

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin**

**Sunday, December 3, 2022
1st Sunday of Advent - PEACE**

Announcements: Sharon Shutzer

Prelude

Welcome: Sharon Shutzer

*Call to Worship: Sharon Shutzer

Leader: Come, let's turn to the Holy.

People: We come to worship God our Creator.

Leader: Come, bring your hopes, fears, and longing for a better world.

People: We come to praise the Prince of Peace.

Leader: Come, as your whole self – body, mind, and soul.

People: We come to receive the Spirit who gives us life.

All: God, as we attend to you, fill us with peace. Amen.

*Opening Prayer: (In Unison)

Holy One, we gather today at the start of this Advent season with expectant hearts. Slow us down, God. Calm our hearts. Still our minds. Help us to be present to your Holy Spirit nudges, so we can witness the unexpected ways you are at work. O Come, O Come, Prince of Peace. Amen.

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath
The Candle of PEACE
Gina Valenzuela & Mitch Lawrence**

*Opening Hymn: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" UMH #196

*Praise Hymn: "Peace Prayer" John B. Foley

Introduction to A Time of Prayer: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Prayer Hymn: "Just as I Am, Without One Plea" UMH #357
(v. 1, 6)

Pastoral Prayer: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

[For those joining us online, please submit your prayer requests in the comments on the virtual attendance sheet, or email the church office. Your prayer requests will be lifted up in next Sunday's service.]

Nativity Story

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38 Anita Ritchie

*Friendship Moment and Passing of the Peace

[For those joining us online, please take a moment to sign the online attendance form:

www.freeholdmethodist.org*]*

Sermon: It's a Wonderful Life: "When Your Life is Disrupted" Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Offering: Today's **Special Offering** will benefit will benefit Local Charities: Open Door, Habitat for Humanity and the Emergency Housing and Advocacy Program.

Offertory: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" 15th Century French
Mitch Samu, Piano

*Doxology: "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH #95

*Offertory Prayer: (In Unison)

As we present our tithes and offerings on this first Sunday of Advent, we give thanks for the gifts you bestow upon us especially the gift of Jesus. May you bless these offerings and multiply them as we strive to do the work of your kingdom here on earth. May our work bring about peace and love to all. This we pray in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Celebration of Communion: UMH pages 12-14
*Sung Responses: "Communion Settings" TFWS #2257 (b, c, d)

Communion Hymn: "In Remembrance of Me" TFWS #2254

Prayer: (In Unison)

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Closing Hymn: "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning" Anon.

*Benediction: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

*Postlude "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning" Anon.
(Reprise)

Scripture Passage for Sunday, December 3, 2023
Luke 1:26-38

Liturgist: Anita Ritchie

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."^[a] ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"^[b] ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born^[c] will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Opening Hymn:
“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”
UMH #196

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Praise Hymn:
“Peace Prayer”
John B. Foley

Lord, make me a means of your peace.
Where there is hatred grown, let me sow your love.
Where there's injury Lord,
Let forgiveness be my sword.
Lord, make me a means of your peace.

Lord, make me a means of your peace.
When there's sadness here, let me sow your joy.
When the darkness nears,
May your light dispel our fears.
Lord, make me a means of your peace.

Lord, grant me to seek and to share:
To forgive in Thee, you've forgiven me;
For to die in Thee is eternal life to me.
Lord, make me a means of your peace.

Prayer Hymn:
“Just as I Am, Without One Plea”
UMH #357 (v. 1, 6)

(Verse 1)
Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy Blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

(Verse 6)
Just as I am, Thy Love unknown
Hath broken every barrier down;
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Doxology:
“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”
UMH #95

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.

Communion Settings

TFWS #2257

(b, c, d)

Holy, holy, holy Lord;
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
Blest if the one who comes
In the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!

Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!

Amen. Amen. Amen.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!

Communion Hymn:

"In Remembrance of Me"

TFWS #2254

In remembrance of Me, eat this bread.
In remembrance of Me, drink this wine.
In remembrance of Me, pray for the time
When God's own will is done.

In remembrance of Me, heal the sick.
In remembrance of Me, feed the poor.
In remembrance of Me, open the door
And let your neighbors in, let them in.

