

## Upcoming Events

November 27th, 12:30pm, **Hanging of the Greens**  
All are invited to prepare the Sanctuary for the Advent season.

December 4, 4:30 pm, **Hymn Sing** followed at 5:30 pm with a **pot luck dinner**

December 11, 5 to 6 pm, **Come O Lord, Prayers for Advent**

December 13, Noon, **Womens Christmas Pot Luck Luncheon** at the home of Debbie Niederer

December 18, 6 pm, **Caroling and hot chocolate**

**Christmas Eve Worship**, 6pm

**Christmas Day Worship**, 10 am. Noon to 4 pm, Dinner and fellowship at the West Trenton Community Center.

## Order of Liturgy

Prelude  
Choral Introit  
Call to Worship  
Hymn/Opening Prayer  
Confession  
—call, prayer, assurance, Gloria patri  
Scripture  
Message  
Hymn  
Apostles Creed  
Announcements  
Prayers of the People  
Offering  
Offertory  
Doxology  
Hymn  
Benedictions

## Titusville Presbyterian Mission Statement

*The multifaceted mission of the First Presbyterian Church, Titusville, NJ is:*

- (1) as worshippers, to grow in our love for, and express our love to, our Trine God, in worship, prayer, devotion, music stewardship, and Sabbath-keeping (observance of the LORD's Day);*
  - (2) as servants with Christ, to show god's love to our neighbors through intentional works of love and deliberate acts of kindness;*
  - (3) as heralds of the gospel, to proclaim the good news concerning forgiveness, reconciliation, salvation, and eternal life in Christ to those in need of hope and the new spiritual birth;*
  - (4) as living stones, to build up the church of Jesus Christ by building honest, caring, and encouraging relationships with one another as members of his united body, which we treat with tenderness and compassion;*
  - (5) as disciples, to preserve and pass on the revelation of the divine truth of god in Christ as revealed by the Holy Spirit through the holy scriptures to people of all ages and from generation to generation, and to build one another up in this truth that we may be identified by perseverance and by our discovering our competence in the LORD;*
- all this we aim to do with hope in the spirit of truth and love, so as to show the world what life under the lordship of Christ looks like, and, in so doing, to glorify the one true God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

### Session:

**Class of 2016**  
Kristin Schmidt, Clerk

**Class of 2017**  
Barbara Matlack  
Randy Niederer

**Class of 2018**  
Patti Manz  
Tim Shaub

### Deacons:

**Class of 2016**  
Tom Kennedy, Moderator  
Chris Manz, Vice-Moderator

**Class of 2017**  
Judy Niederer, Secretary

**Class of 2018**  
Gail Butterfoss  
Lettie Ritner

**Pastor:** Rev. Kenneth Good  
**Worship Assistant:** Tim Shaub  
**Ministers:** All members of Titusville Church

**The Rev. Dr. R. William Shaub, Pastor Emeritus**  
Barbara Matlack, Office Administrator  
Jon and Helen Eastburn, Music Directors

November 27th, 2016



upon this promise. Today is also the start of our Genesis sermons as part of The Extraordinary story of Scripture.

**THE EXTRAORDINARY**

**GOD'S MAJESTIC WORK of REUNIFICATION & ADOPTION**

## Call to Worship

We will gather around the Advent Wreath to light the first candle, the Candle of Hope.

The biblical understanding of Hope: confident expectancy.

This differs from the common definition of the word, which includes desire for an object, wishes, and wishful thinking.

Scripture declares that "hope does not disappoint us" (Romans 5:5)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

—Romans 15:13

## Notes on Psalm 117

Psalm 113-118 are the Hallel (hymns of praise). They were sung at Passover, Pentecost and the Feast of Tabernacles.

Psalm 117 is the shortest psalm in the Bible. It is also the middle chapter of the Bible. How fitting that the theme of the middle chapter is so simple and profound. "By the union of truth and grace, in and through Jesus, the call to praise went out to all nations and peoples" (G. Campbell Morgan, Notes on the Psalms)

Let us worship God! Today we celebrate the first Sunday of the church year, the first Sunday of Advent. Advent means 'coming'. There are two Advents described in Scripture. The first was when Jesus Christ came to earth, born of Mary. We look back in remembrance of this Advent. The second advent will come when Jesus Christ returns in glory, as he promised he would. We look forward with hope



## Scripture

Psalm 117 (page 436)  
Genesis 1 (page 1)  
Luke 1: 1-25 (page 723)

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## Songs for Today

Celebration Hymnal  
#244  
#793  
#143

## Prayer of Confession

(written by James Hart Brumm)

We are captive and exiled, O God, because we have, each in our own way, chosen our own path, away from you. We are hungry for wisdom and knowledge, because we have, too often, substituted our judgment for yours. We are lost, in need of guidance.

*Silent Prayer, concluded with:*

**Come, Lord Jesus; forgive us and restore us.  
Come, Lord Jesus; guide us and deliver us.  
Come, Lord Jesus; teach us and renew us.  
Come, Lord Jesus.**



## Notes on Luke 1:1-25

Vs 1-4 Introduction to the Gospel by historian and physician Luke

Vs 5-25 Zechariah responds to the Angel's announcement of a son for him and Elizabeth with disbelief, is made mute.

