**Dec. 5, 2021 2nd Sunday of Advent/Peace 11:00 AM**



**PRELUDE**  "Pour L'Avent"                    Benoit

**WELCOME** Jeff Courter

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Isaiah 40:3-5

A voice cries out:
“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
    make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together,
    for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

(One Candle - An advent liturgy for 2020 by Rev. Karen Ware Jackson)

Light one candle for hope. (light first candle)

Because the world is broken and the wait is long, but hope just won’t let go.

Hope holds space for all our longings lingers on the edge of harsh reality like the dawn gently awakening the sky.

“Keep awake,” she whispers, “for the world is being made new.”

So we light one candle, because it only takes one: Christ with us.

Light one candle for peace. (light second candle)

Because the world is broken and the wait is long,

but we refuse to be frozen by fear.

Peace comes in fits and starts- a deep breath a courageous truth a humble heart. “Prepare the way,” she whispers, “for the Lord comes to make the broken whole.” So we light one candle, because it only takes one: Christ with us

**OPENING HYMN#82** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

1 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.

2 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.

**CALL TO CONFESSION** Jeff Courter

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*(moment for meditation and silent confession)*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**  Jeff Courter

 **HYMN “**Glory to God”

 **1** Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,

 and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,

 and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
 As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

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

**PEACE** Let there be peace on earth,🕈**And let it begin with me**.

May God’s peace be with you.🕈 **And also with you.**

**RESPONSIVE READING** Philippians 1:3-6, 9-10 (NRSV)

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.🕈

**I 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.**

And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight 🕈

**to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless.**

**FIRST READING** Malachi 3:1-4 (NRSV)

1See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. 2But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; 3he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. 4Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

**GOSPEL READING** Luke 3:1-6 (NRSV) Jeff Courter

**3**In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, **2**during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. **3**He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, **4**as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. **5**Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; **6**and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

**SERMON** “The Prophetic Voice” Jeff Courter

**HYMN#102** “Savior of the Nations, Come”

**1** Savior of the nations, come; virgin's son, make here your home.

Marvel now, O heaven and eart, that the Lord chose such a birth.

**2** From God’s heart the Savior speeds; back to God his pathway leads; out to vanquish death’s command, back reign at God’s right hand.

**3** Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light.

Night cannot this light subdue; let our faith shine ever new.

**4** Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin’s son, incarnate Word!

To the holy Trinity praise we sing eternally.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH THE NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**OFFERING & OFFERTORY** Chorale Prelude on "In Dulci Jubilo"      Bach

**OFFERING SONG**  “Praise God, All You Nations” **(**DaNase)

Praise God, all you nations. People of God, sing praise!
Praise God, all you nations. People of God, sing praise:
God’s love is great and endures forever.
Praise God, all you nations. People of God, sing praise!

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

**CLOSING HYMN#129** “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

1 Lo, how a rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse’s lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

2 Isaiah ‘twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind. To show God’s love aright she bore for us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.

3 This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load.

**BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL RESPONSE**  “Joy to the World” (1st verse)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

**POSTLUDE** "Fanfare"                        Selby

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**UPCOMING CALENDAR**

**MONDAY, 7:00 PM** – Meditation & prayer group in the sanctuary

**THURSDAY, 7:30 PM** – Advent study online (Zoom)

**First Presbyterian Church of Forest Hills**

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 **David Yurick**, Organist **Nadina Grants**, Clerk of Session

 **Charlie Potter**, Chair, Deacons **Samira Clarke,** Nursery School Director

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The Mission of The First Presbyterian Church of Forest Hills is to welcome all people into our diverse family of Christian faith and fellowship, to experience and celebrate God’s presence in worship and daily living, to share the love of Christ by reaching out to those in need, and to proclaim by word and deed the message of God’s love and the Gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.