

First Presbyterian Church of Rumson, NJ



***Our Mission Statement** - “We, the First Presbyterian Church of Rumson, are called by God to be a spiritual and visible presence by living out our faith and sharing our gifts among God’s people.”*

Blue Christmas / Longest Night Service

December 19, 2021 * 7:00PM

Soprano: Suzanne Parmly

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Tonight, we gather here in this place of refuge,

People: perhaps we are lost, or lonely, or a little fearful.

Leader: Tonight, we gather to remember the wonder of: "Emmanuel-God with Us,"

People: while we may hold our heartache in the hands of tenderness.

Leader: Tonight, we gather with neighbors and strangers, a family made one,

People: yearning in Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love in the midst of our doubts.

Leader: Tonight, we gather as we are in our brokenness,

People: for we trust God meets us here and welcomes us for who we are.

***CAROL HYMN #347:** "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent", (v. 1-3)...Adolphe Adam &
Placide Cappeau

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Holy God of Advent, in the Child of Bethlehem, You became weak so we could find strength in moments of heartbreak; You left the safety of heaven to wander the wilderness of the world. You set aside glory to hold our pain so we might be healed.

People: O Child of Bethlehem, encourage us in these days. May Your presence be born in our hearts, in our hopes, in our spirits and in our weakness.

**Please stand if you are able.*

Leader: Eternal Spirit of the universe, open us to receive the assurance that You are here, waiting for each of us: to serve us, to hold us, to comfort us, to live in us, now and forever.

All: Amen.

FIRST LESSONIsaiah 40:1, 28-31 (pg. 816 OT)

***CAROL HYMN #87:** “*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*”, (v. 1)..... Genevan 42

SILENT REFLECTION / MUSICAL INTERLUDE

During this time of silent reflection, you are invited to print the names of those who have died that you would like to remember this Christmas. It is also a time to write down any loss you or someone you know has suffered, or a problem in the community, nation or world that troubles you tonight.

SECOND LESSONMicah 5:2-5a (pg. 1059 OT)

***CAROL HYMN #88:** “*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*”, (v. 1, 6, 7) Veni Emmanuel

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

Leader: We light this first candle to remember those persons who have been loved and lost. We pause to remember their names, their faces, their voices. We give thanks for the memory that binds them to us this season, which anticipates Christmas:

People: May God's eternal love surround them.

**♪ Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

Leader: We light this second candle to redeem the pain of loss: the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs, the loss of health. As we gather up the pain of

♪ *Sung*

**Please stand if you are able.*

the past, we offer it to you, O God, asking that into our open hands, you will place the gift of peace.

People: Refresh, restore, renew us, O God, and lead us into your future.

♪ **Silent night, holy night,
griefs abound, ever in sight,
Christ now comes in manger bare,
holds our loved ones in his holy care.
Joy, at last, to be ours. Joy, at last, to be ours.**

Leader: We light this third candle to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember the past weeks, months, and for some of us, years of down times. We remember the poignancy of memories, the grief, the sadness, the hurts, the pain of reflecting on our own mortality.

People: Let us remember that dawn defeats darkness.

♪ **Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

Leader: This fourth candle is lit to remember our faith and the gift of hope which God offers to us in the Christmas story. We remember that God, who shares our life, promises us a place and time of no more pain and suffering.

People: Let us remember the one who shows the way and who goes with us into our tomorrows.

♪ **Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

♪ *Sung*

**Please stand if you are able.*

OFFERING OF LOSS / MUSICAL INTERLUDE

At this time, you are invited to bring your papers to the offering plate on the communion table, remembering the losses you have experienced this year. In this way, we are offering our pain to God who wants to hold it and comfort us.

THIRD LESSON.....Revelation 21:1-4 (pg. 315 NT)

***CAROL HYMN #100:** “*Canticle of the Turning*”, (v. 1, 2)..... Star of the County Down

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

**Please stand if you are able.*

Rumson Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 399 * Rumson, New Jersey 07760
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Website: www.rumsonpresbyterian.org

Sunday Service
9:45am

Ministers of the Church:
All members

Staff:
Rev. John W. Monroe, III, Pastor;
Rev. Sue Smith, Parish Associate;
Andreea Fegan, Director of Music;
Sandi Van Cleve, Director of Church School;
Steve Buchanan, Office Administrator;
Pat Wallace, Treasurer;
Betty Ann Berube, Assistant Treasurer;
Angel Caraballo, Sexton

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Session

Lee Clay	732-224-0344
Mary Kiningham	732-747-2353
Andy Kirkpatrick	732-842-5412
Suzanne Parmly	732-936-9891
Ken Siebelist	732-371-1184
Roger Yockel	908-377-5796

Commission Chairs

Administrations – Allison Garth	732-741-6972
Congregational Life – Rosanne Monroe	732-500-6441
Membership – Sue Juncosa	732-546-4289
Mission – Anita Waters	732-284-9665
Nurture – Open	
Property – Diane Burke	732-742-4993
Worship – Noushin Framke	201-463-5401

Personnel Chair

Patrick Wallace	732-859-7873
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Clerk of Session

Andy Kirkpatrick	732-842-5412
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