



Pastor Jamie Gallagher
prjamie@flcmonmouth.org
Cell: 630-200-3550

Office: Angela Bradley-Volz, Secretary
Custodian: Chris Algren

Musicians: Janice Algren
Jamie Reynolds

Order Of Service

Gathering

Call to Worship
Announcements
Prelude Music

Advent Wreath

Advent Wreath Lighting
Hymn

Experiential Liturgy

Confession
Kyrie
Prayer of the Day
Peace

The Word

Lessons
Sermon
Hymn

Response to the Word

Apostles' Creed
Introduction of Living the Creed
Prayers of Intercession
Offertory Prayer

Nativity Scene

Closing

Lord's Prayer
Benediction
Dismissal

Worship Assistant:

Doug Cruce

Musician: Janice Algren

Wreath Lighting Video:

Cecil and Kay Lovdahl



Today's Readings

Isaiah 40:1-11 *The prophet offers comfort to the people with a message that the Lord is coming.*

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a *As we wait for the Lord's return, strive for peace and right living.*

Mark 1:1-8 *John the Baptist echoes the prophecy of Isaiah and announces the return of the Lord..*

Prayer of the Day

Lord Jesus, you were born to humble parents in a remote village. Now as we anticipate your return, fill us with peace. Release us from our anxieties, loosen the weight of all our burdens. Nurture us in a trusting peace that is grounded in the reality of your kingdom among us today. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Please keep in your prayers:

Bradley Anderson, Josie Blake, Bev Coulter, Nancy Dowell, John Ellison, Linda Ellison, Dave Erlandson, Jim Erlandson, Brad and Jodie Haist, Cassie Jern & Family, Delores Johnson, Graham Johnson, Bob Kerschke, Ila Roseberry, Norman Worthington, Darrell Thirtyacre, Donna Larson, Beckie Bean, Joy Johnson, Pat Root, Diane Bradley, Anna Lovdahl, Kim Anderson, Matthew Council, Raymond and Betty Bruyn

We celebrated with Sgt Lacey Elliott the end of her tour of duty and safe return home with her family.

Please let the church office know any updates that are needed to our prayer list.

The First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.³ A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."⁴ 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.⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."⁶ A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass.⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.⁹ Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"¹⁰ See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

¹ LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. ² You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.

⁸ Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. ⁹ Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. ¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. ¹¹ Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. ¹² The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. ¹³ Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

2 Peter 3:8-15a

⁸ But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. ¹¹ Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³ But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him,

Mark 1:1-8

1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;"³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,"⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."