

The Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair

Sunday, December 10, 2023

*If you are able, please stand.

Please turn off cell phones.



Second Sunday of Advent
10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

WE GATHER AROUND GOD'S WORD

"Advent—from the Latin for 'a coming or an arrival'—is upon us. This season is more than a sentimental, reminiscent waiting for a new Baby Jesus. The need for adult Christianity and Jesus' actual message is so urgent that we cannot allow the great feast of Christmas, and its preparation in Advent, to be watered down in any way. The suffering, injustice, and devastation on this planet are too great to settle for an infantile Gospel or Jesus.

Jesus taught that the 'reign of God' or the 'kingdom of God' asks a great deal of us — surrender, simplicity, solidarity with suffering.

Richard Rohr, *Advent: Love Coming to Fullness*, 2016



Prelude

Anne Marie Juliano, piano

Call to Worship - Lighting the Second Advent Candle

the Jones family
Liz, Dan, Kenzie, & Ellie

One: This morning we light the Candle of Peace. Our world longs for peace. Because of Jesus Christ—we believe the day is coming when peace will be *more* than a dream.

All: Wonder of wonders; joy of joys!

The wolf and the lamb shall dwell together.

And when that peace comes, things will be different.

Violence will cease. Forgiveness will flow like water from a fountain.

Old resentments will fade away.

Wonder of wonders, joy of joys! Enemies and strangers

will come to the table, side by side, and study war no more.

Wonder of wonders, joy of joys. The Prince of Peace is coming.

[We light the first and second Advent candles.]

*Hymn 314

Longing for Light, We Wait in the Darkness
(Christ Be Our Light)
(verses 1-2, 4-5)

B. Farrell

Welcome & Life of the Church

Pastor Greg Horn

(Please fill out the Friendship Pad completely and pass it along, returning it to its starting point.)

Prayer of Confession and Preparation for Worship

our silent prayers of preparation and confession

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 103 (seated)

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

O-So-So

Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

*We Give God Glory (#582)

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen. (sing 3 times)
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading (p.807 of OT) **Isaiah 32:1-4, 16-18** (NRSV)

Millie Tourtelot

Dir. of Christian Education

- ¹ See, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule with justice.
² Each will be like a hiding-place from the wind, a covert from the tempest,
like streams of water in a dry place, like the shade of a great rock in a weary land.
³ Then the eyes of those who have sight will not be closed,
and the ears of those who have hearing will listen.
⁴ The minds of the rash will have good judgement,
and the tongues of stammerers will speak readily and distinctly.
¹⁶ Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field.
¹⁷ The effect of righteousness will be peace,
and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.
¹⁸ My people will abide in a peaceful habitation,
in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting-places.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Time for Children – *The Chrismons* (insert)

(All children are invited forward. Afterward, children preschool through 7th grade may attend Sunday School. If today is your child(ren)'s first time at Sunday School, please accompany and register them with their teacher.)

*Christ whose glory fills the skies, Christ the Everlasting Light.
The Son of Righteousness arise, and triumph o'er these shades of night.*

*Come thou long awaited one, in the fullness of Your love,
And loose this heart bound up by shame, and I will never be the same.
So here I wait in hope of You, oh, my soul's longing through and through.
And dayspring from on high, be near, and daystar, in my heart appear.*

*Dark and cheerless is the morn, until Your love in me is born,
and joyless is the evening sun, until Emmanuel has come.*

Scripture Reading (p.816 of OT) **Isaiah 40:1-11** (NRSV)

- ¹ Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
- ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.
- ³ A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
- ⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'
- ⁶ A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?'
All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.
- ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
- ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.
- ⁹ Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'
- ¹⁰ See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.
- ¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

We Worship With Our Offerings

Prayer Dedicating Our Gifts

Offertory Anthem

The Yearning Chancel Choir

Boersma/Courtney

*There is a yearning in hearts weighed down
by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow.*

*There is a yearning that fills the hearts
of those who wait the day of His appearing.*

*There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased
and we shall see the One
who placed within our hearts the yearning.*

***We Give Praise to God**

Doxology

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

Prayer of the People

***Closing Hymn 105**

People, Look East
(verses 1-2, 4-5)

Besançon

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

GO WITH GOD – TO SERVE GOD’S WORLD

WELCOME and thank you for your part in this service of worship. If you are a visitor here at the Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair (PCUM), you are especially welcome. May you sense in this place the presence and the love of God in Christ. After worship, you are warmly invited for refreshments and conversation in Fellowship Hall.

