

Claremont-Lafayette United Presbyterian Church

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“Serving the Lord Jesus by loving, comforting, nurturing, and teaching the Word which provides hope to all people.”

Communion Sunday

2nd Sunday of Advent

11:00am

December 7, 2025



Ruling Elders:

Joyce Soto & Alice Taylor (Co-Clerks of Session)
Elaine Foster, Carol Kelly, Sheila Myers, Nokeima Ramirez,
Bernadette Robinson

Deacon Board:

Pamela Brown & Gerri Gaines (Co-Moderators),
Warren Tex Green, Cheryl Hayes, Delando Myers, April Venable

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN ARE WELCOME

Enter, Praise, Worship and Glorify GOD, the Creator, Redeemer, and
Sustainer of Our Lives

Order of Worship

Musical Prelude "God Is On Our Side" Andre Crouch

Call to Worship (Please stand; Read responsively) Elder Joyce Soto

Welcome today to this time of preparation.

**Although we have been preparing for celebrations, we come seeking to
prepare our hearts to receive God's Good News.**

Get ready! The Lord is bringing to us Hope and Peace.

How wonderful it is that the Lord is showering us with Peace.

Open your hearts and let your spirits be quieted. Be at peace with the Lord.

Lord, prepare our lives and bring us peace. AMEN.

Opening Prayer (Please stand and say in unison) Elder Joyce Soto

We have prepared our homes, and our gifts, Lord, but we need help in preparing
our spirits to receive your message of Peace. Free us from the stresses and strains
of this time and place your peace which passes all our understanding in our hearts.
For we ask this in Jesus' Name. **AMEN**

Opening Hymn "Glory To His Name" West Angeles Church of God

Call to Confession (Please stand) Elder Robert M. Mason, Jr.

Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our weaknesses, since in
every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with boldness,
approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in
time of need. Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Prayer of Confession (Please stand and say in unison) Elder Joyce Soto

Lord, hear us this day as we open our hearts and our spirits to you. These times in
which we live are often confusing and fearful. We are pushed to make preparations
for a season which is supposed to bring hope and peace; yet we crowd it with
obligations and stresses and shut the door to your healing love and compassion.
We find ourselves being on edge, fretful, wondering if we have done enough, can do
enough. You answer our fears with your voice, "Peace, be still". Help us to hear you.
Slow us down. Encourage us to take some time to listen rather than shout, to stop
and rest rather than run. Cause us to look around at situations and people who are
in need and to place our focus on helping them. For it is in helping your people and

reaching out in love that we will find true peace. These things we pray, in Jesus' Name. **Amen.**

Choral Response “Pass Me Not” Pastor Dewey Smith

(Time of Silence for Personal Confession)

Declaration of God's Forgiveness (Please stand) Elder Robert M. Mason, Jr.
Jesus said, "I am bringing you peace, not the kind of peace the world would give to you. My peace I give to you, now and forever."

Exhortation (Please stand) Elder Robert M. Mason, Jr.
Be at peace. Know God's love is given for you.
Thanks be to God! Amen

Advent Liturgy

Lighting of Advent Candle of Peace

Advent Musical Selection “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”Hymnal #9

****Ritual of Fellowship** Greet your neighbor with the sign of Peace.
“The Peace of the Lord be with you.”
Response “And also with you.”

Recognition of Visitors

Announcements

Old Testament Scripture Isaiah 11:1-6..... Elder Joyce Soto
(Pew Bible Pg. 602)

New Testament Scripture (Please stand) Mark 4:35-41 Elder Joyce Soto
(Pew Bible Pgs. 36-37)

Musical Selection..... “Peace Be Still” Vanessa Bell Armstrong

Sermon....." Peace Be Still" Elder Robert M. Mason, Jr.

Call to Discipleship (Please stand) Elder Robert M. Mason, Jr.

Invitational Hymn “There is a Fountain” Bishop Clarence McClendon

Celebration of the Holy Communion

- “Let Us Break Bread Together” Hymnal #513
- “In Remembrance of Me”
- “There is Power in the Blood”
- “Nothing But the Blood of Jesus”

The Nicene Creed (Ecumenical).....Hymnal Page 15

GLORIA PATRI (Please stand)

“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end.” **Amen.**

Worship God with Our Gifts: Tithes: Bring your tithes to the Lord...

Thank you for your faithful giving to the Ministry of Christ.
Please bring your offering in person or send to the church:
PO Box 4392; Jersey City, NJ 07304.
You can also send electronically from your phone via Givelify.



Doxology (Please stand)

“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 Remarks

Closing Hymn “Every Praise” Hezekiah Walker

The Charge (Please stand) Elder Robert M. Mason, Jr.

Go now as people of peace —not the peace the world gives, but the peace Christ gives: strong enough to face truth, gentle enough to transform hearts, and faithful enough to wait on God’s timing.

Benediction (Please stand) Elder Robert M. Mason, Jr.

