

# The Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair

Sunday, December 5, 2021

\*If you are able, please stand.



10:00 a.m.

Please turn off cell phones.

## *Second Sunday of Advent*

### WE GATHER AROUND GOD'S WORD

*"John (the Baptist) stands as prophets do to this very day, as an unyielding presence unsettling us and leaving us not quite sure of how we feel about him... John seems hard to know, hard to like, though we stand back in admiration of him. We react the same way to most absolutes.*

*...John the Baptizer holds before each of us both the cost and the promise of real change; but change, even for the better, is most often unwelcome."*

Eugene Kennedy, *Joy of Being Human*

### Prelude

#### **\*Call to Worship – Litany for Advent**

Amy Bortey

**One:** It is Advent. The Holy One approaches. The Creator draws near.  
The Maker of moons and stars, mountains and rivers, sparrows and lambs, locusts and wild honey, you and me, is on the way.

**All: We will not miss this. We will stay awake. We will watch for the Advent of God.**

It is December. The days are short. We walk through shadows.  
Yet, we are not alone. A beacon shines for broken hearts, for battered souls, for ailing bodies, for angry spirits, for all who walk difficult paths.  
Light is on the way.

**We will not miss this. We will stay awake. We will watch for the Advent of God.**

It is Advent. A joyful spirit fills our hearts. We yearn to do good deeds, to forgive, to serve. In ways small and large, we want to act out heaven's mercy—to let light in—so that, step by step and leap by leap, we can participate in God's tender embrace.

**Love is on the way. We will not miss this. We will stay awake. We will watch for the Advent of God.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout*  
*(The Cantic of Turning)*

*Star of the County Down*



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a  
4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.  
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the  
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the




weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery  
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the  
fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the  
dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

## Lighting the Second Advent Candle

the Bortey family  
Cynthia, Seth, and Amy

**One:** This morning we light the Candle of Peace. Our world longs for peace, and—because of Jesus Christ—we believe the day is coming when peace will be *more* than a dream.

**All: Wonder of wonders; joy of joys!  
The wolf and the lamb shall dwell together.**

And when that peace comes, things will be different. Violence will cease. Forgiveness will flow like water from a fountain. Old resentments will fade away.

**Wonder of wonders, joy of joys! Enemies and strangers  
will come to the table, side by side, and study war no more.**

Wonder of wonders, joy of joys. The Prince of Peace is coming.

[We light the first and second Advent candles.]

### *Light the Candle of Peace*

*Light the candle of peace today, the Giver of peace is here!  
Welcome the peace we fight and cry for, but only Christ can give.  
Flicker and flame and glow with peace, light up the world around you.*

## Prayer of Preparation & Confession (unison)

Pastor Greg Horn

**God of truth, God of mercy,  
we confess that we have turned from you in thought, word and deed—  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not  
loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as  
ourselves.**

**In your mercy, Lord of New Life, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name.**

*our silent prayers of preparation and confession*

**Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness** (unison)      from Galatians 4:4-7

**Listen to this Good News: when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.**

**And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir. Thanks be to God!**

**\*We Give God Glory**

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen. (sing 3 times)  
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

**Welcome & Life of the Church**

**Time for Children**

(All children are invited forward. Afterward, children through 7<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to Sunday School. If this is your child(ren)'s first time in Sunday School, please accompany them to check them in.)

**Hymn** (seated)

*While We Are Waiting, Come*

*Cason*

***While we are waiting, come;  
while we are waiting, come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,  
while we are waiting, come.***

***With power and glory, come;  
with power and glory, come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,  
while we are waiting, come.***

***Come, Savior, quickly come;  
come, Savior, quickly come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,  
while we are waiting, come.***

# WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

## Reading from God's Word – Malachi 3:1-4 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup> See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Anthem

### *Every Valley* Chancel Choir

John Ness Beck

*Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain made low  
And the crooked made straight, and the rough places plain*

*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed  
And all flesh shall see it together for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.*

## Reading from God's Word – Luke 3:1-6 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

"Baby Steps"