Luke is a historian. He gathers the facts in his presentation to Theophilus about Jesus Christ. The Gospel of Luke and Acts are both written by Luke, and originally were sent out as one story, with both books being the general limit for how much could fit onto a scroll.

Luke's gospel starts out by weaving the story of two cousins, both enormously important to the story of God's salvation. John becomes the Baptist, announcing the coming of the Messiah. Jesus is Israel's Messiah, and Luke, writing as a Gentile follower of the Lord, tells us how we can become adopted into the family. Luke becomes a model missionary, as he accompanies the Apostle Paul on several journeys.

---

### Web Links

<http://www.crivoice.org/cyadvent.html> excellent explanation of Advent

<https://www.hopeinternational.org/> a mission built on the word Hope

<http://www.reformedworship.org/article/september-2012/advent-confession-and-assurance>  
a reformed worship resource, including today's prayer of confession

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/story/luke.html>  
excellent collection of New Testament Scholars on Luke

<http://www.biblearchaeology.org/post/2014/01/23/Luke-The-Physician-with-Medicine-for-the-Souls.aspx>  
background on Luke the gospel writer

<http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-pleasure-of-god-in-his-creation>  
John Piper writing on God's pleasure for his creation

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4\\_mOaA89e8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4_mOaA89e8) the worship song "Let There be Light" by Hillsong

---

### New City Catechism

*A 52 question catechism developed by Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York. For an introduction to this catechism, visit:* <http://www.newcitycatechism.com/intro.php>

**Part 1:** God, Creation and Fall, Law

**Week 2** What is God?

*God is the creator and sustainer of everyone and everything. He is eternal, infinite, and unchangeable in his power and perfection, goodness and glory, wisdom, justice, and truth. Nothing happens except through him and by his will.*

*To learn more about Question 2, including Scripture background, prayer, commentary and video from scholars, visit* <http://www.newcitycatechism.com/q-parent/q2.ph>

### Editorial: God's goodness in Creation

"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed." Romans 8:18-19

God alone is to receive glory. He receives honor and glory from human testimony, testimony from angels and heavenly creatures, and testimony from the creation. The creation speaks to God's beauty and creative majesty. We look at fall leaves, flowing rivers, winter snow, the affects of the wind, mountain, ocean, valley, forest, desert, birds and mammals, fish and reptile. It all speaks to the glory of God, and its beauty astounds us. The beauty that is around us, so unique in this galaxy, takes our breath away and fills our souls with wonder.

A few weeks ago, I was watching David Attenborough's Planet Earth with my girls. We were all so excited to see the pictures captured by those great photographers. With each dynamic picture, we would look at each other with jaws dropped by our amazement. I silently offered prayers of praise to God the Creator for the majesty we saw in the film. They join the prayers offered when we behold God's works of wonder in this world by our experiences and living. May we have the spirit of a child; filled with wonder and delight in God's goodness as seen in the creation.

And yet, for all its beauty, the creation also looks in hope to God. It can't wait until righteousness rules the world, through Jesus Christ, and his children. It longs to know that "it will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God" (8:21).

Just as we groan inwardly for the redemption of our bodies, so the creation groans as in the pains of childbirth (8:22-4). We all wait for the Lord.

Christians, through Jesus Christ, can know hope. We are to wait patiently with hope, and work expectantly because of hope. The world, yes, the creation itself, is looking to us to bear that name of our Lord with dignity, and responsibility as we point people to the God of all hope.

Today, we light a candle for the season of Coming. We hope in the Lord's coming to make the world right again. Without the Lord, we are without hope. With the Lord and his promise, we can live hope and bear witness to the Lord. Hope is the very essence of what it means to live as a Christian.

"Nothing in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (8:39)

Dear Tabby,  
**Raising Life (issues)** Acts 9:36

I was at a group dinner when my friend (Sarah) spoke up that 'only a fool would believe that God created the earth'. I felt embarrassed, because I do believe this. What should I have done  
—Timid in Titusville

Dear Timid,  
What you should have done was speak truthfully, and bore witness to your friend. You could have gently said, "Sarah, I hear a strong statement from you. I am someone who believes that God created the earth."

In Scripture, God is referred to as the Creator 11 times, and there are 58 references for God's action of creating/created.

The Bible is not a scientific textbook, nor is it unscientific, or anti-scientific. It is a book of truth, and uses a variety of genres to speak truth. The church has historically considered all academic disciplines as properly ordered when in concert with Scripture and theology. Ultimately, truth will stand on its own two feet. It doesn't need our affirmation to be true, or remain true. But we benefit, and our circles of relationship benefit when the truth is spoken.

The truth of the matter is this: the depth and intricacy of life and all that is around us is not a random accident, but rather, a priceless gift from the timeless God. It is not foolish to admit this, but wise.

---

**Prayers to the Lord and Author of Life**  
(offered in 11/27 worship by the congregation)