

# MERRITT ISLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Leading in Worship: Rev. Christina Greenawalt and Pam Poland

November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent -- Hope

10:00 a.m.

*(Please turn your mobile devices OFF or to AIRPLANE mode - they can interfere with our sound system. Thank you!)*

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Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Rev. Greenawalt

Call to Worship (**responsive**):

Liturgist

One: Can one be homesick for something you've never known?

**All: We are homesick for a just world, for peace like rivers, for the end of suffering.**

One: Yes, we are homesick—

**All: for joy that is contagious, for nations that feel like neighbors, and for hospitals that run empty.**

One: We are homesick for the world God promises.

**All: We are homesick, but we are on our way.**

One: God is here. God is still creating.

**All: Let us worship Holy God.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle - Libbi Moore, Kathy and Faye Porche

Hymn # 93:

***Lift Up Your Head, Ye Mighty Gates***

*Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits;  
the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.*

*Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart  
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.*

*Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.*

*Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.*

Time with Children - Young and Young at 

Call to Confession

Liturgist

Prayer of Confession (**unison**):

**Gracious God, we find ourselves with two options every day— to stay homesick for the world you had in mind, or to allow cynicism to win. Do we hope against hope, or do we throw in the towel? Do we insist on a better world, or do we assume it's impossible? Forgive us for the days when cynicism wins. Forgive us for numbing our homesick hurt instead of using it to fuel a better world. Kindle in us a hope that won't let go. Gratefully we pray, amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Liturgist

One: Siblings in Christ, even when we give up on hope, God does not give up on us. We are loved. We are claimed. We are invited closer to God's home. So hear and trust this good news:

**All: There is room for us in God's house, and nothing can separate us from that love. We are claimed. We are forgiven. We are welcomed home. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Response to Assurance:

***Angels We Have Heard on High (Refrain)***

Hymn # 113

*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

Passing of the Peace (**responsive**):

*Written by the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow*

One: May we receive and offer the peace Christ offers.

**All: The peace of Christ be with you.**

One: And also with you.

**All: The peace of Christ be with our neighbors, our friends, and our families.**

One: And also with you.

**All: The peace of Christ be with the stranger, our enemies, and those who are feared.**

One: And also with you.

**All: The peace of Christ be with the world and all of God's beloved.**

One: And also with you.

**All: Sisters, brothers, siblings in Christ, hear the Good News that in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made new.**

One: Let us be at peace with ourselves and with all we meet.

**All: Amen.**

Prayer for Illumination

Liturgist

Old Testament Lesson:

Psalm 25:1-10

Liturgist

One: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Special Music:

*Shepherd of My Soul*

Jeana Lutz, soloist

Gospel Lesson:

Luke 21:25-36

Rev. Greenawalt

One: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ!**

Message:

Close to Home: *Longing for Home*

Rev. Christina Greenawalt

Hymn:

**Cornerstone**

*My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness*

*I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly trust in Jesus' Name*

**Chorus:** *Christ alone, cornerstone; weak made strong in the Saviour's love*

*Through the storm He is Lord, Lord of all*

*When darkness seems to hide His face I rest on His unchanging grace*

*In every high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil; my anchor holds within the veil. **Chorus***

*When He shall come with trumpet sound, oh may I then in Him be found*

*Dressed in His righteousness alone; faultless stand before the throne. Faultless stand before the throne. **Chorus***

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (unison):

**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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering:

[www.merrittislandpc.org](http://www.merrittislandpc.org)

Response:

**Doxology**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow! Praise Him, all creatures here below.*

*Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Closing Hymn:

**Cornerstone**

*My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness*

*I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly trust in Jesus' Name*

*Christ alone, cornerstone; weak made strong in the Saviour's love*

*Through the storm He is Lord, Lord of all*

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Maryrose Beerman & Joyce Walker

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Attendance Last Week: In Person: 50 Online: 16  
Ushers: Frances Fernald, Craig & Marilyn Smoot

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome!** We are so happy to have you with us, whether in person or online. We worship together as a church family, from wherever we may be! If you would like to know more about the church, how you can be more involved, or to speak to the pastor, please contact the church office, ask an usher, or let Pastor Christina know.

**Worshiping with Children:** We are so glad you have chosen to worship with us, and we pray that you feel welcome and find a home here at MIPC. The ushers have children's bulletins and bags of colored pencils available. We offer Children's Church for children grades preschool through 6th grade. Following the time with the pastor, the children will be escorted to the Activities Room for Children's Church and then returned to the sanctuary at the end of service. If you have any questions please see an usher and they can direct you to Pam Poland.

**Close to Home Advent Theme:** Parts of the liturgy are used with permission and adapted from Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC| sanctifiedart.org. We pray that this unified series will bring you closer to God this Advent season.

**Thank you** to all who helped decorate the church for Advent!

**The preschool is providing Christmas dinners for 10 families.** If you would like to help, the following items are needed: \$10 gift cards to Publix or Walmart, gravy mixes, canned yams or sweet potatoes, stuffing mix, apple sauce, instant potatoes, pies. Other non-perishable items are also welcome. Canned vegetables are not needed.

**We are grateful** to those who have submitted their pledges for 2022! We are excited about the future here at MIPC. If you have not yet made your pledge, you can still bring it in and place in the offering basket (there are blank cards there in case you forget yours). Pledges can also be made by clicking Pledge Now on our website or by clicking this [link](#).

**Angel Tree for Preschool:** There is an Angel Tree in the Narthex for Christmas gifts for our Preschool children. Gifts should be wrapped with the angel number taped to the package. All gifts need to be returned to the preschool office by Dec. 14.

**Adult Sunday School** meets at 9 AM in the Session Room. We have begun our Advent series, *The Journey - Walking the Road to Bethlehem*. All are welcome to join in this Adam Hamilton study. We now have a ZOOM option! Join online by using the Meeting ID: 823 3859 2904, Passcode: 823604.

**Bible Study:** Please join us on Tuesday evenings on Zoom from 7-8 PM (with informal time of fellowship afterwards) for study of *Lessons from Acts* by Max Lucado, led by Julie Hill. The link is emailed out on Tuesdays.

**Weekly Prayer:** Light a candle in a quiet space and gather with your MIPC family for an evening of prayer & reflection. We share scripture and joys & concerns with each other via Zoom, every Wednesday at 7:30 PM.

**Happy Birthday to:**

Nov. 28: Greg Walters

Nov. 30: Barbara Finney

**Happy Anniversary to:**

Dec. 4: Elaine & Rich Larkin

**Thank you,** Maryrose Beerman, Joyce Walker and Jeana Lutz, for the beautiful music this morning!

**Our Prayers are with:\*** Carolyn Crockett, Andre Koodie, Hugh Lackey, Sophia and Zane Loulaf, Courtney Penderson, Debra Smoot, and George Wilcox.

*\* Please contact the office with any additions or subtractions to the prayer list. Names will remain on the list for 4 weeks unless otherwise requested.*

### **Rev. Christina Greenawalt, Pastor**

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Tammy Lewis, Preschool Director  
Leslie Mitchell, Financial Secretary  
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