

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILIPSTOWN

Loving God...Loving Neighbor...for 190 years



WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

December 20, 2020/4th Sunday of Advent

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CANDLE LIGHTING

CALL TO WORSHIP (Luke 1:46b-55)

One: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
All: **"for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.**
One: "From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.
All: **"His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.**
One: "He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
All: **"He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.**
One: "He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.
All: **"He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."**

OPENING PRAYER

God of grace, you chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Savior. Now fill us with your grace, that with her, we may rejoice in your salvation, and in all things, embrace your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Let it be done to us as you have said. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESION

People of God: Immanuel, our Sovereign and Friend, desire of the nations and Savior of all; the One filled with grace and truth, desires we come to him now with open and vulnerable hearts confessing our sins, that we might be forgiven and find the new life we so desperately need and desire. We come to you, our Lord.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison) (Adapted, St. Augustine's *Confessions*, Book 9, "I Am Thy Servant") O Lord, I am Thy servant; I am Thy servant, and the child of Thy handmaid: Thou hast broken my bonds in sunder. I will offer to Thee the sacrifice of praise. Let my heart and my tongue praise Thee; yea, let all my bones say, O Lord, who is like unto Thee? Let them say, and answer Thou me, and say unto my soul, I am thy salvation.

Our Lord, as our confession concurs with your will, we ask that your mercy cover us. We've fallen short again and again in our attempts to be upright before you. Help us this Fourth Sunday in Advent to relax and trust in your forgiving grace. Help us to see the connection between the life you offer us today and the life we have in the New Heaven and New Earth. We will walk in the freedom your grace provides. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS Jesus, the promised Messiah, forgives our sins.

Silent Prayer

PASSING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

Offering may be mailed to FPCP 10 Academy Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516 or done online via our website www.presbychurchcoldspring.org

OFFERTORY PRAYER

HYMN

READING FROM THE EPISTLES Romans 16:25-27

READING FROM THE GOSPELS Luke 1:26-38

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION

HYMN

PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Many thanks to Carolyn Llewellyn for being our worship leader, to Lynn Brown for tech support, and to Music Director Tom McCoy.

Rev. Dr. Peter T. Johnson is married to Joanne. Between them they have 2 sons, 1 daughter, 4 grandsons, and a new baby granddaughter. They live in Westtown, NY. Joanne is a retired Minisink Valley teacher. Peter is honorably retired (2018). He served Denton Presbyterian Church, New Hampton, NY, for fifteen years ('03-'18); Noroton Presbyterian Church, Darien CT, for seven years ('96-'03); and Talmadge Hill Community Church, New Canaan, CT, for more than nine years ('86-'95). Before that, Peter tried out a few other vocations including Head Start Coordinator and New Jersey Corrections Officer. These days, besides staying home and Zooming with colleagues and Facetiming with family, he is on the Committee for Representation, and the Pastoral Care Board of the Garnet Health Medical Center. He loves all kinds of music especially the Blues, Classic Rock, and Roots music.