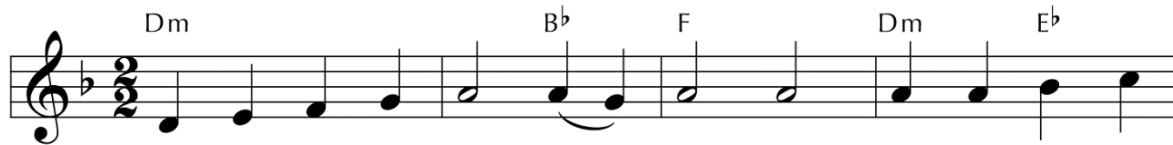
Pastor Greg Horn

# WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

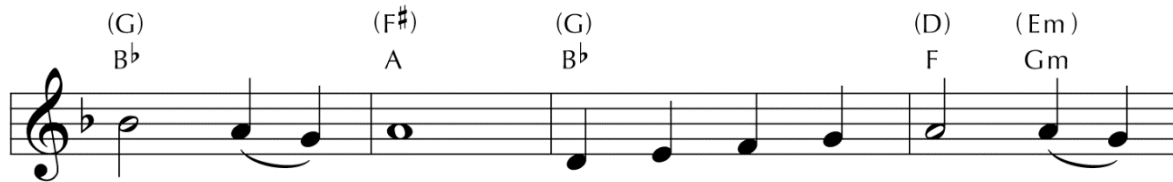
\*Communion Hymn

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

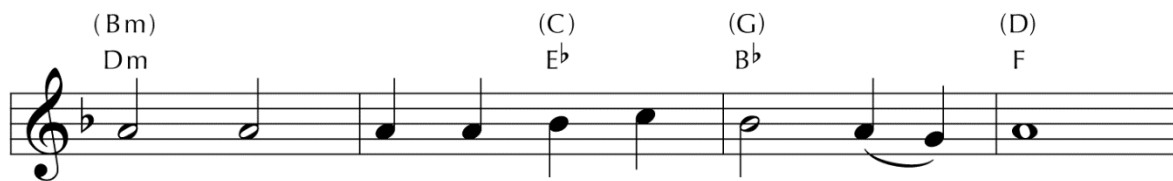
Picardy



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and  
 2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on  
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard  
 4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim, with



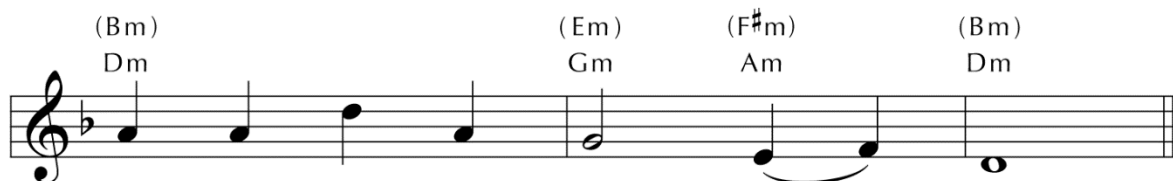
trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly  
 earth he stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man  
 on the way, as the Light of light de -  
 sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the



mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand  
 ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,  
 scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,  
 pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,



Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth,  
 he will give to all the faith - ful  
 that the powers of hell may van - ish  
 "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



our full hom - age to de - mand.  
 his own self for heaven - ly food.  
 as the shad - ows clear a - way.  
 al - le - lu - ia, Lord most high!"

# The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

## Invitation to the Table

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Consecration

## The Lord's Prayer

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.

## Words of Institution

## Communion of the People

## Prayer after Communion

## \*Closing Hymn

## *Come, Thou Almighty King*


*Italian Hymn*

(verses 1, 3 & 4)

1 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy  
2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, mer - ci - ful,  
3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred  
4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal

name to sing; help us to praise:  
might - y Lord, our prayer at - tend.  
wit - ness bear in this glad hour.  
prais - es be, hence ev - er - more!

Fa - ther, all glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - to - ri - ous,  
Come, and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy word suc - cess;  
Thou who al - might - y art, now rule in ev - ery heart,  
Thy sov - ereign maj - es - ty may we in glo - ry see,



come, and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.  
 Spir - it of ho - li - ness, on us de - scend.  
 and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of power.  
 and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*We Give Praise to God – We Offer Our Gifts to God** (plates at main door)

*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.*

**Postlude**

**GO WITH GOD – TO SERVE GOD’S WORLD**

**WELCOME** and thank you for your part in this service of worship. If you are a visitor here at the Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair (PCUM), you are especially welcome. May you sense in this place the presence and the love of God in Christ. You and your fellow worshipers are warmly invited to gather outside the church on the East Lawn to greet one another after the service.

**PLEASE ASK AN USHER** for anything you might need. Whenever possible, please help your fellow worshipers by exiting and entering the sanctuary at times other than during prayers or scripture readings.

**CHILD CARE** for toddlers and a nursery for younger children are always available during worship in the North Wing, located off Fellowship Hall (adjacent to sanctuary). Ask an usher for directions.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES** for all children age 3 through 7th grade are located in the North Wing. Church School leaders are available to help students & parents find their classrooms. Register your child(ren) for Sunday School by filling out a registration form available in your child’s classroom.

