

# Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

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Website: [www.witherspoonchurch.org](http://www.witherspoonchurch.org)

Rev. M. Muriel Burrows, Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Louise Johnson, Director of Christian Education  
Patricia Fernández-Kelly, Lector

Beverly Owens, Music Director  
Amy Shortt, Interim Organist  
David Shedden, Seminary Intern

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December 10, 2006

10:00 a.m.

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## Second Sunday of Advent: Peace

*Enter Reverently, Meditate Quietly, Worship Devoutly,  
Leave Gratefully, Serve Christ Faithfully*

### PRELUDE

### INTROIT

*Come Here, Jesus*

Carter

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### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: The news is out! The messenger is coming!

**People: He will bring with him the covenant in which we delight.**

Leader: Every valley shall be lifted. Every mountain and hill made low.  
Crooked places shall be made straight and rough places smooth.

**People: Our mouths are filled with laughter, O God.**

**Our tongues are ready to shout for joy!**

**For you have done great things for us.**

Leader: The day foretold is coming when our deafened ears will hear a choir,  
a heavenly host proclaiming peace!

**People: The One foretold is coming, whose cry will pierce the deepest  
gloom, a newborn's wail in the silent night!**

Leader: The day is at hand! The Savior draws near!

**All: Let us worship the living, loving God!**

### \*OPENING HYMN

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

#2

## LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

### THE CANDLE OF PEACE

Yuan/Minter Family

Reader: Last Sunday we lit the first candle in our Advent wreath, the candle of hope. We light it again as we remember that Christ, who was born in Bethlehem, will come again to fulfill all of God's promises to us.

\*\*\* (Light the first candle) \*\*\*

Reader: The second candle of Advent is the candle of peace. Peace is a word we hear a lot. It is one of the things we hope for. Christ brought peace when he first came to us and he will bring everlasting peace when he comes again.

Reader: The prophet Isaiah called Christ "the Prince of Peace." When Jesus came, he taught people the importance of being peacemakers. He said that those who make peace shall be called the children of God.

Reader: We light the candle of peace to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and that through him peace is found.

\*\*\* (Light the second candle) \*\*\*

Reader: Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle, we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ.

Reader: Let us pray: Thank you God for the peace you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your peace with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

### CANDLE LIGHTING SONG

*A Candle Is Burning*  
by Sandra Dean, 1986

(tune: *Away in a Manger*)

**A Candle is burning, a Candle of Peace,  
A Candle to signal that conflict must cease:  
For Jesus is coming to show us the way;  
A message of Peace humbly laid in the hay.**

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: We come before the refiner's fire, that all falseness and impurities may be burned away. Beneath all the pretense and brokenness of our lives, God helps us to discover pure silver and gold. We are highly valued by our Maker. Let us be fully open to God's forgiving spirit. Let us pray: Merciful God, we bring before you these things in our worship and in our lives which cause you pain – a time of silence to reflect on these

words. Straighten out the areas in our lives which hinder people from discerning your way, O God.

**People:** **Smooth the rough edges of our witness so that anything which prevents people hearing your word is cleared away.**

Leader: Many people walk through shadowed valleys at this time, weighed down by painful, recycled memories.

**People:** **Forgive us when we fail to become involved with the needs of others by pleading seasonal busyness.**

Leader: Advent God, you call on us to prepare the way for Jesus' birth and yet – each year it seems that we spend more time making preparations for our own pleasure rather than preparing for Jesus to be born anew in our hearts and lives – in our families, our communities, our nation, our world.

**People:** **Forgive us for getting so involved in partying, buying gifts, ordering food, writing cards, that we have no energy left to celebrate the reason for such activity – the birth of Jesus Christ.**

Leader: Help us, O God, to prepare ourselves faithfully and sincerely to receive the Christ-child. Amen.

#### MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SILENT CONFESSION

**Congregational Response (Sung):**

#276

**Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, Creator,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.  
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!  
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The apostle Paul prayed that our love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help us determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ we may be pure and blameless (Philippians 1:9-10). Jesus Christ was sent by God into the world, not to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in

him are not condemned (based on John 3:17-18a). Believe the good news of the Gospel;

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.**

\*GLORIA PATRI (kids' pink page) #579

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

Leader: Let us offer each other a sign of peace!

BAPTISM OF AUBRIANA ILEANA GAITER

\*HYMN *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise* #498

SCRIPTURE LESSON Malachi 3:1-4 Pages 889-890  
Luke 3:1-6 Page 60

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**(\*\*Students in grades 1-12 are dismissed for their Bible classes.\*\*)**

SPECIAL MUSIC *Oseh Shalom* Klepper

SERMON *The Floogie Bird* Rev. Muriel Burrows

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER (kids' orange page)

TITHES AND OFFERINGS *Offer the sacrifices of righteousness,  
and put your trust in the Lord.*

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY (kids' red page) #592

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**All: Holy God, we offer these gifts, this time of worship, and the service of our lives in the hope that they will be pleasing to you. We pray also that they may produce a harvest of righteousness, sincerity and love. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

\*HYMN *People, Look East* #12

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\* Congregation stands  
 \*\* Latecomers ushered in

### ANNOUNCEMENTS



**WELCOME** - The Pastor, Elders and Deacons of Witherspoon welcome most warmly all worshippers. Our fellowship is enriched by your presence. If you do not have a church home of your own, we do sincerely invite you to be a part of our fellowship. Please contact the church office for further information if you are interested in church membership (609-924-1666 or witherspoon@verizon.net).



