC**

### *Saturday, December 9, at 7:30 p.m.*

**PRO ARTE SINGERS**

In its 45th year, we celebrate the last concert of the all-professional choir, Pro Arte lead by Artistic Director and founder, Arthur Sjögren. This shimmering program for Christmas includes works by Parry, Górecki, Sixten, Jackson, Howells and more. Admission is $35 for adults, $30 for seniors and students. Tickets are available online as well as at the door. [www.proartesingers.org](http://www.proartesingers.org/)


### *Sunday, December 17, at 4:00 p.m.*

**FPC CHRISTMAS CONCERT: *Images of the Crèche***

First Presbyterian's Adult and Children's Choir present at their annual Christmas concert featuring Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* accompanied by Grammy-nominated harpist, Kristi Shade. Other works for the season include music by Scheidt, Poston, Houkom, Chilcott and more. Carol singing included! Free-will offering to benefit church-supported missions.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

178 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan, CT 06840 Tel.: 203-966-0002 // web page: [www.fpcnc.org](http://www.fpcnc.org/)

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26: First Sunday of Dove Program 10:00 AM Worship**

Calling all musicians! Do you play an instrument? Do you sing?

You are invited to share your talents all year round! We have many opportunities for you to share your talents throughout the year. We offer:

Chancel Choir (teens through adult)

- Adults rehearse Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:30;

- Teens (grades 8 and up) rehearse Sunday mornings from 11:15am-12:00pm

Carol Choir (grades 3-7) Rehearses Wednesdays from 5:00-6:30

Cherub Choir (grades preK-2) Rehearses Sundays from 11:15-12:00

English Handbells (adults) Rehearses on Thursdays from 6:00-7:00

Instrumental ensembles

Any instruments in a solo or small group are rehearsed throughout the week and year

Please see Victoria or email her at victoria@fpcnc.org if you are interested in participating. Let's give back to God and share the talents God has given us!

**Rev. Paul E. Gilmore preaching**

10:15 AM Sunday’s Cool Classes for Grades preK-7 **11:00 AM Special Called Congregational Meeting** 11:15 AM Coffee Hour

11:15 AM Cherub Choir

11:30 AM FPC Concert Rehearsal

## 5:00 PM Hanging of the Greens/Advent Fair and Advent Wreath Workshop

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27**

2:00 PM Meditation Group

6:30 PM Purple Heather Dancers

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

9:30 AM Leadership Team

## 11:00 AM Tuesday Morning Biblical Study

8:00 PM Men’s A.A.

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

5:00 PM Carol Choir

5:00 PM Confirmation Class

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

3:30 PM Special Church 7:30 PM FPC Choir

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

9:15 AM A.A. (closed discussion)

10:00 AM Worship, Music and Arts Committee 10:30 AM No A.A. (open discussion)

2:00 PM Preparing Dinner at New Covenant House 4:00 PM Serving Dinner at New Covenant House **5:00 PM IceBreaker! at Reeves/Mackle Home**

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3: 1st Sunday of Advent

**2nd Sunday of Dove Program 10:00 AM Holy Communion**

**Rev. Kathryn Kibbie Laird preaching** 10:15 AM Sunday’s Cool Classes for Grades preK-7 11:00 AM Blood Pressure Clinic

11:15 AM Coffee Hour 11:15 AM Cherub Choir

11:30 AM FPC Concert Rehearsal

11:30 AM Informational Meeting/1st Pageant Rehearsal 11:30 AM Shareholder’s Luncheon and Slide Show



**OUR MINISTERS**

The Entire Congregation

**OUR PASTORS**

The Rev. Paul E. Gilmore, Pastor

The Rev. Kathryn Kibbie Laird, Associate Pastor for Children, Youth and Families

**OUR STAFF**

Victoria Shields, Director of Music / Sherry Tate, Cherub Choir director Peter Flournoy, Interim Church Administrator / Tina St. Armand, Office Manager

Erika Hagan, Administrative Assistant to Children and Youth Ministries

Kuky and Andres Pereira, Operations/Security Managers / Edgar Torres, Day Sexton

**THE SESSION**

Our Pastors

Scott Beyer, *Clerk of Session*

George Benington, *Bell Tower Society*

Sue Benko, *Communications*

Laurel Carlson, *Youth Ministries*

Carole Clarkson, *Worship, Music and Arts*

Linda Ferguson, *Nominating*

Lisa Gifford, *Congregational Life*

Jennifer Gulden, *Personnel*

Julie Hoffman, *Member-At-Large* Freia Mierendorf, *Co-Youth* Glenn Mierendorf*, Outreach* Dede McEvoy, *Strategic Planning* Andy Petitjean, *Finance*

Lynn Quinn, *Adult Education* Julie Reeves, *Membership Involvement* Kevin Thomson, *Advisory Committee*

Spencer Reeves, *Co-Youth*

Jenny Volanakis, *Children's Ministries*

Barbara Wentzel, *Stewardship*

**THE DEACONS**

Jen and Steve Van de Graaf, *Co-Moderators*

Carson Allsteadt, *Co-Youth* Erica Bergmans, *Inspirica* Mary Jane Bolin, *Senior Lunch* Peg Bull, *Flock Program* William Dooley, *Co-Youth* Cindy Hagopian, *Inspirica*

Karen Hanson, *Memorial Services and Receptions*

Beth Hersam, *Flowers and Cards* Chris Kniffin, *Member-At-Large* Nichole LaBadie, *Co-Youth*

Linda Martin, *Baptisms; Flock Program* Sarah Robinson, *Pastoral Care Team* Kristen Rodgers, *Cards and Flowers* Kathleen Servidea, *Cards and Flowers*

Elizabeth Stuart, *Flowers and Cards, Treasurer*

Ashley Walker, *Co-Youth*

*Rev. T. Guthrie Speers, Jr., Pastor Emeritus - Mrs. Marilyn J. Ballantine, Minister of Music Emerita*