

# PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

**Sunday, December 26, 2021**  
**First Sunday of Christmas**  
**10:00 A.M.**

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**Welcome**

Associate Pastor Tom Brown

**Carol Sing**

**Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

Senior Pastor Ellen Clémot

**Leader:** Praise the Lord, all the earth, from the highest heights to the deepest depths!

**People:** *Let everything sing and shout praise to the Creator!*

**Leader:** Praise the Lord, all the heavens and starry host!

**People:** *All throughout the universe may praise to God abound!*

**Leader:** Come, let us joyfully praise God!

**People:** *Let us live our praise in deeds of loving kindness. AMEN.*

**\*Hymn 132**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

**Opening Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer** "debts . . . debtors"

Hymnal, Page 35

**Call to Confession**

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

**Prayer of Confession (in unison)**

*God of new life, we are told by your holy word to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. But too often we don hurtful garments, clothing ourselves with stubbornness, selfishness, impatience, rudeness, and apathy. Help us instead to dress ourselves with love; that the peace of your son might rule in our hearts now and always. This we pray in Jesus' merciful and forgiving name. Amen.*

**Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Gloria Patri**

GLORIA PATRI (GREATOREX)

*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. Amen.*

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Lesson from the Psalter: Psalm 148**

Page 582

**Lesson from the New Testament: Colossians 3:12-17**

Page 201

**Sermon "A Symphony of Praise"**

The Reverend Thomas A. Brown

**\*Affirmation of Faith (in unison)**

Nathan Nettleton

*We believe in God, the creator and giver of life, who brought all creation to birth, who mothers us and fathers us, protecting, nurturing, and cherishing us.*

*We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby, embodying both love and the need for love, and calling us to rest in God as trustingly as a tiny child.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, breathed into us at our birth, always drawing us on to be born again, encouraging, exhorting, comforting, nourishing our growth and inspiring our living.*

*We believe in the reconciliation of the world to God, through Christ. Hunted at birth and humiliated at death, Christ entered our fearful darkness so that we might enter his glorious light and share the life of his resurrection.*



Today's preacher is Associate Pastor Thomas A. Brown.  
Thank you to our ushers, greeters,  
tabulators, processors, and our tech team.

**THIS WEEK AT PCCT: December 27, 2021 - January 1, 2022**  
Church Offices are closed.

**NEXT SUNDAY, January 2, 2022**

**Epiphany**

**The Sacrament of Communion**

10:00 am **Worship;** Nursery Care & Pre-K, Rm. B-13  
11:00 am Fellowship Time, Mulford Hall  
6:30 pm AA, Theos

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP**

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The Rev. Thomas A. Brown, Associate Pastor, [tbrown@pcct-nj.org](mailto:tbrown@pcct-nj.org)

Matthew Zabiegala, Director of Music, [mzabiegala@pcct-nj.org](mailto:mzabiegala@pcct-nj.org)

Ashley Mathews, Associate Music Director, [amathews@pcct-nj.org](mailto:amathews@pcct-nj.org)

Kathy Hoffman, Interim Director of Family Ministries, [khoffman@pcct-nj.org](mailto:khoffman@pcct-nj.org)

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Kevin Vodrazka, Sexton, [kvodrazka@pcct-nj.org](mailto:kvodrazka@pcct-nj.org)

**Masks are required when inside the building for all.**

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*The Session of PCCT encourages everyone eligible and able to get vaccinated against Covid-19 for the good of all. Stay healthy by being vigilant about wearing your mask, social distancing, and careful hand hygiene to prevent the transmission of the Coronavirus. Help us protect young children and others who cannot be vaccinated. Please stay home and join us for online worship if you aren't feeling well, or answer "yes" to any question on our health questionnaire **HERE** or on our website at [pcct-nj.org](http://pcct-nj.org).*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**December 26, 2021**

We are delighted you've chosen to worship with us today.  
Please let an usher or minister know if we can assist you in any way.

## TODAY AT PCCT

10:00 am	Worship; Nursery Care and Pre-K, Room B-13
11:00 am	Fellowship Time
6:30 pm	AA, Theos Room

## PCCT FIRST FRIDAY CELEBRATION!

**Friday, January 7, 6:00 PM at Untied Brewing Company in New Providence**

Start off the New Year spending a casual evening with PCCT friends. This will be a "drop-in" event - no RSVP required. BYOF (Bring Your Own Food. Outside alcohol not permitted.) Friends are invited! For questions, contact Doug Frank [dbfrank50@aol.com](mailto:dbfrank50@aol.com). The brewing company is located at 140 Spring Street Unit C in New Providence.

