

First Presbyterian Church Hackettstown, NJ



Depths

by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell
Inspired by Lamentations 3:55-57



The First Sunday of Advent | What do you fear?
IN THE TIME OF HEROD,
WE LONG FOR GOD TO BREAK IN

November 30, 2025

1st Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

PRELUDE

This the Day

Little Lights Sunday School Choir

This is the day (**echo**) that the Lord has made (**echo**), we will rejoice (**echo**), and be glad in it (**echo**). (**ALL TOGETHER**)

This is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day (**echo**) (**ALL TOGETHER:**) That the Lord has made.



THE RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

On Sundays and Mondays,
on good days and bad days,
early in the morning and very late at night,
here in this room, and out in the world,
God, we long for you to break in.

Meet us in this space.

Surprise us with your presence.

Fill this room with your good news.

With hope, we sing, we worship, we pray. Amen!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

ANTHEM: *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Combined Joyful Noise Bells and Unity Chime Choir using boomwhackers

Invitation to Decorating of the Chrismon Tree

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-7

You are invited to hang the star and gold ball Chrismons as we sing together these verses from the congregational hymn:

What Child Is This?

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense; gold and myrrh; come one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:10-14

You are invited to hang the angel Chrismons as we sing together these verses from the congregational hymn:

Go Tell It on the Mountain

REFRAIN: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold,
throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (REFRAIN)

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth rang out
the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. (REFRAIN)

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us
salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (REFRAIN)

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION

Ever-present God, we long to feel you close. We long to feel your presence in our lives. We long for you to break through the chaos and suffering of this world. However, if we're honest, we rarely stand still long enough to feel you in our midst. Forgive our rushing and distractions. Forgive our wandering hearts, and center us in this space. Remind us that even in the time of Herod, even on the longest nights, you are always there. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Nothing can keep God's love away. We are seen. We are forgiven. We are not alone. Amen.

***RESPONSE** *This Little Light of Mine*

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 4:18-20

You are invited to hang the fish and anchor Chrismons as we sing together these verses from the congregational hymn:

The First Noel

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep. (REFRAIN)

REFRAIN: Noel, noel, noel, noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. (REFRAIN)

Scripture Reading

John 1:9-13

You are invited to hang the Holy Trinity Chrismons as we sing together
these verses from the congregational hymn:

Angels, from the Realms of Glory vs. 1, 2,4 **143**

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er
all the earth; you, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth: (REFRAIN)

REFRAIN

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new born king!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your
flocks by night, God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light: (REFRAIN)

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son, evermore your
voices raising to the eternal Three in One: (REFRAIN)

MEDITATION AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Pastor Erin

Scripture Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

You are invited to hang the cross Chrismons as we sing these verses from
the congregational hymn

O Come All Ye Faithful vs. 1-2

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!

True God from true God, Light from light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; very God, begotten, not created! (REFRAIN)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Sanctified Art

We have seen the valley. We have seen a sky without stars. We have seen the longest night, and still we believe. We believe in a with-us God. We believe in the hope of tomorrow. We believe that good news is louder than fear. We believe this good news is for all people. So even when our knees shake, even when our voice trembles, even when fear is all around us, we will hold onto that good news. We will reach for each other. We will look for God in our midst. We will sing songs of joy. We will proclaim: Unto us, love is born. We have seen the longest night, and we have seen unimaginable love. So still, we believe. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2-6

You are invited to hang the monogram and crown Chrismons as we sing together these verses from the congregational hymn:

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice!
Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

OFFERTORY

Away in a Manger

***DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him to all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host,
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Scripture Readings

John 1:14-18, Revelation 1:8

You are invited to hang the Alpha and Omega Chrismons as we sing together these verses from the congregational hymn:

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness vs. 1-3 **314**

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see. (REFRAIN)

REFRAIN

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice. (REFRAIN)

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. (REFRAIN)

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

Rise Up Shepherd and Follow



***Prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC |
sanctifiedart.org.***

Serving Our Congregation Today

Preacher: Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook

Worship Leader: Gabe Roguso

Music Director: Lorinda Ravo

Video: Pattie Huff

Greeting: Pattie & Dennis Huff

The cards this week on the piano for you to sign are for our friends:

Linda Burroughs & Carol Spitzer

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH

Interested in joining our church as a member? We would love to talk more with you about our ministry here. Feel free to fill out a visitors card and hand it to one of our ushers or Pastor Erin and we will make sure to reach out to you!

