

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WASHINGTONVILLE**  
Second Sunday of Advent  
December 8, 2024



**GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER**

Welcome to worship!

We praise God for everyone who joins us in worshipping this weekend.  
It is a blessing to worship God as part of a community of faith.

ōI am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you  
will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.ö  
*Philippians 1:6*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

ōMore Love to Theeö

E. Prentice

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Psalm 99:1, 9

Leader: The Lord reigns,

**People: Let the nations tremble;**

Leader: He sits enthroned between the cherubim,

**People: Let the earth shake.**

Leader: Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at His holy mountain,

**People: For the Lord our God is holy.**

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

**O Lord our God, Your love burns brighter than any fire, and our hearts turn toward You. We stand before You on this holy ground, and we are filled with awe: awe at the majesty of Your glory, and awe at the incarnation of Your Son, Who bridged the great gulf between us and You. Glorious are You, O Lord, and wonderful is Your plan for our salvation! Amen.**

\*HYMN #189

ōAngels, from the Realms of Gloryö

Advent Candle of Peace: Listen! Prepare the Way.

God sent messengers to prepare the way, messages that we have received as prophecy and prayer, hopes and dreams for a better world, one in which the reign of God is on earth as it is in heaven. Listen! Search! Be ready for what is to come. Not everyone will be happy when God makes all things new. There are those who cling to worldly power and privilege. They must be willing to let go and lose it. In this season of Advent, we prepare for the reign of God, which is at hand, and also drawing near, by listening to the prophets of old and the wise among us.

*Lighting of the first and second Advent candle*

*Gert Roosje & Karen Jankun*

**God, who began a good work in us,  
will bring it to completion on the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:6)**

Advent Candle Song #175 (v. 1-3)

ōWe Light the Advent Candlesö

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Forgive us, holy and faithful God if we have sinned against peace; if we have not shown the fidelity that is to spring up from the earth. Forgive us holy and righteous God if we have brought discord rather than peace to our homes, work and Your world. Open our hearts to Your peace. Give us Your forgiveness and make us peacemakers for Your kingdom. Amen.**

*(silent prayer)*

ASSURANCE OF GRACE AND FORGIVENESS (responsive)

Luke 1:68

Leader: Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,

People: **because He has come to His people and redeemed them.**

\*GLORIA PATRI

Avery & Marsh

**Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

## WE HEAR THE WORD PROCLAIMED

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-4

Pew Bible p. 778

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3-11

Pew Bible p. 953

ANTHEM

ōSoon and Very Soonö

Andrae Crouch

CHILDREN'S TIME

*Prayer requests will be collected following The Children's Time*

\*GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:68-79, 3:1-6

Pew Bible p. 832

MEDITATION

Rev. Martha Carlson

**WE RESPOND TO GOD**

\*HYMN #374

ōRefiner's Fireö

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

from A Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK ARE: all the people suffering in the Middle East, the people of Ukraine, Amanda, Anne, family and friends of Dawn H., Deborah C., Donnie S., Edd C., FPCW, Harvey F., Jim P., President Jimmy Carter, Claire & Jack, Kathy D., Linda R., Marietta B., Mary N., Martha B., Nancy B., Peggy W., Sabine P., Sonya H., Sue H., Sue R.- in hospice care, the family of Zachary C., and the men and women in our Armed Forces, especially Marine Riley Bray-Jones, Ashley Sabo-National Guard, Ben Clark-U.S. Navy, SSG Michael Grounds, LC Michael Haub, Airman Frank Terry-Air Force, and Air National Guardsman Christopher Jonza. Also in our prayers this week are: First Church Hamptonburgh Campbell Hall, Human Rights Day (12/10).

THE OFFERING

It is important that we offer ourselves to God, with or without the physical symbols of offering, because it is in the using of our gifts that we serve God.

Financial offerings may be mailed to the church. The church's mailing address is 30 Goshen Avenue, Washingtonville NY 10992.

\*THE DOXOLOGY

**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 FOR DEDICATION (unison)

**Blessed are You, O God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in**

feeding the world with Your love; through the One who gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## WE TAKE GOD'S LOVE INTO THE WORLD

\*SENDING HYMN #161

öPeople, Look Eastö

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (please be seated) öOn Jordanö Banks the Baptistö Cryö

Charles Coffi

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

The Levites (temple workers) were eager for the promised messenger of God to come. Why?

What do you think it would feel like to be refined in a fire or scrubbed with gritty soap and a wire brush? Do you think the Levites were going to be surprised by the messenger?

What is this lesson actually about? What kind of scrubbing and refining does God want?

What does Paul value about the Philippians?

What does Paul want for the Philippians?

Why does Luke include the names of political and religious leaders when he tells when John the Baptist starts to prophesy?

What is the big picture of why John is prophesying?

**Join the people who are reading the Bible-in-a-year readings.** This week's Bible readings are: Sunday: Colossians 2-4; Monday: 1 Thessalonians 1-3; Tuesday: 1 Thessalonians 4-5, 2 Thessalonians 1; Wednesday: 2 Thessalonians 2-3, 1 Timothy 1; Thursday: 1 Timothy 2-4; Friday: 1 Timothy 5-6, 2 Timothy 1; Saturday: 2 Timothy 2-4

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

#### Choices to communicate PRAYER NEEDS:

1. Send your prayer requests to Lois via email: [lmbd9999@gmail.com](mailto:lmbd9999@gmail.com). There are currently 42 persons in our e-Prayer Circle who are notified of prayer requests. Cynthia will add names from e-prayer requests to the weekly prayer list.

2. During Sunday worship services, fill out a prayer request card or verbalize your request at prayer time. The cards will be collected immediately following The Children's Time.

God does hear and answer our prayers! Thank you, God!

Prayer requests from worship services and from e-Prayer Circle will be put on our weekly prayer list and remain on the list for 30 days, unless requested otherwise.

**Snow Cancellation** – Our church cancellation policy during the winter months is to evaluate weather conditions on a case by case basis to determine if church closure is advisable for the safety of our congregation. The church's answering machine will have a message about closure. Our website will have a special notice on the front page. A group email will be sent and phone calls will be made to members of our congregation who do not have computers or do email.

Office hours: Tuesday 3:00-5:00.

Call the manse phone any time at 845-614-0048, or email Martha at [revmpc86@yahoo.com](mailto:revmpc86@yahoo.com) or text Martha at 845-260-2273.

The church office (845-496-3814)

will be open only as needed until further notice.

Messages left on the answering machine and emails sent to [fpcwashingtonville@gmail.com](mailto:fpcwashingtonville@gmail.com) will be checked regularly.

The church's mailing address is 30 Goshen Avenue, Washingtonville NY 10992.

The church's website is [fpcw.makeswebsites.com](http://fpcw.makeswebsites.com)

The church Facebook page is First Presbyterian Church of Washingtonville.

Questions, comments, discussion group on Facebook is Washingtonville First Presbyterian Church.