PLEASE ASK AN USHER for anything you might need, and please help fellow worshipers by exiting and entering the sanctuary at times other than during prayers or scripture readings.

CHILDCARE for toddlers and a nursery for younger children are always available during worship in the North Wing, located off Fellowship Hall (adjacent to sanctuary). Ask an usher for directions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES for all children preschool through 7th grade are located in the North Wing. Ask the ushers or Christian Education leaders for directions. If you are sending your kids to Sunday School for the first time and have not yet registered your child, please step out briefly with your children as they are dismissed to Sunday School to fill out an emergency contact form before returning to the sanctuary.

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A SPECIAL THANK YOU to the Dickson family for providing and decorating this year’s Chrismon Tree, to the Peterson family for its setup, to the Morton family for the beautiful wreaths on all the doors, to the Deacons for decorating the sanctuary, and to the volunteers who set up the Nativity Scene on the church lawn.

PCUM'S CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT WILL BE SUNDAY, CHRISTMAS EVE, DEC. 24TH
This year, Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, and PCUM’s Annual Christmas Pageant will be presented at the Family Christmas Eve Service in the morning at 10:00 am.

TODDLER SURVIVAL GROUP: PCUM's group for toddlers and infants and their families meets on 1st and 3rd Sunday mornings at 9am in the church nursery. There will be time for free play, followed by a brief circle time on parents' laps featuring movement-songs, simple Bible stories, and praying together. The next Toddler Survival Group gathering will be **Sunday, December 17th at 9am**. Please contact Millie Tourtelot, Dir. of Christian Education, at millie@pcum.org to RSVP!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS – Remember a loved one this Christmas by dedicating a Poinsettia in their memory or honor. Forms are available in the Narthex. Please drop your form & check in the church office. The deadline for poinsettia dedications is next Sunday, December 17th.

PCUM TO RECEIVE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH – For over 70 years, Presbyterians have supported the unmet needs of church workers and their families who have devoted their lives to ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Christmas Joy Offering that the PCUM family will take on Sunday, December 17th supplements inadequate retirement income for clergy and church workers, funds long under-supported ethnic colleges and universities, and provides supplemental medical insurance for former ministers, missionaries, church workers, and their families. Please give generously.

PLEASE SUBMIT 2024 PLEDGE CARDS! – November 19th was PCUM's Commitment Sunday, when members & friends offered their 2024 Pledges in gratitude for God's grace and love. PCUM's stewardship theme, *Resurrection Our Vision: Embracing All Generations*, invites members & friends to support this church's many worthwhile ministries in the year ahead. If you would like to pledge but haven't submitted your 2024 Pledge Card, please pledge today or asap! Pledge cards (and privacy envelopes are available on the table in the Narthex (entrance to the sanctuary) and at the ends of your pew. If you wish to pledge online, you may do so at www.pcum.org/give.

PCUM'S MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP meets Wednesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All teens and tweens 6th–8th grade are warmly invited to come out to have fun, share dinner, and meet old and new friends. Questions? Contact Youth Directors, Garrett Pahl (garrett@pcum.org) and Sierra Joy (sierra@pcum.org).

PCUM'S ONLINE PHOTO DIRECTORY IS LIVE! With PCUM's new online directory, you will be able to view faces and names, etc., of everyone in the PCUM family, and you'll be able to upload current photos and/or change your photos and details whenever you'd like. The new directory is secure and password protected, with each person/ family assigned a unique login and password. You will be able to use the search function to find people and info you need, text or email fellow PCUMers right from the directory, and view and join groups (e.g., choir, parents, Deacons) within the church. Please check your email or visit the church website for more information and directions on how to access the directory. If you would like a printed version, please email denise@pcum.org to request a copy.

