



**PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

July 4, 2021 • 10:00 AM
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of Music and Readings for Independence Day
The Sacrament of Communion

PRELUDE

Variations on America

Thomas Keesecker

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Scott Cervas, inspired by “The New Colossus” by Emma Lazarus

Leader: Let’s be gathered here together,

People: *those of us who are tired and want to be renewed;*

Leader: those of us who are impoverished and seek nourishment;

People: *those of us who are suffocating and yearn to breathe free;*

Leader: those of us who are ignored and long for a sense of purpose;

People: *those of us who are tossed about and long for a place to belong.*

All: *Let’s be gathered here together - all of us - and worship God!*

***HYMN 331 (vv. 1-3)**

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

NATIONAL HYMN

(1) God of the ages, whose almighty hand leads forth in beauty all the starry band of shining worlds in splendor through the skies, our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

(2) Thy love divine hath led us in the past. In this free land by thee our lot is cast. Be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay: thy word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

(3) From war’s alarms, from deadly pestilence, be thy strong arm our ever sure defense. Thy true religion in our hearts increase. Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

TEXT: Daniel Crane Roberts, 1876, alt.
MUSIC: George William Warren, 1892

OPENING PRAYER

adapted from the United Methodist Church Book of Common 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.

*Indicates that the congregation will please rise, in body or in spirit.

READING Excerpted from “The Declaration of Independence”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Covenant-making God, you draw our attention to the injustices of this world, calling us by name and offering us new ways of living and being. We confess that we have become satisfied with the status quo. We turn our eyes from our neighbors in need: from those whose liberty is imperiled and from those for whom the pursuit of happiness is a luxury they cannot afford.

We have become absorbed with our own needs and desires, forgetting our place as fellow citizens and investors in the common good. Engrave your word on our hard hearts again, O God. Then break them open for what breaks yours, so we might remember anew that you are our God and we are your people. We pray in the name of the One whose love breaks all bounds, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*HYMN 354 (v. 3)

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

BATTLE HYMN

*(3) In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;
as he died to make us holy, let us live to make all free,
while God is marching on. (Refrain)*

Refrain:

Glory, glory hallelujah! Glory, glory hallelujah!

Glory, glory hallelujah! God's truth is marching on.

TEXT: Julia W. Howe, 1861, alt.
MUSIC: American melody, 19th cent.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

LESSON FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 145:1-9

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I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless you,
and praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.
One generation shall laud your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.
On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,
and I will declare your greatness.
They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The Lord is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made.

READING "The Gettysburg Address"

LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Deuteronomy 10:17-21

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For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the Lord your God; him alone you shall worship; to him you shall hold fast, and by his name you shall swear. He is your praise; he is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen.

READING Excerpted from "The American Dream" The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Delivered at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia, on July 4, 1965

*HYMN 337 (vv. 1-3) My Country, 'Tis of Thee AMERICA

(1) *My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing:
land where my parents died, land of the pilgrims' pride,
from every mountainside let freedom ring.*

(2) *My native country, thee, land of the noble free, thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and templed hills;
my heart with rapture thrills like that above.*

(3) *Let music swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees sweet freedom's song.
Let mortal tongues awake; let all that breathe partake;
let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.*

TEXT: Samuel Francis Smith, 1831
MUSIC: *Harmonia Anglicana*, c. 1744

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison)

Adapted from "Our World Belongs to God,"
Calvin Institute for Christian Worship

As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world - which some seek to control, but which others view with despair - we declare with joy and trust: Our world belongs to God! From the beginning, through all the crises of our times, until his kingdom fully comes, God keeps covenant forever. Our world belongs to God - let the earth be glad! The Spirit is at work, renewing creation. Praise the Lord!

As covenant partners, called to faithful obedience, and set free for joyful praise, we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work in the world. With tempered impatience, eager to see injustice ended, we expect the day of the Lord. And we are confident that the light which shines in the present darkness will fill the earth when Christ appears. Come, Lord Jesus! Our world belongs to you. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Fr. Rick Morley, Rector
St. Mark's Episcopal Church Basking Ridge, NJ

Our prayers this day begin in gratitude. The invited response to the first set of petitions is "We thank you, Lord." The prayers will shift mid-way through to ask for wisdom and guidance. At this point, the response also shifts to: "We pray to you, Lord."

