



*Even now, God approaches us,
mercy transcending anger,
hope overcoming despair,
life triumphing over death.*

November 30, 2014
The First Sunday of Advent

Celebration of Worship

* *If you are able, please stand.*

Prelude

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Ryan Kennedy, organ

*Zion hears the watchmen singing; her heart leaps for joy; she awakens and quickly rises.
Her friend comes from heaven's glory, strong in grace, strong in grace, mighty in truth;
her light brightens, her star rises. Now come, you worthy crown, Lord Jesus, God's son!
Hosanna! We all will follow to the banquet hall and take communion together.*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Isaiah 2: 1-5

Wendy and Ray Doidge

*** Call to Worship** (*responsively*) +

Amy Lawrence Bozza

Leader: In every season of life,

People: God is always with us, even when we believe otherwise.

Leader: In this season of waiting,

**People: Jesus reminds us that Bethlehem is the beginning
of our discipleship, not the end of the journey.**

Leader: In this season of Advent anticipation and hope

People: the Spirit opens our ears to the songs of the angels.

*** Hymn 106**

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Beredan Väg For Herran

Confession and Pardon

Call to Confession +

In this season of hope, joy, and peace, how often do people receive these gifts from us? As we begin our journey through Advent, let us put down those failures and foolish behaviors which keep us from getting very far. Join me as we pray.

Prayer of Confession (*responsively*) +

Leader: Holy God of Advent, you come near to us, yet we continue to seal our hearts with indifference to a suffering world.

People: Tear open our hearts, and make us more compassionate.

Leader: You approach us with bundles of mercy to kindle our hope, but we continue to build our lives with the bricks of bitterness.

People: Tear open our anger, so we might become more forgiving.

Leader: You draw near, longing to embrace us, but we fold our arms, closing ourselves off from those all around us.

People: Tear open our souls, so we might become children of Advent.

Leader: God, shaper-of-our-lives:

People: have mercy.

Leader: Jesus, Word-which-does-not-pass-away:

People: fill us with your grace.

Leader: Holy Spirit, Giver-of-the-Light-of-peace:

People: Shine through our lives.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Pardon + (*responsively*)

Leader: Even now, God approaches us, mercy transcending anger, hope overcoming despair, life triumphing over death. This is good news. This is news of great joy for each of us.

People: Enriched in every grace, blessed with joy and hope, transformed by love, may we live as people of Advent. Thanks be to God!

* Response (Hymn 586)

Alleluia

*Alleluia*⁷

A Time for Young Christians

Alexandra Mead

Prayer for Illumination + *(unison)*

Gracious God, may our generations be attentive so that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we remember your ways and gladly do right, meeting you wherever and whenever you appear. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading *(responsively)* Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Good News Translation

Leader: Listen to us, O Shepherd of Israel;
hear us, leader of your flock.
Seated on your throne above the winged creatures,
reveal yourself to the tribes of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh.
Show us your strength; come and save us!

**People: Bring us back, O God!
Show us your mercy, and we will be saved!**

Leader: How much longer, Lord God Almighty,
will you be angry with your people's prayers?
You have given us sorrow to eat,
a large cup of tears to drink.
You let the surrounding nations fight over our land;
our enemies insult us.

**People: Bring us back, Almighty God!
Show us your mercy, and we will be saved!**

Leader: Preserve and protect the people you have chosen,
the nation you made so strong.
We will never turn away from you again;
keep us alive, and we will praise you.

**People: Bring us back, LORD God Almighty.
Show us your mercy, and we will be saved.**

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come Paul Manz (1919-2009)
The Chancel Choir

Peace be to you and grace from Him who freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God, who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth ye saints below, for Christ is coming soon. E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; they need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all!

Leader: Following those hard times,

**People: Sun will fade out,
moon cloud over,
Stars fall out of the sky,
cosmic powers tremble.**

Leader: “And then they’ll see the Son of Man enter in grand style, his Arrival filling the sky—no one will miss it! He’ll dispatch the angels; they will pull in the chosen from the four winds, from pole to pole.

People: “Take a lesson from the fig tree. From the moment you notice its buds form, the merest hint of green, you know summer’s just around the corner. And so it is with you. When you see all these things, you know he is at the door.

Leader: Don’t take this lightly. I’m not just saying this for some future generation, but for this one, too—these things will happen. Sky and earth will wear out; my words won’t wear out.

People: “But the exact day and hour? No one knows that, not even heaven’s angels, not even the Son. Only the Father. So keep a sharp lookout, for you don’t know the timetable. It’s like a man who takes a trip, leaving home and putting his servants in charge, each assigned a task, and commanding the gatekeeper to stand watch. So, stay at your post, watching.

Leader: “You have no idea when the homeowner is returning, whether evening, midnight, cockcrow, or morning. You don’t want him showing up unannounced, with you asleep on the job.

People: I say it to you, and I’m saying it to all: Stay at your post. Keep watch.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Sermon

“There’s a Song in the Air: ‘Take Me Back’”

Dr. Lawrence

*** Hymn 94**

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

Jefferson

Moment for Mission:

Operation Love

Jean Johnson

Greeting/Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

(Please sign and pass the friendship pad, found in the pew, to the person next to you. Offering envelopes and prayer request cards are located in the pew pockets for your convenience. Cards will be collected with the offering.)