Take, eat, and be comforted;
Drink and remember, too,
That this is My body
And precious blood shed for you, shed for you.

In remembrance of Me, search for truth.
In remembrance of Me, always love.
In remembrance of Me, don't look above,
But in your heart,
Look for God.
Do this in remembrance of Me.

Closing Hymn:

"Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"

Anonymous

(Verse 1)
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning.
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning.
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning.
For the time is drawing nigh.

(Chorus)
Children, don't grow weary.
Children, don't grow weary.
Children, don't grow weary.
For the time is drawing nigh.

(Verse 2)
Darker midnight lies before us.
Darker midnight lies before us.
Darker midnight lies before us.
For the time is drawing nigh.

(Verse 3)
Lo! The morning soon is breaking
Lo! The morning soon is breaking
Lo! The morning soon is breaking
For the time is drawing nigh.

(Verse 4)
Christian, journey soon be over.
Christian, journey soon be over.
Christian, journey soon be over.
For the time is drawing nigh.

(Verse 5)
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning.
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning.
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning.
For the time is drawing nigh.

Announcements
December 3, 2023

Welcome to worship at the First United Methodist Church of Freehold. Whether you are joining us in person, or virtually, we are glad you are with us.

Today's **ALTAR FLOWERS** are donated by Anita Ritchie, in honor of Ray's birthday (December 8th).

HANGING OF THE GREENS - Join us after service today to help decorate the church with Christmas greenery. A pizza lunch will be provided.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

It's time to order **Christmas Poinsettias** that will grace the altar at Christmastime. An order form has been included in this bulletin. Order forms with payment are due by Wednesday, December 13th. The poinsettias will remain on the altar from December 17th through Christmas Eve. Poinsettias are \$10 each.

A MESSAGE FROM S/PRC

Join me as we show our love and appreciation to our church staff. Please give your donations to Melanie Bowen or place them in an envelope in the offering plate marked "staff gifts". We will be collecting your gifts through December 17th. Thank you!

SOUL SUPPER - DECEMBER 7TH

Dinner will be served from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

The menu will be: Beef Bourguignon, Mashed Potatoes, French Bread, Boston Cream Cake.

Sign up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall if you plan to attend.

UNITED THEATRE CHRISTMAS PLAY:

Come support Daniel Jeon, Kathy Mulholland, Gayle Trulli and Leah Zuckerman in United Theatre's Christmas play, "**Once an Angel**" - Performed on the Wesley Hall stage.

Show dates and times:

December 8th and 9th at 7:00 p.m.

December 10th at 2:00 p.m.

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW!

Tickets: \$20 Adults, \$18 Students, \$15 Children 10 and under. Tickets can be purchased through the United Theatre Website: Unitedtheatreinc.org/tickets. Tickets will also be sold at the door.

****We will have a collection box for Toys for Tots at each show date.***

MONMOUTH CIVIC CHORUS presents "**Rejoice Greatly**" a celebratory Messiah & More. Come support members of our church as they perform in this special holiday concert on **December 17th** at the Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank. The concert starts at 4:00 p.m. For more information and ticket information visit **Monmouthcivicchorus.org**.

THE 28TH ANNUAL JERSEY CARES COAT DRIVE

The First United Methodist Church of Freehold is collecting new and gently used coats now through Friday, January 5, 2024. All donations of new or gently used coats (Newborn to Adult size) may be placed in the collection boxes located in the Mission Hallway.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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|-------------------------|------------------------|
| (1) Sandy Kaiser | (13) Chloe Jeon |
| (5) Ryan-Brigid Mento | (26) Cathy Rupner |
| (5) Rebecca Leader | (27) Opal Peart |
| (8) Nancy Marcus | (27) Linda Gatti |
| (8) Ray Ritchie | (28) Nancy Schwarzkopf |
| (11) Kristine O'Donnell | (29) Sean Cronin |
| (12) Erika MacDonald | |



Join Us for Our Christmas Services:

Christmas Eve Service Times:

10:00 a.m.

4:30 p.m.

www.freeholdmethodist.org