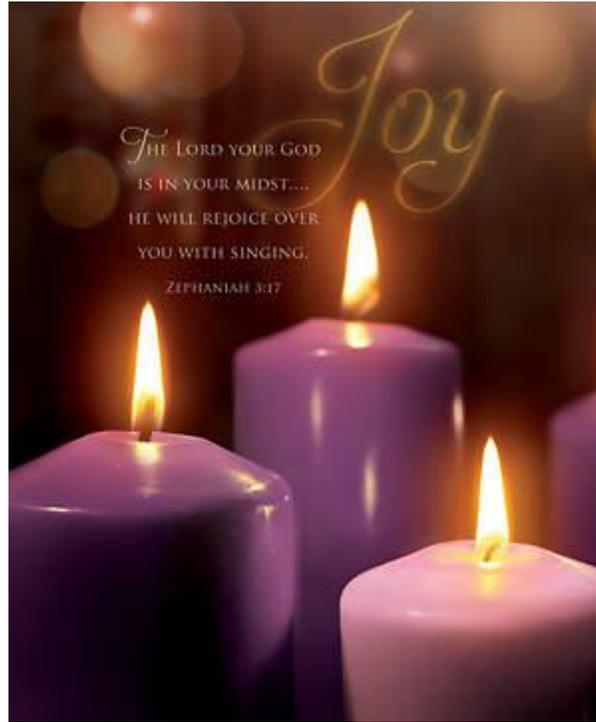


The United First Presbyterian Church  
of Amwell at Larison's Corner



The Reverend Courtney B. Cromie, Pastor

PO Box 348, Ringoes, New Jersey 08551  
908-788-2722  
Email: [pastorcourtney@larisonscorner.org](mailto:pastorcourtney@larisonscorner.org)  
[www.larisonscorner.org](http://www.larisonscorner.org)

**SUNDAY WORSHIP DECEMBER 12, 2021 11:00 AM  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**GREETING AND WELCOME**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: On this third Sunday of Advent we seek Joy. May new breath and beats enter all hearts that have been broken.

**People: May Joy awaken us from the nightmare of grief and loss and cause flight towards the sun on wings we forgot we had.**

Leader: Joy is God's melody amid the discord of life, a song that carries the rhythm of eternity. It's a song tuned to hope and peace, touching the chords of longing in our souls.

**People: The coming of Christ is Good News of great joy! We give thanks to God for the promise of full joy that this season brings to light.**

All: We are here to worship and prepare our hearts to receive Great Joy.

**All: Let us Worship God!**

**ADVENT CANDLE READING** Lois Riggs

**HYMN Do You Hear What I Hear?**

Said the night wind to the little lamb Do you see what I see? (Do you see what I see?) Way up in the sky, little lamb Do you see what I see? (Do you see what I see?) A star, a star, dancing in the night With a tail as big as a kite With a tail as big as a kite

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy Do you hear what I hear? (Do you hear what I hear?) Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy Do you hear what I hear? (Do you hear what I hear?) A song, a song high above the trees With a voice as big as the sea With a voice as big as the sea

Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king Do you know what I know? (Do you know what I know?) In your palace warm, mighty king Do you know what I know? (Do you know what I know?) A Child, a Child shivers in the cold Let us bring him silver and gold Let us bring him silver and gold

Said the king to the people everywhere Listen to what I say! (Listen to what I say!) Pray for peace, people, everywhere Listen to what I say! (Listen to what I say!) The Child, the Child sleeping in the night He will bring us goodness and light He will bring us goodness and light

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)** Prayer of Confession

It is getting more and more difficult, Lord, for us to keep our attention on the holy things. Our lives are caught up in the planning, parties, gifts, and other such things. We get side-tracked too easily and exhausted, we fall into restless sleep. The cries of those in need abound and we are overwhelmed by the need. Too often we turn a deaf ear because we feel we just can't meet all the needs that are presented to us. Heal our hearts and spirits, Lord. Help us understand that you do not ask us to heal everything but rather to find a simple way in which we might lighten someone else's burden, as you have lightened our lives. You have brought hope and peace to us. Now cause us to rejoice in the wondrous things that you have done. Teach us to use our gifts for the common good, and that in helping, we find great and abundant joy. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**GLORIA PATRI** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, And to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: World without end. Amen.

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS / WAVING THE PEACE**

## **A TIME FOR THOSE WHO ARE YOUNG**

### **HYMN Carol of The Bells**

Hark how the bells, sweet silver bells, all seem to say, throw cares away  
Christmas is here, bringing good cheer, to young and old, meek and the bold.  
Ding dong ding dong that is their song with joyful ring all caroling. One seems to  
hear words of good cheer from everywhere filling the air. Oh how they pound,  
raising the sound, o'er hill and dale, telling their tale.