Offertory

People, look East

Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

The Chancel Choir

People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth, and set the table. People, look East, and sing today: love the Guest is on the way. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there: give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish. People, look East, and sing today: love the Rose is on the way. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People, look East, and sing today: love the Star is on the way. Angels, announce to man and beast Him who cometh from the East. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look East and sing today: love the Lord is on the way.

* Doxology *(unison)*

Lasst uns Erfreuen

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below

Sing praises, Alleluia!

Praise God, Creator, God the Son

Praise God the Spirit, three in one

Sing praises, sing praises, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

* Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

The 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.

* Hymn 800

Sometimes a Light Surprises

Salley Gardens

* Benediction

Postlude

Te Deum, Op. 59

Max Reger (1873-1916)

Ryan Kennedy, organ

We praise Thee, O God, we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord. All the earth doth worship Thee, the Father everlasting. To Thee all Angels cry aloud the heavens and all the powers therein.

To Thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry, Holy! Holy! Holy!

Lord God of Sabaoth [the hosts of heaven]! Heaven and earth are full of the majest of Thy glory.

Participating in the service today are The Reverend Dr. David C. Lawrence and Amy Lawrence Bozza; Alexandra Mead, Director of Christian Education; Matthew Webb, Director of Music; Ryan Kennedy, Organ Scholar; and the Chancel Choir. The acolytes are Elizabeth Bruen and Evan MacGregor.

+ From *Where the Broken Gather: Lectionary Liturgies for RCL Year B* by Thom Shuman. Copyright 2014.

GREETING: Jane Donegan, Bill San Filippo, Eric Seguin, and Jean Wotowicz.

THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are given in memory of her parents, Marge and Ben Tichy, by Lynne Harmen.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR today is hosted by Betty and Robert Cariello.

OPEN MEETINGS THIS WEEK: For a full schedule of meetings, go to our website.

Sunday, November 30 Office closed

First Sunday in Advent

- 7:45 a.m. Worship with Communion
- 8:45 a.m. Sunday School (Children & Adult)
- 8:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Seminar
- 10:00 a.m. Worship
- 11:15 a.m. Men's Chorus

Monday, December 1

- 9:00 a.m. N. S. Small Group (A. Mead)

Tuesday, December 2

- 8:00 a.m. Small Group (D. Lisco)
- 7:00 p.m. Advent Study (Verhoef)
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Wednesday, December 3

- 7:00 a.m. Small Group (M. Kaller)
- 9:00 a.m. AAA
- 10:30 a.m. Bible Study
- 12:00 p.m. Worship
- 4:15 p.m. Ekklesia Middle School Youth Group
- 4:30 p.m. Bel Melodia
- 5:00 p.m. Advent Study (McDonnell)
- 5:05 p.m. Bel Canto
- 6:05 p.m. Tower Singers and Ringers
- 7:00 p.m. Koinonia High School Youth Group

Thursday, December 4

No opening meetings today

Friday, December 5

- 9:30 a.m. Volunteers (Bulletins)
- YSOP Weekend trip leaves

Saturday, December 6 Office closed

- 7:30 a.m. Sandy Relief Trip
- 9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Yoga
- YSOP Weekend trip returns this evening

Sunday, December 7 Office closed

Second Sunday in Advent

- 7:45 a.m. Worship with Communion
- 8:45 a.m. Sunday School (Children & Adult)
- 8:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Seminar
- 10:00 a.m. Worship with a performance of Bach's *Magnificat in D major*



The Presbyterian Church in Morristown

Sanctuary and Chapel: 57 East Park Place,
Parish House and Offices: 65 South Street,
Morristown, NJ 07960

(973) 538-1776 www.pcmorristown.org



We are a historic church, part of a historic denomination, and we celebrate this history while exploring ways to bring passion and freshness to our worship and congregational life. Join us as we seek to discover Fresh Traditional ways to **proclaim, gather, and nurture**, all toward continuing Jesus Christ's earthly ministry of building God's Kingdom.

Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the narthex at the back of the church.

Visitor's Information brochures are in the stands at the entrances
to assist you in finding your way around our campus.

Visiting with Children?

- **Activity materials** for young worshipers are in the drawers of the literature chests in both vestibules.
- **Infant and child care** is provided during the service in Howard House, the building to the right of the sanctuary.
- **Restrooms:** Please accompany children (under age 10) to the restrooms. (Located through the left door by the bell tables.)

Special Needs?

- **Feel free to ask** ushers and greeters for assistance if you have any questions or special needs.
- **Large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices** are available from the ushers in the narthex at the back of the church.

Please come again

- **Worship Schedule:**
 - 7:45 a.m. Worship with Communion in the Chapel
 - 8:45 a.m. Sunday School – Adults and children at the Parish House.
 - 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
- **The Wednesday Worship Service will be held in the Chapel** (next door to the Sanctuary) **at noon.**
- **The Wednesday Bible Study will meet in the choir room at 10:30 a.m.** Parking is available behind the church.

More information on our Church, our programs and schedules
is available on our website www.pcmorristown.org

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