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PCUM's *Core Values*:

Thoughtful, Nourishing Worship ✙ *Vibrant Ministry to Children & Youth*
Relationships ✙ *Participation* ✙ *Service to Others and to the World* ✙ *Relevance and Authenticity*

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Pastor & Head of Staff:

The Rev. Gregory A. Horn

Parish Associate: The Rev. Caroline Unzaga

Director of Music Ministries:

Anne Marie Juliano

Director of Christian Education: Millie Tourtelot

Co-Youth Leader: Garrett Pahl

Children's Programs/Co-Youth Leader: Sierra Joy

Church Administrator: Denise Silecchia

Livestream Techs: Tres Williams, Jerome Nelson

Custodian: Jimmy Abad

The Chrismon Tree, by PCUM Sunday School Students

The 'Chrismon' is a Christian symbol which represents Jesus Christ, God's very self, the One who comes at Christmas. A Chrismon Tree is decorated with white lights and gold Chrismon ornaments made of Styrofoam—with sequins, beads, piping, or other gold-colored adornments. Each Chrismon symbolizes Jesus Christ in a unique way. Chrismon ornaments are made in white and gold, with white representing the innocence of Jesus and gold representing the glory and majesty of God. As shared by our Sunday School children this morning, the Chrismon symbols and their meaning are:



The **chi ro** (pronounced kai-row), looks like an X and a P. These are the first two letters in the Greek word for Christ, so this symbol stands for Christ.



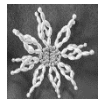
The **stars** represent the close relationship between the birth and death of our Lord. The six-pointed star is called the Creator's Star.



The **circle**, it has no beginning and no end, just like Jesus' love for each of us. The **descending dove** in the center represents the Holy Spirit.



The **orb** or world with a cross on the top, symbolizes Christ's power over the earth.



The **daisy** is the flower of simplicity. It stands for the innocence of the Christ child.



The **stylized fish** – Early Christians used the symbol of a fish as a secret sign of recognition.



The **serpent on the cross** – The serpent stands for humanity's sins—all we do and don't do that keeps us far from God—and the cross reminds us that Christ died for us, making possible forgiveness, reconciliation, and God's gifts of hope, peace, love and justice.



The **Cross of Calvary** has three steps at the base. The first step stands for faith, the second step for hope, and the third step for love.



The **butterfly** symbolizes our Lord's resurrection and the rebirth into a new and abundant life of those loved by Christ.



The **wheat and grapes** stand for the bread and wine of Communion, which represent the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus.



The **crown** depicts the kingship of our Lord and his victory over sin and death, as well as his place of honor at the right hand of God.



Hey, Kids, Families & Christmas Lovers of All Ages!

'Tis the season to
re-experience & teach our youngest
the joyful songs of Christmas faith

at PCUM's annual

Carol Sing!

Sunday, December 17th
3:00-4:30 p.m.
in the Sanctuary

Led by Anne Marie Juliano

Invite your friends!

cookies, hot chocolate, and cider provided

PCUM Youth Group Christmas Party

On **Wednesday, December 20th @ 6:30 pm**, come join other High School & Middle Schoolers for a **Holly Jolly Christmas Pajama Party** at PCUM!

All **youth grades 6 and up** are invited to come celebrate the Holiday Season with some yummy food, a hot chocolate bar, Christmas movie classics, and of course a ton of fun games/activities!

Your child can bring as many friends as they'd like but **YOU MUST RSVP by December 17th** including friends that are coming if applicable.

Check your email for a google form to RSVP and to sign up to bring something.



Where: PCUM Fellowship Hall/Youth Room

When: Wednesday, December 20th, 2023

Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

See you there!

And, please don't hesitate to reach out to
Sierra Joy (sierra.joy99@gmail.com) or
Garrett Pahl (garretpahl99@gmail.com)
if you have any questions, comments, or concerns!

Remember to RSVP by December 17th!

Thank you and Merry Christmas!



Christmas at Pcum

Sunday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

* 10:00 am ~ Christmas Pageant

* 7:00 pm ~ Service of Lessons & Carols

* 11:00 pm ~ Service of Lessons & Carols

ALL ARE WELCOME!

WWW.PCUM.ORG