



# United Presbyterian Church Plainfield

525 East Front Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060

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**Good morning!**

**PRELUDE**

O Little Town of Bethlehem



**WELCOME**





God of grace, your eternal word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life at the service of your will. Prepare our hearts for his coming again; keep us steadfast in hope and faithful in service, that we may receive the coming of his kingdom for the sake of Jesus Christ, the ruler of all, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



**UNISON OPENING PRAYER**



# LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE





# RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP



My soul magnifies the Lord;

**And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

The Mighty One has done great things.

**Holy is God's name! Come let us worship him together in the beauty of holiness – with a clean heart and do right spirit.**

#2

**OPENING  
HYMN**

Come Thou Almighty King





# RESPONSIVE READING

## Psalm 150



Hallelujah! Praise God in His sanctuary. Praise Him in His mighty heavens.

**Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him for His excellent greatness.**

Praise Him with the sound of the horn; praise Him with the harp and lyre.

**Praise Him with tambourine and dancing; praise Him with strings and flute.**

Praise Him with clashing cymbals; praise Him with resounding cymbals.

**Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Hallelujah!**





# AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

## Psalm 23



**The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures: he leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yes, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies: thou anoints my head with oil; my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Amen.**





We have sinned; not one of us is clean. But there is mercy for those who call on the name of the Lord. Please join me in the prayer of confession.



**CALL TO CONFESSION**





# UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION



Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my transgressions. I recognize my wrongdoing, and I am haunted by it. You desire honesty. So, wash away my sin, and I will be spotless; cleanse me in my innermost being I will be whiter than snow. Give me back my joy and let me once again rejoice in fellowship with you. Remove the stain of my guilt. Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a rightly motivated spirit within me. Do not banish me from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and make me willing to obey you. Then I will teach your ways to rebels, and they will return to you. Amen.



According to Scripture, when we confess our sins and earnestly repent God forgives us.



**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**



# PASSING THE PEACE



May the peace of Christ be with you!





# Announcements



## Advent Study

Nightly, 7:00 pm via ZOOM

01

02

## Session Meets

Wednesday, December 20, 7:00 pm

## Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 7:00 pm

03

04

Christmas Day Service is Cancelled



# RESPONSIVE READING

## Psalm 24



The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.

**For he laid the earth's foundation on the seas and built it on the ocean depths.**

Who may climb the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place?

**Only those whose hands and hearts are pure and do not worship idols and recoil wrongdoing.**

They will receive the LORD's blessing and have a right relationship with God their savior.

**Such people may seek you and worship in your presence, O God of Jacob.**

Open up, ancient gates! Open up ancient doors and let the King of glory enter. Who may stand in his holy place?

**Who is the King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty; the LORD, invincible in battle.**

Open up, ancient gates! Open up ancient doors and let the King of glory enter.

**Who is the King of glory? The LORD of Heaven's Armies— he is the King of glory.**

Who is the King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty; the LORD, invincible in battle.

**Open up, ancient gates! Open up ancient doors and let the King of glory enter.**

# PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION







# SERMONIC TEXT JOHN 10:1-10



“Truly, truly, I tell you, whoever does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2 But the one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen for his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will flee from him because they do not recognize his voice.” 6 Jesus spoke to them using this illustration, but they did not understand what He was telling them. 7 So He said to them again, “Truly, truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who came before Me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate. If anyone enters through Me, he will be saved. He will come in and go out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come that they may have life and have it in all its fullness.





# MORNING MEDITATION



# SILENT MEDITATION



# CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP



# PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING



# PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE





# THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth  
as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily  
bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have  
forgiven our debtors. Lead us away from  
temptation and deliver us from evil. For thine is  
the kingdom, and the power, and the glory  
forever. Amen.

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



**CLOSING HYMN**  
**GTG #123**





# BENEDICTION



Now may the God of hope fill each of us with all joy and peace as we believe in Him so we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15: 13)





**#599**

**CONG.  
RESPONSE**





**Have a good  
day!**

**POSTLUDE**

Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us