



First Presbyterian Church of  
**NORTHPORT**

First Sunday of Advent  
November 29th, 2020



#### Our Mission Statement

First Presbyterian Church of Northport is a welcoming community that invites all people to learn about and respond to the Word of God as found in the Old and New Testaments. Our mission is to be shaped by, proclaim, and live out the good news of Jesus Christ. We are committed to supporting the spiritual development of our congregation by feeding the spiritually and physically hungry, caring for the sick and lonely, nurturing children, and reaching out to those in need in our local and global communities.

FOUNDED 1785

# SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> 2020

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

## ~We Gather in God's Name~

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

+PRELUDE

Dr. Brenda Clark

“Come, Holy Ghost, Lord God”

G. Telemann

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Rev. Rachel Vione

MINUTE FOR MISSION

*Adopt-a-Family*

Elder Carole Gandy

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE and CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Joseph and Nancy Winkler

Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath. This is the candle of Hope. With Christians around the world, we use this light to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of god's Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness----on them light has shined.”** (Isaiah 9:2)

Let us open our heart's to the joy and gladness of Jesus' coming, for He is our light and our hope. Come, let us worship God!

\*HYMN NO. 106

*“Prepare the Way, O Zion”*

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

1. Prepare the way, O Zion; your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear. Greet One who comes in glory, fore told in sacred story. Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.
2. He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above. His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, peace, and love. Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.
3. Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace. His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place. All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him. Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

CALL TO CONFESSION (responsive)

You know what time it is:

Now is the time to wake from sleep.

Salvation is near!

Let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsive)

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

**Tear open our hearts, and make us more compassionate.**

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

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

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

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

God, shaper-of-our-lives:

**have mercy;**

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

**fill us with your grace;**

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

**Shine through our lives.**

*(Moment of silence for personal confession and reflection)*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

±\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

*“People Look East”*

Hymn No. 105, v. 1

***Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; glad of heart your carols raise;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who like me, should sing God’s praise?  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all your days!***

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE AND PRAYER

*(5th grade and younger gather on the chancel steps.)*

~We Hear God's Word~

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:5-13, 18-20

<sup>5</sup> In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup> Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. <sup>7</sup> But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

<sup>8</sup> Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, <sup>9</sup> he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. <sup>10</sup> Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. <sup>11</sup> Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup> When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. <sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.

<sup>18</sup> Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years."

<sup>19</sup> The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. <sup>20</sup> But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

<sup>21</sup> Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*"The First Question of Advent"*

Rev. Rachel Vione

OFFERING

*please give online at [www.fpcnorthport.org](http://www.fpcnorthport.org)*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*"I Shall Know Him When He Comes"*

D. Wagner

Andrew Warren, Ariana Warren, Dana Warren, Marie Michalopoulos Warren

\*DOXOLOGY

Hymn No. 606

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.**

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*"Medieval Fanfare and Recessional"*

W. Baylor

## Church Officers:

### The Session:

Marcia Mercer (Clerk)

#### Class of 2019

William Doremus

Carole Gandy

Kim Gilbert

Stephanie Lee (youth)

Cynthia Mies

Anita D'Amico Stambouly

#### Class of 2020

Joan Armet

William Heuer

Lisa Nikrant

Christine Spiller

#### Class of 2021

Dennis Crowley

Marilyn Fox

Dennis Hartin

Florence Ogg

Robert Shevlin

### The Board of Deacons

#### Class of 2019

Shea Contino (youth)

Jim Denniston

Susan Ebert

Vicki Field

Jane Hudson

Carolyn Louis

Jeannie O'Brien

#### Class of 2020

Melissa Barasch

Elizabeth Coleman

Rich Lambert

Marjorie Sundquist

Tiffany Thomas

#### Class of 2021

Jim Beyer

Marlena Dentrone

Tim Gladding

Robin O'Neil Gonzalez

Shelley Pierce

### The First Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Rachel Vione,

Pastor

Dr. Brenda Clark,

Director of Music and Organist

Barbara Kaifler,

Administrative Assistant

John Kennedy,

Facilities Manager

Kevin McKerr,

Financial Manager

Christine Mulholland,

Weekday Nursery School Director

Ariana Warren,

Interim Director of

Carol/Westminster Choirs

Dana Warren,

Chancel Choir Director

## Announcements

**Reopening Task Force Update** - At their November 24 meeting, Session approved the recommendation of The Reopening Task Force, to suspend in person worship until it is safe to do so. The Task Force will continue to monitor the recommendations from the CDC and the Suffolk County Department of Health to determine when it will be safe to resume in person worship.