**LORD’S SUPPER TODAY** – Today we celebrate the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, also known as communion or the eucharist (*thanksgiving*). In the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Lord’s Supper is the sign and seal of God’s grace in the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. At the table, Presbyterians trust that God’s Holy Spirit, rather than our effort, brings us spiritually into Christ’s real Presence, nourishes us in hope and sends us out to participate in God’s work in the world. All are welcome come acknowledging our broken-ness and seeking reconciliation with God and neighbor. Children who are being nurtured in the significance of the Lord’s Supper—at their level of understanding and with parent/ guardian permission—are invited to share in communion. Welcome.

**SUPPORT THE DEACONS’ MINISTRY** - On the first Sunday of each month, the PCUM family can offer special support to the work of the Deacons in their ministries of compassion, care, and community-building. You may use the green envelopes in the pew racks, you can mail your check to the church, or/and you can go to [pcum.org](http://pcum.org), click on “Give” and specify “Deacons’ Fund.” Thank you!





**CHILDREN'S 2021 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:** If you haven't signed your child(ren) up yet for PCUM's 2021 Christmas Pageant, there is still time! Just email [christianed@pcum.org](mailto:christianed@pcum.org) **ASAP** to let us know. Children's parts and costumes are being distributed! The timeline is:

Sunday, December 5 – Children will be emailed their parts/lines/songs and easy-to-follow video directions). Costumes will be available for pick up at PCUM after worship and throughout this week.

Sunday, December 12 – All children who wish to take part will meet at PCUM after worship to sing/record "All is Well" as a group.

December 24/Christmas Eve - PCUM's 2021 Christmas Pageant will be presented on the church's YouTube channel at 12 noon on Christmas Eve.

We hope your child(ren) and your whole family will join their church family for this fun and meaningful PCUM tradition. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Christian Education Committee at [christianed@pcum.org](mailto:christianed@pcum.org).

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP:**

5:00 p.m. – **Family Worship Service** featuring children's choirs, carols, and fun

8:00 p.m. – **Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols** featuring *Christmas Day* by Gustav Holst, a beautiful setting of familiar Christmas Carols, presented by the Chancel Choir, soloists and chamber orchestra.

**CAN YOU HELP PAINT PCUM'S NATIVITY DISPLAY?** – Last year's first-ever interactive Nativity Display, which allowed PCUM families and individuals to decorate figures in the scene depicting Christ's birth—was a big success! The Nativity Scene is set up on the church's East Lawn for the PCUM family and wider community to enjoy. Volunteers are needed by Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> to help paint the new figures. (This is a fun family project!) If you are interested in painting one or more of these pieces, please contact Colleen Brambilla ([colleenbrambilla@hotmail.com](mailto:colleenbrambilla@hotmail.com)). The plywood figures can be picked up at the church or delivered right to your door!

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** – Remember a loved one this Christmas by dedicating a Poinsettia in their memory or honor. Forms are available in the Narthex. Please drop your form & check in the church office. The deadline for poinsettia dedications is **Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**.

**BE PART OF PCUM'S FIRST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>** Do you have a delicious holiday cookie that has special meaning to your family that you'd love to share? If so, you are invited to be part of PCUM's 1st annual Virtual Cookie Exchange! Just bake two dozen of your favorite cookies, which you will deliver to another Cookie Exchange participant on December 15<sup>th</sup> as a way of connecting and sharing our favorite traditions during this ongoing pandemic. If you would like to be part of this year's Cookie Exchange, please RSVP to Blaire Rzempeluch at [brzemp2@verizon.net](mailto:brzemp2@verizon.net) or 917-287-4535 by today! There will be a "Virtual Cookie Connect" Zoom get-together on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. so participants can share the story of their special cookies!

**PCUM TO RECEIVE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING ON DEC 19<sup>TH</sup>** – For over 70 years, Presbyterians have supported the unmet needs of church workers and their families who have devoted their lives to ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Christmas Joy Offering, which the PCUM will receive on **Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**, supplements inadequate retirement income, funds long under-supported ethnic colleges and universities, and provides supplemental medical insurance for former ministers, missionaries, church workers, and their families. Please give generously.

**MONTCLAIR MUSIC CLUB** will hold their second program of the season tomorrow evening, **December 6<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 pm in the PCUM sanctuary. MMC, founded in 1901, is a nonprofit organization providing opportunities for classical musicians and music lovers to meet. The MMC's December 6<sup>th</sup> program will feature lyric soprano Erin Persick singing well-known arias from French Opera; violist Nicolas Mirabile performing works by Brahms and Schumann; and concert pianist and well-known pedagogue Beatrice Long performing works by Margaret Bond, Maurice Ravel & J. S. Bach. Guests please pre-register by sending your name and contact info to [montclairmusicclub1901@gmail.com](mailto:montclairmusicclub1901@gmail.com). Follow at [facebook.com/montclairmusicclub](https://www.facebook.com/montclairmusicclub).