Gaily they ring while people sing songs of good cheer, Christmas is here.  
Merry, Merry, Merry, Merry Christmas, Merry, Merry, Merry, Merry Christmas.  
On on they send, on without end, their joyful tone to every home. Ding dong  
ding... dong! Hark how the bells, sweet silver bells, all seem to say, throw cares  
away Christmas is here, bringing good cheer, to young and old, meek and the  
bold. Ding dong ding dong that is their song with joyful ring all caroling.

One seems to hear words of good cheer from everywhere filling the air. Oh  
how they pound, raising the sound, o'er hill and dale, telling their tale. Gaily they  
ring while people sing songs of good cheer, Christmas is here. Merry, Merry,  
Merry, Merry Christmas, Merry, Merry, Merry, Merry Christmas. On on they send,  
on without end, their joyful tone to every home. Hark how the bells, sweet silver  
bells, all seem to say, throw cares away

## **OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING** Psalm 126:1-6

126:1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. 126:2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." 126:3 The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. 126:4 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb. 126:5 May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. 126:6 Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

## **NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE** Luke 2:10-16

10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

## **MEDITATION** – "Joy for December Blues"

### **HYMN** – The Little Drummer Boy

Come they told me Pa rum pum pum-pum A newborn King to see Pa rum pum pum-pum Our finest gifts we bring Pa rum pum pum-pum To lay before the king Pa rum pum pum-pum Rum pum pum-pum Rum pum pum-pum So to honor Him Pa rum pum pum-pum When we come

Baby Jesu', pa-rum pum pum pum I am a poor boy too, pa-rum pum pum pum I have no gift to bring pa-rum pum pum pum That's fit to give our King pa-rum pum pum pum Rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum Shall I play for you, pa-rum pum pum pum On my drum?

Mary nodded pa-rum pum pum pum The Ox and Lamb kept time pa-rum pum pum pum I played my drum for Him pa-rum pum pum pum I played my best for Him pa-rum pum pum pum Rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum Then He smiled at me pa-rum pum pum pum Me and my drum Me and my drum

## **PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

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

## **SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Upcoming Birthdays/Anniversaries: Last Week – Harry Cooley, Dec 7; Aimee Everitt-Barzona, December 15, Gail Jorgensen, December 15, Paula Melbourn, December 15, John Chiesa, December 16*

Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

## **HYMN Breath of Heaven**

I have traveled many moonless nights  
Cold and weary with a babe inside  
And I wonder what I've done  
Holy father you have come  
And chosen me now to  
carry your son  
I am waiting in a silent prayer  
I am frightened by the load I bear  
In a world as cold as stone  
Must I walk this path alone?  
Be with me now  
Be with me now

Breath of heaven Hold me together  
Be forever near me  
Breath of heaven  
Breath of heaven Lighten my darkness  
Pour over me your holiness  
For you are holy  
Breath of heaven

Do you wonder as you watch my face  
If a wiser one should have had my  
place  
But I offer all I am  
For the mercy of your plan  
Help me be strong  
Help me be  
Help me

Breath of heaven Hold me together  
Be forever near me  
Breath of heaven  
Breath of heaven Lighten my darkness  
Pour over me your holiness  
For you are holy

Breath of heaven Hold me together  
Be forever near me  
Breath of heaven  
Breath of heaven Lighten my darkness  
Pour over me your holiness  
For you are holy  
Breath of heaven  
Breath of heaven  
Breath of heaven

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - Written by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing**

We believe that God has come to us;

that God brought us into being,

that this God gave us breath and purpose,

that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others,

that we have fallen short of this commandment

but that God has nevertheless loved us despite our brokenness.

We believe that God is coming to us;

that God is not happy to leave us alone,

that this God will come to us as a particular human being,

that God will be made known to us in flesh and bone like ours,

that Mary will soon give birth and Joseph will soon clap his hands in joy,

that Jesus Christ will be born and our salvation made complete.

We believe that God will come to us;

that God will have the final word and that Word will be good,

that this God will give us the presence of the Spirit to continue our work,

that we are called to be disciples to all the corners of the earth,

that the day is coming when tears and pain will be no more,

and all will gather at the Table to sing an endless and perfect "Alleluia!"

## **HYMN – Joy to The World**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men 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.

## **BENEDICTION**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WORSHIP INSIDE every Sunday at 11 AM!** - Worship is live-streamed on Facebook at 11 AM; Recordings of worship available at a later date.

**TODAY, December 12<sup>th</sup> After Church "Ugly" Christmas Sweater Gathering.** There will be lunch, decorating of sweater cookies, crafts, etc. Bakers are needed to make "Sweater Sugar Cookies" to decorate and cake decorating trims are also needed. Please bring your own small bottle of FABRIC GLUE and scissors See Lois if you can help. \*Everyone is Invited – You do NOT have to have an Ugly Christmas Sweater 😊

**THIS Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM – Ladies of the Church Potluck Appetizer "Dinner"** at Barri-Lynn's. ALL ladies of the church are invited. We hope to see you there. See Barri-Lynn for more info, etc.