**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGE GROUPS!** Adults will meet on their own schedule each month in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m. All other Sunday school classes for students in grades 1-12 begin immediately after the children's message in morning worship. (A nursery is available for children in preschool and kindergarten.)



**FLOWERS** – Flowers for today's service were given by *Susan and Charles Kalmbach* in honor of *Nicholas Kalmbach's birthday*. If you would like to provide flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, or simply to beautify the church, please sign up on the chart located on the door of the sound room (left-hand entrance from the sanctuary to the parish house). After worship service, the donor may take the flowers home. At present, it is the responsibility of the person giving the flowers to make his/her own arrangements for preparation and delivery of the flowers for the Chancel. The next available date is December 31.

**USHERS** for this morning's service are members of the Junior Usher Ministry: Diamond Holland and Jasmine McEwen, with Jessyca Hart, manager. Next week's ushers are Christo and Lucill Claassens.



**COFFEE HOUR** - Please join us for a Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall following this morning's worship service. Host for the month of December is Vicki Meisel. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the Coffee Hour should contact Vicki (609-637-9417).

**ATTENDANCE** at the service of December 3 was 143.

**LECTIONARY TEXT** for next Sunday, December 17, is Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18.



**DEEPEST SYMPATHY** – The Witherspoon community expresses its deepest sympathy to **Barbara Brown** and her family upon the recent passing of her father.



**A WORD OF THANKS** goes out to Addison and Louise Driver who decorated the sanctuary so beautifully for the holidays. Appreciation is expressed to Benjamin and Deborah Colbert and family for the lovely wreaths which adorn our front door. Gratitude is also conveyed to Gerald Delk for continuing to beautify our Fellowship Hall assisted by Ben Colbert, Tom Espenshade and Curtis Johnson.

*They purchased new blinds and put up the bulletin boards.*



**STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN** – The Stewardship Committee thanks Witherspoon members who have submitted pledge cards. We are still collecting! Please give your pledge card to any member of the Stewardship Committee.



**A BLUE CHRISTMAS** – **This Saturday, December 16**, we will have **A Blue Christmas** – a special worship service for those mourning or otherwise “blue” – who have lost someone and wish to remember them at this time. The service will begin at 4:00 p.m. with a soup and bread dinner. The dinner and service will be informal and held in the Fellowship Hall. Those who attend are encouraged to bring a memento (e.g. picture, piece of jewelry, etc.) to remember their loved one; this will be placed on a table during the service. For more information, please contact Rev. Burrows.



**2006 WSPC ADVENT GIVING PROJECT** will be the International AIDS Ministry Early Learning Centers in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. This PC(USA) sponsored program is being developed to establish Early Learning Centers for children ages 5-12 orphaned by AIDS and the ongoing civil war in the Congo.

These children have critical health, education and care needs. It is important to note that every dollar raised for this effort will be matched by a special UN fund set up for this purpose. A project of the Peacemaking and Social Justice Ministry, this offering will be collected on **Sunday, December 17 and 24** at the morning worship service. Please consider giving generously to this critical need. (Special envelopes will be provided.)



**FOOD DONATIONS FOR CRISIS MINISTRY** – The Deacons are collecting nourishing food for the Crisis Ministry. **\*\*\*NO GLASS JARS, PLEASE.\*\*\*** Checks made payable to the Crisis Ministry are always welcome and may be placed in the offering plate or given to a deacon. Please consider an extra purchase during your next grocery shopping trip and place items in the wooden box in the Narthex.



**KWANZAA AT WITHERSPOON** – Join us for the *Kwanzaa Celebration* on **Friday, December 29**, at 6:30 p.m. at the church building. We are planning for a very exciting event. Anyone who has new ideas or is interested in helping may contact: Barbara Flythe (732-274-9435), Grace Kimbrough (609-386-1410), and Shirley Satterfield (609-924-2010). The event is again being sponsored by the Junior Usher Ministry and the Peacemaking and Social Justice Ministry.



Trenton Area  
**Habitat  
for Humanity®**

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK WEEK** – Our Habitat for Humanity project needs your help. To participate, please contact Meg Coghlan (609-651-2945 or meg\_coghlan@yahoo.com).



**READINGS OVER COFFEE** – The Princeton Public Library invites everyone to its monthly *Readings Over Coffee* **this Wednesday, December 13**, at 10:30 a.m. Their regular “coffee readers,” including Cecelia B. Hodges, will unite to read their favorite holiday fare in *A Holiday Potpourri*. This event, which will take place in the Community Room at the library, is free and open to the public; no reservations are necessary. For more information, call 609-924-9529.



**KWANZAA COMMUNITY CELEBRATION** – All are welcome to join the celebration of Kwanzaa **this Thursday, December 14**, at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North at 7:30 p.m. A candlelight ceremony and words of reflection will be followed by a Kwanzaa feast. Celebrate a cultural experience that is educational and fun for all ages. Barbara Edmonds (609-750-7170) can provide more information.



**PROPERTY ACQUISITION UPDATE**

(as of June 30, 2006)

Total collection for property acquisition* .....	\$143,359.43
Total expenses* .....	<u>84,313.17</u>
<b>Balance</b> .....	<b>\$59,081.26</b>

\*2004 to present