**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:** Come, join the (safely distanced) fun! Middle Schoolers (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders) meet Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for games, learning, and to build friendships. For more info, contact Youth Director Jordan Green at ([jordan@pcum.org](mailto:jordan@pcum.org)).

**PCUM'S CHILDREN'S CHOIR MINISTRY** (2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders) teaches children to love music and lead their church family in worship. Kids not only learn the song, but they also learn how to sing. Rehearsals are Thursday afternoons, from 4:00-5:00 p.m., in the Choir Room with Julie Platte. For more information, please email [juliebplatte@gmail.com](mailto:juliebplatte@gmail.com).

**CHANCEL CHOIR** rehearsals for adults are weekly on **Thursdays at 7:00pm** in the sanctuary. We are currently working on special music for Christmas Eve (Gustav Holst's "Christmas Day"). New singers are always welcome! For more info, contact Director of Music Ministries, Anne Marie Juliano at [jajulianos@gmail.com](mailto:jajulianos@gmail.com) or (973) 930-5074.

**HELP FEED & SERVE HUNGRY MONTCLAIR NEIGHBORS:** Dates are available for you (and your family) to serve at the M.E.S.H. Cafe, which prepares and serves the evening meal to hungry and homeless neighbors here in Montclair on the **1<sup>st</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays** of the month. There are opportunities to prepare food, serve meals, and sing and/or play music for guests. Sign up at [www.pcum.org](http://www.pcum.org).

**SIGN UP TO DEDICATE FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP** – You can honor loved ones and beautifully the PCUM family's worship experience by dedicating flowers for Sunday morning worship service on any Sunday throughout the remaining calendar year. The suggested donation for two standard bouquets is \$80; dedications appear in the morning bulletin. Sign up using the Flower Calendar in the Deacons' Corner or online at [www.pcum.org](http://www.pcum.org). Thank you.

**PLEASE SUBMIT 2022 PLEDGE CARDS!** – This fall, PCUM's theme for the stewardship campaign inviting all members & friends to support this church's many worthwhile ministries in the year ahead is *Together Through this Pandemic*. If you haven't yet pledged to be part of Christ's work through this church in 2022, pledge cards are available in the narthex this morning. You may also submit your pledge online by visiting [www.pcum.org](http://www.pcum.org) and clicking on the online pledge card link on the homepage.



## **PCUM's COVID GUIDELINES**

The church's Session (elected board of elders) has adopted a comprehensive, cautious set of protocols to protect its visitors, members, and friends during this pandemic. When infection rates drop, the Session will move to ease restrictions further. Here are several of the most important protocols to keep in mind:

- \* **Registration** (online or in-person) will be required. Worshipers will be asked to provide the names of each person who will be worshipping as part of their family or group. Links to register for Sunday worship can be found on the church website at [www.pcum.org](http://www.pcum.org) or in church emails.
- \* All worshipers, either individuals or groups (families), will sit in **safely-distanced worship-seats**.
- \* **Masks will be required for all worshipers** (who are not leading worship) whether speaking or singing, at all times while in the building. Vaccination is not required to worship at PCUM. In order to maximize the number of PCUM worshipers who will feel welcome in worship, PCUM's leaders have chosen to err on the side of caution by requiring masks at this time. In addition, most children and younger teens in our church family have not yet been vaccinated. *Thank you* for respecting and adhering to this requirement.
- \* **All worship leaders will be fully vaccinated** and distanced from worshipers.
- \* A safely-distanced, masked **children's sermon** and **Sunday School** classes will be offered.
- \* In order to maintain social distancing, **movement within the sanctuary will be restricted**.
- \* Worshipers are respectfully asked and strongly encouraged to **ARRIVE EARLY** to allow time for you and other worshipers to be checked-in and seated.
- \* **A Sunday offering** will be received at the conclusion of the service. Offering plates will be stationed near the entrance to the sanctuary so that worshipers may make their offerings as they depart following the benediction.
- \* **The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper** (Communion) is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month, using pre-made, sealed Communion elements, which will be distributed to all worshipers as they arrive.
- \* **Worship services** will continue to be **live-streamed** on PCUM's YouTube channel (see [pcum.org](http://pcum.org)).



### PCUM's *Core Values*:

*Thoughtful, Nourishing Worship* ✝ *Vibrant Ministry to Children & Youth*  
*Relationships* ✝ *Participation* ✝ *Service to Others and to the World* ✝ *Relevance and Authenticity*



The Presbyterian Church  
of Upper Montclair  
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**Pastor & Head of Staff**  
The Rev. Gregory A. Horn

**Director of Music Ministries**  
Anne Marie Juliano

**Youth Director**  
Jordan Green

**Children's Music Directors**  
Julie Platte Denise Silecchia

**Church Administrator:** Denise Silecchia

**Sexton:** Jimmy Abad