May your steps bring peace, your words sow peace, and your presence reflect the peace of the One who says even now, “Peace, be still.” And may the peace of God guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord. And Gracious God, we thank You for gathering us as one body and one family. As we enter this annual meeting, quiet our hearts and open our minds. Help us listen to one another with grace, speak with wisdom, and participate fully in shaping the journey You are calling our

church to take. Guide our decisions, unite our spirits, and lead us forward with hope, faith, and love.

In Christ's name we pray, **Amen.**

For you I am praying, for you I am praying, for you I am praying, I'm praying for you.

December 2025 Birthdays

Ronald Morrison 12/1

Sellman Walker, 12/5

Eva Minor, 12/10

Francine Jenkins, 12/16

Valarie Morrison, 12/17

Carol Kelly, 12/17

Randall Forde, 12/20

Cheryl Hayes, 12/23

Jada Johnson, 12/28

Special Prayers For:

The family of Arianna and Felipe Aponte, Stephanie Arana, Deacon Pamela Brown, Helen Burke, Denise Campbell, Gabriella Carrasco, Kebra Cooper, Elder Elaine Foster, Gerri Goss, Deacon Warren (Tex) Green, Franklin & Bonnie Henderson, Monica Jackson, Charlie & Craig Jones, Jackie Knights, Deacon Eva Minor, Cary Mitchell, Elder Sheila Myers, Angela D. Barber-Parker, Elder Nokeima Ramirez, Ramon, Darren Robinson, Willie Mae Robinson, Charles Rutledge, Judy Seigler, June Burr Scott, Charles Simmons, the families of Mahaley Stewart Bowles and Mary Taylor Stewart, Carol Turnerto, Ajene Washington, and Barbara Washington, Thelma K. Williams.

Announcements

- If you know of anyone who you'd like to add to our prayer list or have a praise report for someone who can be removed from the prayer list, please visit our website and complete the prayer request form. You may also share this information with Elders Alice Taylor or Melinda Hunt.
- Annual congregation meeting today immediately following morning worship service.
- **Coffee Hour** we will celebrate December birthdays Second Sunday, December 14, 2025 with cake and ice cream following morning service.
- **2025** Per Capita Apportionment is \$38.00 Per Person.
- **Christian Education Sunday School** In person every Sunday at 11:30am during service.
- **Seasoned Retirees** – Will meet on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 11:00am.
- **Power of Prayer** - Thursday December 18, 2025, at 7:00pm (via Zoom to be forwarded) with Elder Sheila Venable-Myers
- **Saturday Sandwich & A Prayer** – December 20, 2025, at 10:00am setup; prayers and distribution of food at 12:00 noon.

October marked the third anniversary for our sandwich and prayer ministry. We are celebrating by continuing to offer a hot meal for the month of December. Our very own chef, Sellman Walker, has graciously agreed to volunteer his time, to do all the shopping, and prepare the meals.

We are inviting the community to come in and sit down to eat and fellowship or take the meal to go. We would love your donations and are asking everyone in lieu of donating food, please donate money to the church. Your donation will be used to purchase the food and can be made in person by envelope or via the Givelify app; remember to put Saturday Sandwich & Prayer in the memo line.

We thank all of you who have contributed and continue to support Sandwich & a Prayer with your time, your talents, and your giving. May you continue to be a blessing to this community and CLUPC.

- We invite you back next week; 3rd week of Advent (**Joy**):
 - **Our speaker will be:** Elder Sheila Myers
 - **Worship Leader will be:** Sandra McIntyre

Save The Date

Bessie Mann Sisterhood's Comedy Explosion is January 24, 2026.
Details to follow shortly.

Notes

Week Two: Peace

“Come, thou long-expected Jesus ... born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.”

A. Children of God, what are we waiting for?

We wait for peace where conflict rages, for gentleness where harshness prevails.

We wait for swords to be reshaped into plows, for walls to crumble and bridges to rise.

We wait...

longing for the Prince of Peace, who stills our storms and guides our feet.

B. Today we light two candles, their light steady and sure against the dark.

Hope burns beside peace, witnessing to God’s enduring promises.

The glow spreads wider each week, reminding us that peace is possible,

and God’s kin-dom is drawing near.

C. We call this candle Hope. (***Light the first candle.***)

We call this candle Peace. (***Light the second candle.***)

Together they shine as signs of God’s faithfulness.

D. O God of still waters and quiet strength, we confess how often our lives are restless.

Our hearts race, our hands grasp, our voices quicken with fear.

Yet you breathe calm into chaos; you steady our steps on uneven ground.

Grant us your peace, O Christ, not as the world gives, but as you alone provide.

E. Hear the song of the angels:

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors” (Luke 2:14).

F. We long for your peace to flow like water, quenching our thirst.

Teach us to live as peacemakers, agents of your reconciling love.

Come, Lord Jesus, and make peace our way.