## FAITH FORWARD: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE PRESBYTERIAN?

**Led by The Rev. Dr. Ellen C. Clémot**

**Sunday, January 9, 11 am, Halldorson Hall.**

Many of us joined PCCT coming from different faith traditions. Some of us are not sure what we believe about God, but we feel confident that there is a Sacred Something worthy of our worship and reflective time together. Here's a chance to learn more about our adopted "Reformed Faith" tradition. Join our Senior Pastor, Dr. Ellen Clémot after worship on January 9<sup>th</sup> in a Faith Forward group conversation about what Presbyterians believe, and what makes us different from other Christian traditions in our way of governance, interaction with civil government, understanding of scripture, sacraments, and the inclusion of all people in worship life together.

## BETTER TOGETHER GET-TOGETHERS!

Join our Deacon leaders at a series of at-home, small group, wine and cheese gatherings with our Senior Pastor Ellen Clémot to talk about our church life together. The next gathering is **January 9<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm** at Virginia and Peck Hofler's home and you can register on our [website](#). Spaces are limited to the first 14 people (or 7 couples) who sign up - no limit on kids - we will provide on-site childcare. Thank you deacons for your hospitality!

**FAITH FORWARD: HANDS-ON SERVICE PROJECT: BREAKFAST BAGS FOR NOURISH.NJ**

**Sunday, January 16, 11 am, Mulford Hall**

Join us in Mulford Hall immediately following worship to help package Breakfast Bags for Nourish.NJ. This low impact project is suitable for all ages, aimed at providing a rewarding and fun service opportunity for interested individuals and families. Please see the website for a sign-up link to provide food items.

**PCCT COMMUNITY GARDEN – BE A PART OF THE PLANNING**

**Sunday, January 23, following worship**

Calling all gardeners (no matter the color of your thumbs!) We need you to help plant the seed as we kick off the new Sunday Farm Garden this spring. This endeavor will support local food pantries and community members in need of fresh produce. Interest meeting to be held on January 23 after church, more details to follow!

**STEWARDSHIP “BETTER TOGETHER”**

Thank you to all who have pledged so far! As you consider your pledge amount for PCCT, please do so with gratitude to God for our church. We are #bettertogether #thankyou. Please support PCCT in 2022:

1. Return the Pledge card you received in the mail.
2. Complete the confidential online form on our website!
3. On Sunday, Pledge cards can be found on the table in the Narthex.

Please also remember that to be tax deductible all donations for 2021 need to be postmarked or received by 12/31/2021. Thank you.

**USHER CAPTAINS NEEDED**

Session's Worship and Music Committee is looking for a few usher team captains for 2022. Easy instructions are provided. Please contact Gloria Newson if you are interested and if you have any questions.

**FLOWER DEDICATIONS**

2022 dates are also now available! You may sign up on our board in the Upper Lobby or on our website. Thank you for supporting the Deacon's flower ministry.

## 132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

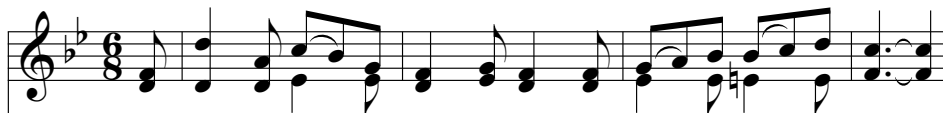
give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

## 123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,  
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un - furled,  
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf-fered long;  
 4 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,  
 5 For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
 and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:  
 be - neath the heaven-ly hymn have rolled two thou-sand years of wrong;  
 who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,  
 when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all-gra-cious King”:  
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,  
 and we at war on earth hear not the tid - ings that they bring;  
 look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift-ly on the wing:  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,



The “it” of the first line of this text by a Unitarian minister does not refer to the birth of Jesus, but to “that glorious song of old,” the angelic tidings of peace on earth. The restored third stanza laments how often the noise of human strife has obscured that message.



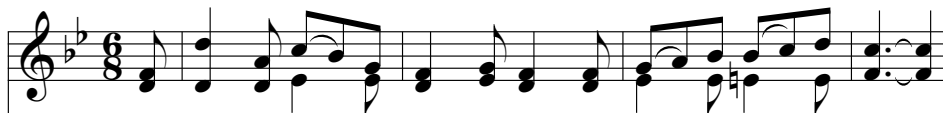
## JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH



the world in sol - emn still-ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.  
 and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless-ed an - gels sing.  
 O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing!  
 O, rest be-side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing.  
 and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.



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