TODAY'S MUSIC

This morning, our Little Lights Sunday School choir opens worship with us as together, kids and congregation sing "This is the Day" for our prelude. We'll sing it three times, and we'd love for everyone to join in! Our Unity Chime Choir and Joyful Noise Bells combine forces to play "For the Beauty of the Earth" on an instrument called Boomwhackers. They are pitched plastic tubes, played by striking them on whatever is available. If you'd like to try out the boomwhackers after church, be our guest! (They're really fun!) Next Sunday our Senior Choir will be singing "Advent Celebration".

UPCOMING EVENTS

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Calling All Angels - Bible Study will begin on Monday, **December 1st** at 7:00pm. An Advent study of fearlessness and strength with the book called *Calling All Angels*. We will have 10 copies of the book, please let Pattie know if you would like a book.

ADVENT EVENTS

December 7 - Worship with Advent Candlelighting and communion

December 13 - Wreaths Across America at 12:00 (noon)

Stone Soup Concert at 3:00pm

Community Dinner at 5:30pm

On Saturday, **December 13**, we will host our Christmas themed community dinner at the chapel across the street. Anyone is invited to come and share a good meal and good company. If you would like to help cook, serve, or set up please let us know and we would be happy to connect you.

DECEMBER'S SECOND SUNDAY

Get your Christmas on! On **December 14**, Mrs. Shepherd will be helping us make a special Christmas ornament, and Miss Winnie will be bringing her delicious Christmas cookies for participants to decorate. Please be sure to sign up to help us prepare for both lunch, and to have enough supplies for all who want to be part of the fun.

December 14 - Worship, Advent Candlelighting, Christmas Sweaters, Ties, Cookies and Cocoa

This is your invitation to break out that Christmas sweater, shirt, or tie (festive or ugly!) and wear it to church. We'll also have a Christmas photo station where confirmation students will happily use your own phone to take photos of your friends and family to celebrate the outfits. There will even be a hot cocoa bar after worship, and we hope that if you can, you'll bring a dozen or two of your Christmas cookies to share too! Let's have some Christmas fun here at FPCH!

December 20 - Swingtime Jazz Band Concert at 2:00pm

December 21 - Children's Christmas play, Advent Candlelighting.

December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship with candlelight at 7:30 pm

The entire community is invited to worship with song, scripture and candlelighting.



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IN THE TIME OF HEROD, WE LONG FOR GOD TO BREAK IN



Depths

by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

Inspired by Lamentations 3:55-57

16"x20" Acrylic, oil pastel, metal leaf on canvas

I am reminded of my love-hate relationship with theme park rides as soon as the ride quiets into a slow, steady climb—creeping toward an edge that seems to vanish. It's at this point that full panic sets in and it hits me: a drop is coming.

It's not the speed or height of roller coasters that scares me. It's the weight—being pulled down by something far heavier than myself, strapped to metal with gravity

dragging me into the depths while my stomach scrambles to catch up, my heart left behind in midair.

Many of us, like the writer of Lamentations, know this kind of free fall—in our personal lives, in our ministries, and in a political climate that seems to collapse our sense of security into a bottomless pit. Yet, when the fall ends, when the deepest depths have been reached, who hears us when we call? As we echo prayers from the depths of each of our lives, we can rest in the assurance that we are heard by a God who meets us at rock bottom. —CARMELLE BEAUGELIN CALDWELL

FYI-INFORMATION

11/23/25	In Person Attendance	95
	Virtual Attendance	90
	Offering	\$3,884.71

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at FPCH

Sunday	10:00 am	Worship
	11:10 am	Joyful Noise Bells rehearsal
	11:20 am	Unity Chimes rehearsal
Mon/Fri	9:00 am-12:00 noon	Church Office Open
Mon/Fri	9:00 am-12:00 noon	Heaven Sent Nursery School
Thursday	6:30-7:15 pm	FPCH Ringers rehearsal
	7:30-8:30 pm	Senior Choir Rehearsal

Nov. 30 - Dec. 6, 2025

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES in our Chapel - Nov. 30 - Dec. 6, 2025

Monday	10:30-11:30 am	AA Step by Step
	7:00-9:00 pm	Jazz Band
Tuesday	7:30-9:00 pm	NA Change or Die
Wednesday	7:30-9:00 pm	Stone Soup Symphony
Thursday	10:30-11:30 am	AA New Beginnings
Friday	Storage use only	Colonial Musketeers
	7:00-9:00 pm	Colonial Musketeers Sr.
	7:30 pm	GA Meeting
Saturday	7:00 pm	12 Steps



FOR PASTORAL CARE

Pastor Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook Cell:908-963-8341

Email: revehayes@gmail.com

Call the church office at: 908-852-4011

Church email: fpchnj@gmail.com

Church Website: www.fpchackettstown.org