



**PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

April 18, 2021 • 10:00 AM
Third Sunday of Eastertide

PRELUDE

Seek Ye First
Janice Williams, piano and Kraig Williams, flute

Karen Lafferty
Joel Raney, arr.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The bread of life opens our eyes.

People: *The Word of Life opens our ears.*

Leader: The Risen One shows us God's own brokenness.

People: *By whom our wounds are healed.*

Leader: Peace be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

All: *Let us worship the Living God.*

HYMN 234 (vv. 2-4)

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

ST. KEVIN

*(2) 'Tis the spring of souls today: Christ has burst his prison,
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has risen.
All the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying
from the Light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.*

*(3) Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendor,
with the royal feast of feasts comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem, who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection!*

*(4) Neither could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark portal,
nor the watchers, nor the seal hold you as a mortal:
but today, among your own, you appear, bestowing
your deep peace, which evermore passes human knowing.*

TEXT: John of Damascus, 8th cent.; trans. John Mason Neale, 1859, alt.
MUSIC: Arthur S. Sullivan, 1872, alt.

OPENING PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER (in 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.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Good and gracious God, we are creatures of habit, creatures of dust. We are ignorant of your revelation and have misunderstood your life, death, and resurrection. We need your forgiveness. We repent of our failure to give as you have given to us. We beg your mercy for our fallen world. We ask for your help to live the faith with Jesus. Forgive us and bring us closer to you.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

HYMN 582 (v. 1) **Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me** **GLORY TO GOD (VASILE)**

*(1) 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.*

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text; adapt. Paul M. Vasile, 2008
MUSIC: Paul M. Vasile, 2008
Text Adapt. and Music © 2008 Paul M. Vasile

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON John 20:24-31

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

SERMON "Proof or Presence?"

The Reverend Dr. Ellen C. Clémot

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison)

From A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**CALL TO OFFERING****OFFERTORY**All Things Bright and Beautiful
Chancel Choir

John Rutter

PRAYER OF DEDICATION**HYMN 22** (vv. 1,3,4,6)

God of the Sparrow

ROEDER

*(1) God of the sparrow
God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise*

*(4) God of the hungry
God of the sick
God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life*

*(3) God of the rainbow
God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks*

*(6) God of the ages
God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home*

TEXT: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983

MUSIC: Carl F. Schalk, 1983

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Music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE**

Easter Processional

Rosalie Bonighton

Today's worship service is being led by The Reverend Dr. Ellen C. Clémot and assisted by The Reverend Thomas A. Brown.

Our cantor this morning is Douglas Clark.

Special thanks to Craig Duke, Natalie Duke, Bob Eager and Carlene Pruitt today for their technical assistance.

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THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

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THE CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel Flowers today are presented to the Glory of God and in Honor of her mother's 100th birthday, by Carla Bond.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, April 18, 2021

SUPPORTING THE MENTAL HEALTH OF KIDS AS WE RE-ENTER NORMALCY

Today 11:00 am - 12:00 noon

Please join us for this Faith Forward event, a 2-part virtual conversation covering the effects of the pandemic on the mental health of our young people. We will cover what the latest research says about this topic, talk about the challenges students have faced and will face as they adjust to more normalized schooling, and talk about what you can do to support our kids during this time. These sessions will be hosted by PCCT members:

- Duncan Young, CEO of Effective School Solutions, a provider of school-based mental health services
- Ellen Dinneen, a licensed professional counselor practicing in Chatham

Click [HERE](#) for the link to join.

FAMILY FRIDAY

Fridays are dedicated to Families and all God's children. The weekly video message is emailed to families at 12 noon every Friday and available on our [website](#) along with activities, future service projects and ways for families to participate in the life of the church.

BIBLE STUDY

We will not be having Bible Study this week (April 21), but will resume on Wednesday, at 10:30 am. To sign up, please go [HERE](#), or you can call the church office and let us know you would like to attend. *Note new Zoom link.*

Meeting ID: 948 3878 2867

Passcode: Bible

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH FELLOWSHIP - Outdoor Game Night

Today from 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Join us today for a fun afternoon of outdoor games as we celebrate the return of Spring. Friends are welcome and all social distancing guidelines will be followed. Wear a mask and come ready for a good time! Please be sure to [register](#) in advance for this event.

SIDEWALK CHALK ART - Sunday, May 2

Save the Date! Families of all configurations and ages are invited to a neighborhood mission event. Starting with a BYO Outdoor Picnic Lunch at the home of Duncan & Katie Young, the group will then create Sidewalk Chalk Art at [Garden Terrace Nursing Home](#) in Chatham. Help us bring joy to local residents. Anyone who loves chalk art, or knows someone who does, is welcome to join us! All are welcome. Register [HERE!](#)

WARMING WEATHER . . . SINGING TOGETHER!

After more than 12 months of rehearsing over Zoom, and producing weekly anthems by recording individual voices and electronically mixing them (!!), we are excited to announce that the **Chancel Choir, and Cantate singers** will begin in-person rehearsals as of May! The Chancel Choir will maintain its Thursday evening Zoom rehearsal schedule, and open up the additional option of in-person rehearsals after Sunday worship. Cantate will rehearse on Wednesday afternoons, as was the pattern prior to the pandemic restrictions.

SAFETY PROTOCOL NOTE: All in-person rehearsals will be out of doors. Singers will maintain a 6' distance from each other. All singers (including child and youth singers) **MUST** wear a SingSafe Mask (the only singer mask providing the scientifically supported MERV-13 filter) and masks for singers will be paid for by PCCT. SingSafe mask sizes can be determined here: <https://SingSafeMask.com/measuring-your-mask>. Orders can be placed directly through Deborah or Janice for singers active in one of the PCCT choirs. Masks can also be ordered through the web site for those wanting the mask's comfort and breathing space for exercising, etc. Please contact [Deborah](#) or [Janice](#) for assistance.

NOURISH.NJ: MAY & JUNE

A wonderful new way to support Nourish guests! The need for food programs has increased by 30% since the onset of Covid-19 but we can alleviate the need by providing Breakfast Bags. Assemble the bags at home and drop them off at Mulford Hall. Upcoming weeks are May 17 - 25 and June 14 - 22 from between 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Please visit our [website](#) to sign up and for details and directions. We are hoping to provide 60 bags each month. Please contact Story Savage at story_savage_284@comcast.net with any questions. Thank you to everyone who has participated.

HUNGER RELIEF FUND

The economic impact of Covid continues to devastate many in our surrounding communities and people are struggling to feed their families. About four in 10 people have visited food banks this year and more than 1.2 million New Jerseyans are food insecure. Many of us are fortunate that we are financially stable. Some may have recently received additional income via a company bonus, tax refund, or Government stimulus check. As we enter this Easter season of hope and renewal, we'd like to offer a way to "pay it forward" through a Hunger Relief Fund. 100% of the monetary donations received will be shared among the following agencies: Community Food Bank, nourish.nj, Interfaith Food Pantry Network, the food bank at First Baptist Church of Madison and Helping Hands of Chatham. The campaign will run through April 25 and to date we have raised over \$3,000! You can donate online [HERE](#) or send a check payable to PCCT with Hunger Relief Fund in the memo line.

TIDINGS

Please click [HERE](#) to read our most recent issue of Tidings. There are hard copies available at the church that you can pick up or if you would like one to be mailed to you, please call or email the office.