CALL TO OFFERING

Michelle L. Torigian, Abingdon Worship Annual

OFFERTORY

I Dream a World
Ember Choral Ensemble

Text by Langston Hughes
Music by Dwight Bigler

I dream a world where man no other man will scorn,
Where love will bless the earth and peace its paths adorn.
I dream a world where all will know sweet freedom's way,
Where greed no longer saps the soul nor av'rice blights our day.

A world I dream where black or white, whatever race you be,
Will share the bounties of the earth and ev'ry man is free.
Where wretchedness will hang its head and joy, like a pearl,
Attends the needs of all mankind, of such I dream.

Of such I dream, my world!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***HYMN 327 (v. 1)**

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*(1) From all that dwell below the skies
let the Creator's praise arise:*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Let the Redeemer's name be sung
through every land, in every tongue.*

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

TEXT: Stanza 1, Isaac Watts, 1719
MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1623, alt.; Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Matthew 5; Psalm 34-8

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ANTHEM

Ubi Caritas
Reese and Brynn Hageman

Becki Stagle Mayo

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

*(Our custom is to hold the bread until all have been served
and then to eat after the Pastor says,)*

Leader: Jesus said "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." Ministering in the name of Christ, I offer you the bread.

(We hold the cup and drink together after the Pastor says,)

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Apart from me, you can do nothing. Abiding in my love, you will bear much fruit." Ministering in the name of Christ, I offer you the cup.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

***HYMN 339** (vv. 1 & 3)

Lift Every Voice and Sing

LIFT EVERY VOICE

*(1) Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies;
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on, till victory is won.*

*(3) God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.*

TEXT: James Weldon Johnson, 1900
MUSIC: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1905

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Medley of National Hymns

*After communion, you may dispose of your communion cups
in the containers at the ends of each pew. Thank you.*

Today's worship service is being led by The Reverend Thomas A. Brown
and assisted by Elder Lucy Deutsch.

Our cantors this morning are Reese and Brynn Hageman.

Our ushers this morning are Story Savage and Carolyn Smith and
Cynthia and John Merwin are our greeters.

Special thanks to Bob Eager and Carlene Pruitt
today for their technical assistance.

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This morning's plate offering (gifts received in cash) is designated for the work of our Board of Deacons, which coordinates important ministries of congregational care and compassion. Please remember them in your giving today and on the first Sunday in the months to come.

The Session of PCCT encourages everyone eligible and able to get vaccinated against Covid-19 for the good of all. Please do your part to stop the spread of this disease by mask-wearing, social distancing, and careful hand hygiene when vaccinations are not an option for you.

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 loving memory of Ute Bliemel,
mother and grandmother, by the Bliemel Family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, July 4, 2021

VIRTUAL LEMONADE AND FELLOWSHIP

If you would like to join others for some virtual lemonade and fellowship each week after worship via Zoom (self-monitored), click [HERE](#).

Meeting ID: 928 3540 8761

Passcode: PCCT

GREAT NEWS!

In Person Registration is no longer required. However, we encourage you to stay home and join us for online worship if you aren't feeling well, have recently returned from a high COVID-risk country, or answered "yes" to any question on our health questionnaire [HERE](#). Masks are still required as an expression of care for those most vulnerable.

HANDS-ON SERVICE OPPORTUNITY: Thursday, July 15, 5:30-7:30 pm

Join us down on the farm at America's Grow-A-Row in Pittstown, NJ for an evening harvesting fresh produce to be donated to local soup kitchens and food pantries. This mission activity is suitable for all ages and especially appropriate for families with children at home. Please bring filled water bottles and work gloves for each person in your group. Please go to our [Sign-Up Genius](#) or call the church office to register to attend.

NOURISH.NJ - July 19 - 27

Thank you to everyone who has been providing Breakfast Bags to [nourish.NJ](#) each month since February. Upcoming dates are July 19 - 27. You can find the link to sign up on our [website](#) or you can sign up on the board in the Upper Lobby at church. Contact our PCCT member liaison [Story Savage](#) with any questions Great way for the whole family to help someone in need.

FLOWER DEDICATION

Thank you to everyone who has been supporting the flower ministry each week. There are several weeks open that are coming up this summer: July 25, and August 15, 22, and 29, as well as many dates in the fall. If you would like to place a dedication in memory or in honor of someone or some group, you can sign up [online](#) or call or email the church office.

GREETERS AND USHERS NEEDED!

Now that we have returned to indoor worship services, we have a definite need for more people to serve as ushers and greeters. If you are interested in helping, please reach out to the church office and let us know. We can provide you with all the instructions and details you will need. Please consider serving and being part of these important parts of our worship service each week.