

First Presbyterian Church Hackettstown, NJ



Good, New
by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell
Inspired by Luke 2:1-20

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2025

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PRELUDE

What Child is This?



THE RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook

CALL TO WORSHIP

On this holy night, we come,

dazzled and awe-struck, ready to sing alongside the angels.

On this holy night, we come,

eager and hopeful, ready to journey alongside the shepherds.

On this holy night, we come,

quietly and tenderly, ready to worship alongside Mary.

On this holy night, we come,

singing, trusting, believing, proclaiming: good news is louder than fear.

Let us worship our good news, with-us God.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Hall Family

HYMN

O Come All Ye Faithful (v. 1,3-4)

133

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem! Come, and behold him, born the King of angels! (Refrain)

Refrain

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing,
all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all
glory in the highest! (Refrain)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing! (Refrain)

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook

ANTHEM

O Holy Night

Senior Choir, Torey Ravo, soloist

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-4

HYMN*Hark the Herald Angels Sing***119**

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king,
Peace on earth and mercy mild; God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth,
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

SCRIPTURE**Luke 2:15-20****CHRISTMAS MEDITATION**

Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook

HYMN*Joy to the World***134**

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.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the
curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth, and grace, and makes the nations prove the
glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his
love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**OFFERTORY***Bethlehem*
Senior Choir**arr. O.D. Hall**

RESPONSE: *Angels We Have Heard on High* (vs. 3) **113**

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

READING OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook, Al Ravo, Torey Ravo

***Hymn** *Silent Night, Holy Night!* **122**
Stille Nacht

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.

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!"

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.

Silent night, Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us
sing Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born Christ the Savior is born.

***BENEDICTION** Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook

***POSTLUDE** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Welcome and Merry Christmas!

We are so grateful that you chose to celebrate the birth of Jesus here. If you are
visiting for the first time we hope you found peace here. We believe that God can
do amazing things in you! If you would like to know more about our church feel
free to visit our website. www.fpchackettstown.org or reach out to Pastor Erin.
We will be hosting a new members class in January.

Liturgy by A Sanctified Art LLC sanctifiedart.org



Christmas Eve | What do you fear?
GOOD NEWS IS LOUDER THAN FEAR



Good, New

by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

Inspired by Luke 2:1-20

16"x20" Acrylic on canvas

We often link fear and anxiety to bad news. But what about the moments when the news is good—almost too good to believe? The dream job offer arrives. The long-hoped-for pregnancy test is finally positive. The illness goes into sudden remission.

Euphoria, the fear of good news, often stems from past losses, fear of change, or the pressure of new expectations. Joy and relief may come first, but they're often followed by a quiet dread. *What now? What could this mean?*

In Luke's Nativity story, even angelic news stirs overwhelm. The shepherds tremble. Mary ponders. As she wraps her newborn in cloth, what thoughts rise in her heart?

The word "new" is nestled in "good news"—a reminder that even the best gifts lie beyond our control. In the birth of Jesus, we witness the mystery of it all: the terrifying, the unexpected, the good, and the new that hope often brings. —CARMELLE BEAUGELIN CALDWELL



Serving Our Congregation Tonight

<p><i>Preaching: Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook</i> <i>Music Director: Lorinda Ravo</i> <i>Video: Erin Roguso</i> <i>Greeting: Pattie & Dennis Huff</i> <i>Back Door: Russ Reed</i></p>	<p><u>Candelabra Lighters/Extinguishers</u> Jen Aquino, Al Aquino, Gabe Roguso, Mike McDonagh, Ani McDonagh, Jan Courtright, Maddox Fucetola, Jean Zetterberg</p>
<p><u>Acolytes</u> Angel Anyagwe, Veronica Aquino, Harper Ravo, Gabe Roguso, Ani McDonagh, Lila Roguso, Jessica McDonagh, Brynn McDonagh, Mike McDonagh</p>	<p><u>Offering</u> Janette Hendershot, Chip Cochran, Christian Cochran, Amy Cochran, Gabe Roguso, Maddox Fucetola, Nicholas Wojcicki, John Mark Wojcicki</p>
<p>Bells & Lights John Mark Wojcicki</p> 	<p><u>For Pastoral Care</u> Pastor Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook: 908-963-8341 Email: revehayes@gmail.com Call the church office at: 908-852-4011 Church Email: fpchnj@gmail.com</p>

