

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."

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023 * 5:00 PM

“We are celebrating the feast of the Eternal Birth which God the Father has born and never ceases to bear in all eternity... But if it takes not place in me, what avails it? Everything lies in this, that it should take place in me.”

— Meister Eckhart

Assemble In God's Name

PRELUDE “*While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*” Luigi Zaninelli
~ Offered by *Suzanne Parmly* ~

INTROIT “*Angels We Have Heard on High*” French carol, trans. James Chadwick

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The amazing grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Now God is about to do a wondrous thing.

People: A young woman shall give birth to a child.

Leader: And his name shall be Jesus, meaning Liberator.

People: For he shall save people from their sins.

Leader: Holy, holy, holy is the God of countless galaxies and also of tiny babies!

People: The whole world is filled with God’s glory!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

One: The Lord will give you a sign.

Look, the young woman is with child

And shall bear a son,

And shall name him Immanuel (God is with us). Isaiah 7:14

All: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*HYMN #88 “*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*” vs. 1, 2, 6 & 7 VENI EMMANUEL

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: 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

All: We light this candle as a symbol of the light of the Christ Child.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less.

Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

***HYMN #123 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” vs. 1, 2, & 5 CAROL**

Second Lesson

Psalm 96

ANTHEM “*O Holy Night*” Michael W. Smith, Joanna Carlson, arr. Lloyd Larson
~ Offered by *John Garth and Suzanne Parmly* ~

Third Lesson

Titus 2:11-14

ANTHEM “*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*” traditional English Carol
~ Offered by *Mara Campolattaro* ~

Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

ANTHEM “*Breath of Heaven*” Amy Grant and Chris Eaton
~ Offered by *Alexa Kirkpatrick* ~

HOMILY “*A Hand to Hold at Christmas*” Andrew Kirkpatrick

WE GIVE OUR OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “*Song of the Manger*” Lloyd Larson

***THE DOXOLOGY (#607)**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Holy Spirit ever more;
Praise Christ, all people here below; Praise Triune God, whom we adore.
Amen.**

CANDLELIGHTING

HYMN #122 “Silent Night, Holy Night!” STILLE NACHT
(During the last lines of both verses please raise your candle.)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

***Please stand if you are able.**

Indicates song in Presbyterian Hymnal.

Ushers: Andy Bowe, Allison Garth, Jeff Wrightson, Roger Yockel

Merry Christmas to One and All!

Rumson Presbyterian Church

P.O. Box 399 * Rumson, New Jersey 07760

Phone (732) 842-0429 * Fax (732) 933-4918

Website: www.rumsonpresbyterian.org

Sunday Service

9:45am

Andrew Kirkpatrick : Preacher

Ministers of the Church:

All members

Staff:

Andreea Fegan, Director of Music

Sandi Van Cleve, Director of Church School

Steve Buchanan, Office Administrator

Rebecca Dorn, Treasurer

Betty Ann Berube, Assistant Treasurer

Angel Caraballo, Sexton

~ ~ ~

Session

Andy Bowe	732-513-3642
Carrie Eustace	732-212-8919
Andy Kirkpatrick	732-842-5412
Suzanne Parmly	732-936-9891
Jeff Wrightson	732-977-1902
Roger Yockel	908-377-5796

Commission Chairs

Administrations – Allison Garth	732-741-6972
Congregational Life – Mary Kinningham	732-747-2353
Membership – Andy Bowe	732-513-3642
Mission – Anita Waters	732-284-9665
Nurture – Carrie Eustace	732-212-8919
Property – Diane Burke	908-472-9268
Worship – Suzanne Parmly	732-936-9891

Personnel Chair

Roger Yockel	908-377-5796
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Clerk of Session

Open