**ONGOING Christmas Cookie Sale by The Dozen at The Everitt Farm Three Weekends in December (12/12, & 12/18-19)** The Annual Corner Club Christmas Cookie Sale is at The Everitt Farm Shop next to the Christmas Tree Sale. A dozen of the same cookie can be bought for \$7 on Saturdays & Sundays - December 12, and December 19 & 20. Folks can buy one bag of cookies or as many as they like from the store cashier. Volunteers are needed to bake Christmas Cookies to contribute to the sale. If you are willing to bake cookies, you can bake them for one weekend or all three. Cookies should be dropped off at the farm in bags by Friday. For more information, contact Barri-Lynn or Betty Jane.

**Per Capita** – In support of our Presbytery, NE Synod Staff & Mission, and The General Assembly Staff & Mission, our church is asked submit "dues/or per capita" equal to \$34.50 per member. Please mark it for Per Capita *There is a category in Tithely for Per Capita*

**Donations for the Thomas Lambert Fund** It's not too late to submit a donation for the Thomas Lambert Fund..... Donations submitted will be used to support individuals in need and worthwhile causes during the Christmas Season. Thomas Lambert was a dedicated and faithful member of Larison's Corner for many years and his life had a great impact on our church and in our community. This collection honors his life and legacy. **Checks should be made out to Larison's Corner with a note in the memo saying, "Thomas Lambert Fund."** *There is also an option to give to the Thomas Lambert Fund via Tithely.*

**Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> 5 PM Help Needed at the Everitt Farm.** Folks will gather to help set-up for the Worship on The Farm/Live Nativity. For more info, see Kathy Kovacs or Barri-Lynn Everitt.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship: 6:15 – 7:00 PM** An indoor Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on December 24<sup>th</sup> inside our church. Come join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

**Larison's Corner Christmas Eve Service on The Farm, 8 – 8:30 PM** – (The Everitt Farm, 258 County Road 579, Ringoes, NJ 08551) There will be Live Animals, a Live Nativity, a Telling of the Christmas Story, a Mini Sermon, Singing of Carols, Apple Cider, Cookies, etc.

**Share Your Resources to Support the Ministry of Larison's Corner** – During this holiday season, each of us is called to think of others and to share the blessings we have received with causes that our dear to our hearts. Larison's Corner Church is a beacon of light to Ringoes and beyond. We pray that all who pass by and enter our doors would feel the power and presence of our Lord and know of the love and forgiveness found in Christ Jesus. As we buy others gifts to celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us remember the wise men who brought gifts fit for a king to lay at Jesus' feet. May we also lay our finest gifts before our Lord for the work and ministry of Larison's Corner.

Ways to Give:

1. Leave a gift in **the worship offering** via cash or check;
2. **Mail in a gift** via check to Larison's Corner Church, PO Box 348, Ringoes, NJ 08551;
3. \*We have a **NEW** way to **give online** now, thanks to Deborah Kacerek-Cooley (Assistant Treasurer) and Luke Kirby (Treasurer). This is through "Tithely" You can make an online gift, by visiting our website link at: <https://larisonscorner.org/contributions/>. You may also give on Facebook in our "about" section or by clicking here: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=4558529> - Once you are in Tithely, you can set up a one-time gift, ongoing gifts, or a special gift. You also have the option to set up an account or to give a gift as a guest! \* *You can also download the Tithely app to your smart phone via Apple or Google.* Give right now by putting your phone camera over the image above and following the link. See Luke Kirby or Deborah Kacerek-Cooley with an questions or for more info.



## **Session**

(Session meetings are the second Tuesday at 7:30 pm)

### **Class of 2021**

Betty Jane Biache  
Ruth Chiesa

### **Class of 2022**

David Bond  
Dianne Fleming

### **Class of 2023**

Lysa Reiter  
Lois Riggs  
Charlie Rogers

## **Other Ordained Elders**

Donna DeVico  
Arlene Knaub  
Jodi Reed

Judy Grignon  
Marlene Lambert

Bill Heilman  
Paula Melbourn

## **Board of Trustees**

(Board of Trustees meets the first Tuesday at 7:30 pm)

### **Class of 2021**

Kyle Bond

### **Class of 2022**

John Chiesa  
David Everitt

### **Class of 2023**

Bill Kurylo  
Treacy Weeks

## **Corner Club**

President - Lois Riggs / Vice President – Kathy Kovacs  
Secretary - Ruth Chiesa / Treasurer - Barri-Lynn Everitt

**The Reverend Courtney B. Cromie**, Stated-Supply Part-Time Pastor  
**Luke Kirby**, Treasurer / **Deborah Kacerek-Cooley**, Assistant Treasurer  
**Lois Riggs**, Clerk of Session  
**Sue Mannino**, Organist Emeritus