



**POMPTON REFORMED CHURCH**

December 1, 2024 10:00 am

***First Sunday in Advent – Hope***

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

In this season of waiting, of longing,  
of looking for you to come into our world  
We are seeking light.

In our own lives  
In our neighborhoods  
In our families  
**We are seeking light**

In our work  
In our world  
In war, In peace  
**We are seeking light**

Seek and you shall find  
Knock and the door will be opened  
Ask and it will be given to you

**Jesus Christ you are the light of the world**  
**May we have eyes to see you**  
**And ears to hear you**  
**Come into our world today**

Lord, let our souls rise to meet you as the day rises to meet the sun.  
**Glory to The Father and to The Son and to The Holy Spirit.**  
**As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.**

**Advent Video**

**Advent Week 1 Litany and Lighting the Advent Candle**

**Advent Reader:** Advent is a time of waiting and expectation. We are joining the people of Israel and the world as they wait for coming of God in the person of Jesus. Because

we know that God always shows up in the world, we can wait in hope, not in despair. When we light this first candle, the candle of hope, we are reminded that light always breaks into our dark world. As the prophet Isaiah said almost 600 years before Jesus, “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned...”

Advent is about our human longing: For peace. For love. For God.

## **Song – Blue #150**

*“What Child Is This?”*

### **Call to Confession for Advent**

We are entering the time of Advent, in preparation for Christmas. Advent reminds us that if God is to be born again in the most ordinary parts of our world and our lives that we need prepare for it.

**We need to make the space in our lives where hope and love might be born. Forgive us for over-crowding our lives with business, with resentment, with ourselves.**

Welcome to this tiny corner of a harsh and dark world. Together, let us practice being ready in the faith that Christ will come.

### **Assurance of Pardon**

It doesn't matter whether or not you have strong faith; whether or not you are cynical or despairing, hope-filled or hope-less: what matters to God is simply that you are here.

**Lord, with you there is forgiveness. You have answered us with your unfailing love and with you there is full redemption. We have waited on you and you have come.**

Friends, may the peace of Christ be with all of you. **And also with you.**

### **Living the Way of Jesus**

Our prayer today is that advent will re-orient the way we look at the year and how we spend our time. Instead of orienting ourselves around consumerism and sentimentalism, we are centered around the life of Jesus. Our prayer is that God changes what we want and what we long for. May we long for hope, peace, joy and love this season. And all God's people said, **Amen.**

## **Announcements**

### **Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

#### **Offering**

#### **Offertory**

#### **Doxology – Blue #809**

*“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”*

## **Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7**

### **Sermon: Hope: The Great “Nevertheless”**

**9** Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future, he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. <sup>3</sup>You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. <sup>4</sup>For as in the day of Midian’s defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. <sup>5</sup>Every warrior’s boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

## **Communion Liturgy**

### **Our Shared Faith: Our World Belongs to God, Article 23**

**23. Remembering the promise to reconcile the world to himself, God joined our humanity in Jesus Christ—the eternal Word made flesh. He is the long-awaited Messiah, one with us and one with God, fully human and fully divine, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**Closing Song – Blue #173**

*“O Come, All Ye Faithful” v. 1,3,4*

## **Benediction**

### **TODAY’S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**

Worship Leader:

Pastor John Burden

Liturgist:

Elena Van Schaack

Guest Musician:

Aizhan Soltanova