**Food Pantry News** - The Pantry is open Monday-Thursday from 10:00-12:00. If you would like to make food donations to the Pantry, please place your donations in the "Big Blue Bin" near the parking lot entrance of the church Monday-Thursday from 10:00-12:00. If you would like to make a financial donation to the Pantry, please make your check out to "ELC Food Pantry".

**Online Prayer Service and Check in with Pastor Rachel** - every Wednesday at Noon. Watch your Tuesday email for log in details for the meeting. Please load the Zoom app on your phone or tablet and log in to the meeting at noon.

**The Zoom information is the same each week:**

**Meeting ID: 776 017 8040**

**Password: Pray20**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart!** Thanks to your generosity and the generosity of the community, the Food Pantry shelves are filled to overflowing! Different community groups have sponsored food drives, donated turkeys, given financially and dropped off donations in the "Big Blue Bin"...all to feed the needy in our community.

**Give thanks with a grateful heart!** You have also been generous in your support of the Adopt a Family program as well. Many names have already been taken from the list, but there are still some left who are in need this year. I will include the list again this week in my Saturday email to you. You are a generous congregation and care for the needs of our community so well!

In addition to participating in Adopt a Family this year, there will be two other opportunities to be generous to those in need. One is our Dawn Hill Outreach Program to assist those living in the Dawn Hill Home for Veterans right here in Northport. The other is a new outreach program we are participating in this year called The Little Flower School in Wading River. Little Flower Children and Family Services is a non-profit charity serving children across Long Island. The children that will be receiving the donations are a part of the foster boarding home care facet of Little Flower. Due to the pandemic, the funding for clothing and necessities that these students have received in the past has been cut, creating even more of a need this Christmas.

**Give thanks with a grateful heart!** Your generosity is amazing! Thank you to all who have participated in the 2021 Stewardship Campaign and submitted pledges for 2021. By now you all should have received your pledge cards in the mail. If you have not already done so, please submit your pledges in one of the following ways:

Email your pledge to [pledge@fpcnorthport.org](mailto:pledge@fpcnorthport.org)

Mail your pledge card to the church office in the envelope provided.

## **Advent Devotionals Begin Today!**

Check your email each day during the season of Advent for a daily devotional written by Jill Duffield from the Presbyterian Outlook. Many will remember Jill as our William Rambo Spiritual Enrichment Speaker in 2019.

We will explore being aware of God's presence in the moment even as we anticipate Jesus' incarnation. These devotions will seek to help us recognize God's kairos time within and working through our challenging chronos time.

## **Advent Calendars & Coloring Packets for Sunday School Families!**

All children grades P-K thru 5th who are registered in our Sunday School program should have received their Advent calendars and coloring packets this week. This is a great way for families to spend time together having fun and reading the scripture passages for Advent.

## **Prayers**

Please pray for members and friends of our congregation

For all those who are suffering as a result of the coronavirus, essential employees who go to work so we can be safe and healthy, Jerry Phelan, Gustavo Sanchez, Lou Schmidt, Alison VanDis (Nancy Hogan's niece), Howard Heckman, Jr. (Diane Lobough's cousin), Donald Sheetz (Bob Van Deusen's cousin), Rusty Feld (Leah Fink's nephew), Nancy Feld (Leah Fink's sister), Justin Yoskowitz, Aaron Thomas, Bob White, Brian Brewer (Faustine White's son), Charlene Cosman, the family of: Rose Marie Doty (Leah Fink's sister), those in Healthcare facilities- Atria: Ann Deery, our partner congregations: Nueva Paz, Cuba and Iglesia Evangelica Presbiteriana Nueva Vida, Malverne; the Presbytery of Long Island and its staff; the Synod of the Northeast, the Presbyterian Church (USA), its Louisville staff, its missionaries worldwide.

### **Cover Art:**

Zechariah Coming out of the Temple Speechless, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=29361>

Special thanks to Joe & Nancy Winkler & Kevin McKerr for making this service possible

## **Contact Information**

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### **Food Pantry**

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[office@fpcnorthport.org](mailto:office@fpcnorthport.org)