

*THE SERVICE FOR THE
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT*



Genealogy of Christ by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

CONCORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1800 FAIRFAX BLVD.

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19803

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 27, 2022

10:00 a.m.

* All who are able may stand

Congregation reads aloud the **BOLD** print

PRELUDE

A la Venue de Noël
Paul Fleckenstein, organ

Claude-Bénigne Balbastre

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Steve Clark

INTROIT

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v. 1)
Chancel Choir

Plainsong

WE LIGHT THE ADVENT WREATH

One: ...Today we light the candle of hope to remind ourselves that God is at work
in this world. *[Reader lights the candle.]*

**ALL: FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION,
GOD HAS BROUGHT GOOD NEWS OF LOVE AND COMPASSION,
JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY.**

One: Let us rest and abide in that good news. Amen.

*HYMN NO. 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

vs. 6, 7

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Nancy Tucker

One: God of today and God of tomorrow,
you say, "Bring your full self. There's room for you here."

ALL: BUT WE SAY, "OUR LIVES ARE TOO MESSY."

One: You say, "Bring your hopes and your dreams.
There's room for you here."

ALL: BUT WE SAY, "IT'S TOO RISKY TO HOPE."

One: You say, "Bring your grief and your prayers.
There's room for you here."

ALL: BUT WE SAY, "SOME THINGS ARE EASIER TO FORGET."

One: God of today and God of tomorrow,
we know in our hearts that there's room for us here.

**ALL: FORGIVE US, LORD, FOR WITHHOLDING OUR FULL SELVES FROM YOU.
FORGIVE US FOR GIVING ONLY OUR SUNDAY BEST . . .**

[Silence]

(cont'd)

One: Lord of life, help us remember, today and tomorrow:

ALL: THERE'S ROOM FOR EVERY STORY. AMEN.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE (all sing) *Angels We Have Heard on High* NO. 113, v. 3

**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!**

*SHARING THE PEACE

One: Let us now share with each other the peace we've been given by God.
The peace of Christ be with you all.

ALL: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

[Turn to those around you and share with them words and signs of peace.]

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 2:1-5 (NRSV)

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD.

WONDERING TIME Christina Pressley

*[Children in kindergarten – 5th grade may now follow the J.A.M. leader to Rm. F205
for creative responses to the Wondering Time.]*

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 1:1-17 (NRSV)

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD.

SERMON "Generation to Generation: The Story Continues" Pastor Steve Clark

SILENT REFLECTION

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**ALL: WE BELIEVE IN A GOD
WHO PROMISED TO ABRAHAM, WHO WRESTLED WITH JACOB,
WHO WALKED WITH RUTH, WHO SPOKE WITH MOSES,
WHO GRIEVED WITH BATHSHEBA, WHO DANCED WITH DAVID,
WHO DREAMED WITH JOSEPH, AND WHO HOPED LIKE MARY.**

(cont'd)

**WE BELIEVE IN A GOD WHO HAS BEEN LOVING, INVITING, TRANSFORMING,
AND CHALLENGING US FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION.
AND WE BELIEVE THAT SAME GOD IS HERE WITH US NOW,
SAYING, "COME ON IN; THERE'S ROOM FOR YOU HERE." AMEN.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MOMENT FOR MISSION *Update – Afghan Refugee Project* Nancy Tucker

OFFERTORY *The Eyes of All* Jean Berger
Chancel Choir

The eyes of all wait upon Thee, and Thou givest them their meat in due season.
Thou openest Thine hand and satisfiest the desires of living thing.

*RESPONSE (all sing) *What Child Is This* NO. 145, v. 3

**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.
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN NO. 686 *God of Our Life*

*BENEDICTION AND SENDING

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Rejoice!* Plainsong
Chancel Choir

[You are invited to exit quietly or remain seated during the postlude to enjoy a last moment of worship.]

POSTLUDE *O Come, Emmanuel* arr. Wilbur Held
Paul Fleckenstein, organ

Welcome visitors! We are glad that you have chosen to worship with us today. Please record your name, address, and phone number/email on one of the Connection Cards in the pew and introduce yourself to the pastor as you leave.

About today's bulletin cover: *Genealogy of Christ* by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman (digital painting inspired by Matthew 1:1-17) – "I chose to represent Christ using a rose at the center of the composition. The women mentioned in the genealogy are imaged as foundational leaves building and upholding Christ. In the bottom left, Tamar holds her father-in-law's insignia, which represents how she assumes his role as the leader of the tribe of Judah and continues its lineage. Moving counterclockwise, Rahab holds the red cord which she lowered to ensure the safety of her family after supplying Israelite spies enough information to achieve victory in Jericho. Next, Ruth holds the wheat that she gleaned from the field. She knows that she must marry again in to be protected, and so she takes initiative with Boaz. Bathsheba's name isn't even mentioned in Christ's genealogy; she is referred to as the "wife of Uriah." She withstands abuse from King David, survives the murder of her husband, and ensures that her son Solomon takes the throne. Finally, there is Mary who looks adoringly at the rose which represents her son. These women only wanted to ensure safety for themselves and for their children; in the process they ensured the continuation of the lineage of Christ."

