



**United Presbyterian  
Church of Plainfield  
525 E. Front Street  
Plainfield, New  
Jersey, 07060  
908-756-2666**

"WHERE GOD IS EXALTED,  
EVERYONE MATTERS,  
AND YOU BELONG!"



Welcome



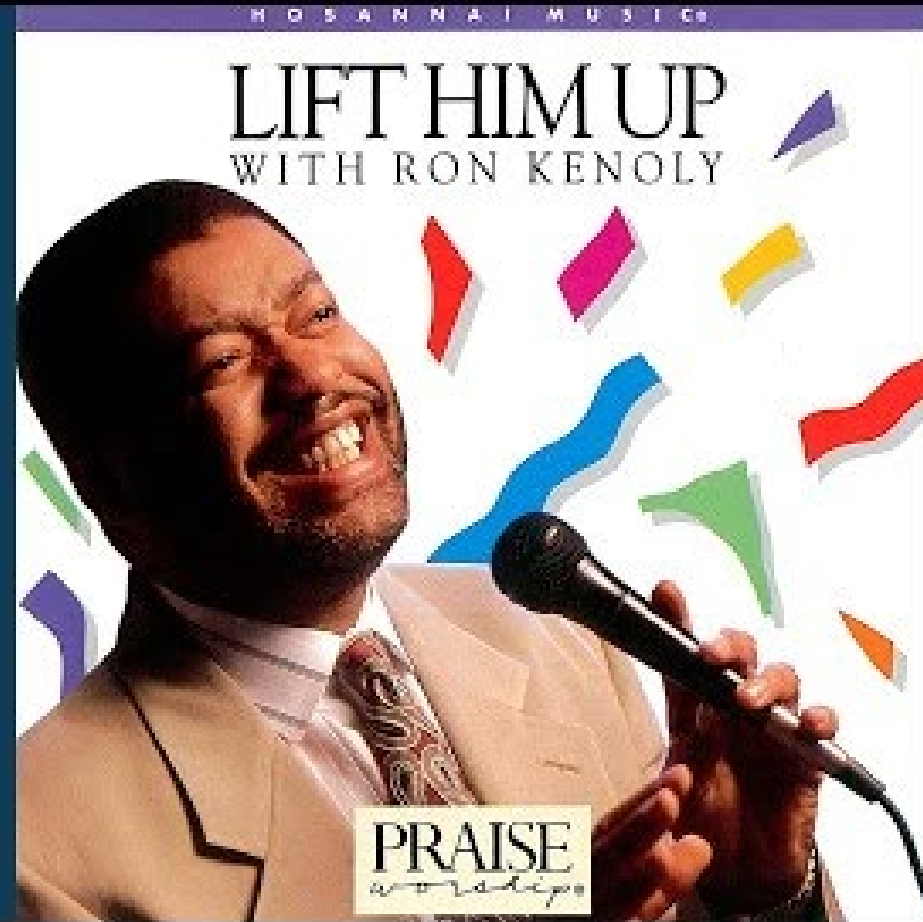
**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

LORD, you pour out blessings on your creation!  
You restore to righteousness and wholeness those  
formerly held captive to sin. Thank you for  
forgiving the guilt of your people— yes, you cover  
our sins. We are listening carefully to what you  
say. We hear your message of peace to your  
followers. Through your Holy Spirit, strengthen us  
so we will not return to our former foolish ways.  
Surely your salvation is near to those who fear you,  
so our lives are enveloped by your glory. Your  
unfailing love and truth are intertwined and  
abound. Righteousness and peace have kissed!  
Truth springs up from the earth, and righteousness  
smiles down from heaven. Yes, LORD, you pour out  
your blessings. Because of you, Lord, our lives, and  
all creation yield a bountiful harvest of hope,  
peace, love, justice, and joy. Righteousness heralds  
the Savior, preparing the way for his steps of  
justice and peace.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

(Based on Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13)

# **PRAYER OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING**



**SILENT MEDITATION AND OPENING HYMN**

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God says, "Comfort, comfort My people." "Speak tenderly to them and proclaim to them their forced labor has been completed; their iniquity has been pardoned. For they have received from the hand of the LORD double for all their sins." A voice of one calling: "Prepare the way for the LORD in the wilderness; make a straight highway for our God in the desert. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low; the uneven ground will become smooth, and the rugged land a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all humanity together will see it. A voice says, "Cry out!" And I asked, "What should I cry out?" "All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall when the breath of the LORD blows on them; indeed, the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever. Go up on a high mountain, people of God, heralders of good news. Raise your voice loudly, faithful followers of the only true, wise, and living God, heralders of good news. Lift it up, do not be afraid! Announce to the world, "Here is your God!" Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and His arm establishes His rule. His reward is with Him, and His recompense accompanies Him. He tends His flock like a shepherd; He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart. He gently leads the nursing ewes (the mature female sheep).

# FIRST READING

## Isaiah 40:1-11

This is the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“Behold, I will send My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way.” “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him.’ ” John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People went out to him from all of Jerusalem and the countryside of Judea. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. And he began to proclaim: “After me will come One more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

## SECOND READING

Mark 1: 1-8

Beloved, do not let this one thing escape your notice: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise as some understand slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance. But the Day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar, the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and its works will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to conduct yourselves in holiness and godliness as you anticipate and hasten the coming of the day of God when the heavens will be destroyed by fire and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with God's promise, we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, as you anticipate these things, make every effort to be found at peace—spotless and blameless in His sight. Consider also that our Lord's patience brings salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom God gave him.

## Third Reading

### 2 Peter 3: 8-15

The Boys Choir of Harlem  
Sings Hope and Inspiration



believe



we shall overcome

peace

**HYMN Let There Be Peace on Earth - Harlem Boys' Choir**

# THE MEDITATION

## The Three Layers of Peace

Peace With God

Peace Within

Peace with Others



COMMUNION HYMN      The Peace Carol The  
McCarters

# THE LORD'S SUPPER

# **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

# THE LORD'S PRAYER



**CLOSING HYMN Dragon School Oxford: Make me a channel of your peace**

Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.” Let us behave as children of God by practicing justice for peace exist only where there is fairness and justice. When it is in our power to do so, let us make peace quickly. As we go out into the world, Lord, let your Spirit reign in us and through us and give us wisdom.

THE BENEDICTION

# The United Presbyterian Church of Plainfield - Staff

Pastor:

Allegra S. Hoots

Director of Music:

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Administrative Clerk:

Pat Perry

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