The flowers today are given to the glory of God by Terry Lynch with thanksgiving for the work of our church staff and the blessing of family and friends.

Assisting in the service of worship are:

Deacon-in-Charge: Don Potter

Liturgist: Nancy Tucker

Readers: Gail Greene, A.T. Moffett, Simone Moffett, Teyton Pressley

Greeter: Marcie Jorgensen

Livestream Team: Bob Brown, John Barineau, Carol Haas, Melanie Slezak

J.A.M. Session



(Jesus and Me!)

After Wondering Time, children in grades K-5 are invited to follow the J.A.M. leaders to the Sunday School hallway for the creative response to God's word (Art, Games, Video, Mission Project). Parents are invited to accompany their child or remain in worship. After worship, parents should pick up their child from J.A.M. after checking in with the J.A.M. leader.



Mug & Muffin – Weds. @ 10:00am via Zoom: Our weekly Mug & Muffin Bible study meets again Wed., Nov. 30 from 10:00-11:00am, led by Pastor Steve Clark. To join the Zoom gathering online, click [here](#).

Resettling an Afghan Family

Our Afghan family is having some challenges. Their request for an extension of their food support and medical benefits has been denied. Their visas expired in early summer and with that, their official status as 'humanitarian parolees'. Their asylum lawyer told them they did not need to renew their visas as they were in the process for asylum. But this proved to be bad advice. Since Nov. 1, they are receiving only a very small amount of food stamps, and Medicaid will only cover a life-threatening emergency. We are working to reinstate their visas and push along the asylum process (either of which would renew their benefits), but this will take time. *Meanwhile, please go to the [Share the Spirit sign up](#) and help them with gift cards for food and gas.* Also, as always, we welcome financial donations to provide rent, utilities, and basic needs. [Donate online](#) or make checks payable to Concord, memo: Afghan Refugee Project.



WANTED: COOKIE BAKERS

Mary Circle is looking for cookie bakers to help us fill enough trays for Friendship House women's residences, as well as our Afghan family. We are asking for **five dozen** from each baker. Cookies can be made ahead of time and stored in the church freezer before Dec. 11. Please label the container "Friendship House Cookies." Cookies can also be delivered to the church kitchen on **Sunday, Dec. 11** and left on the kitchen counter.

Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Please contact [Peggy Carter](#) (302-824-0129) with any questions.

Advent Workshop

Sun., December 11 – 11:00am – noon

Make & Take Christmas crafts for all ages
Decorate a homemade gingerbread person
Enjoy punch & cookies

Items for sale to benefit Friendship House *Walk for Mission*

Admission free; donations welcome. Please RSVP to [Christina Pressley](#).





Share the Spirit

This season we are donating gift cards & bus passes to the women of Friendship House. These women are getting their lives back on a path to a healthy future with the assistance of counselors & mentors who so generously give of their expertise.

We are also assisting our Afghan family (the Asadis). As you are aware, the father is training to become a jet pilot in Dover. We can help by providing Wawa gift cards for gasoline for his daily commute, as well as Giant Food gift cards for the family. The mother loves to crochet a

variety of items (ponchos, hanging plant holders, etc.). Even though the Asadi family does not celebrate Christmas, we felt it would be nice to have some special, age-appropriate gifts of toys or books for the children.

To donate, follow this link: www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A49AAAE2EAA8-share

Advent Is the Season of Giving!

We invite you to take part in this *Reverse Advent Calendar* activity to benefit our community! Instead of receiving a little daily gift as we count down the days to Christmas, we will *give back daily* by placing a non-perishable food item in a box or bag each day at our own homes. (Use your own bag from home or **take a decorated bag from the narthex to use**, courtesy of our friends in J.A.M.!) 

Bring your items to church each Sunday in Advent and place them by the empty manger in the narthex. We will be sharing these gifts with the community by placing them in the Blessing Box outside Concord Church.

Suggestions:

Box of dry pasta

Box of cereal

Canned vegetables

Canned ravioli

Canned/boxed broth

Boxed mac & cheese

Spaghetti sauce

Canned tuna

Peanut Butter/Jelly

Canned fruit

Canned soup

Granola/protein bars

Shelved milk

Canned chicken

Pancake mix

Applesauce

Oatmeal packets

Canned chili

*No glass containers, please.



A

Concord Concert Series'
annual

Christmas Gala Concert Sunday Dec 18, 7pm

Featuring selections from
Handel's Messiah

and
traditional Christmas favorites

Professional chamber orchestra
Professional soloists
and
The Concord Chamber Choir

Concord Presbyterian Church
Foulk and Murphy Rds, Wilmington, DE

Free admission - an offering will be taken
with a portion donated to



Service of Hope and Light
December 4, 2022 @ 3:00pm

For those experiencing loss or grief
during the Advent season
Scripture reading, quiet reflection, prayer,
candle lighting, and special music

Led by
Rev. Steve Clark, Concord
Rev. Kay Morgan, Covenant
Rev. Barbara Price-Martin, Trinity

Trinity Presbyterian Church
Naamans & Darley Roads
Wilmington, DE 19810

