



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

Sunday, May 21, 2023
Confirmation Sunday
Recognition of Church School Teachers
10:00 A.M.

Prelude

Cantilene

Marcel Dupre

Elizabeth Monkemeier, *clarinet*

***Call to Worship**

Leader: The God of our ancestors calls to us today;

People: May we have the faith of our forebearers to go where God leads us.

Leader: The God of our children calls to us today;

People: May we work for justice and peace to build up the reign of God on earth.

Leader: Jesus, the son of the Living God, calls to us now;

People: May we worship God, follow Jesus, and be moved by the Spirit to live as God's new creation, responding in faith: "Lord, here I am!"

***Processional Hymn 49** The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

Call to Confession

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

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

Assurance of Pardon

***Hymn 581** Glory Be to the Father 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.*

Service of Confirmation for the Class of 2023

Matthew Savage Baum	Eleanor Rose Meyers
Abigail Elizabeth Dowling	Katharine Lillian Patten
Julia Sue Halldorson	Wesley Fitzpatrick Thomas
Olivia Helen Mangel	Georgia Duncan Young

Recognition of Teachers and Church School Leaders

*(K-5th graders will go downstairs to their classrooms;
Breakfast Club will meet in the Youth Suite.)*

Prayer for Illumination

Lesson from the Psalter: Psalm 78:1-8

Page 537

Anthem

Steal Away arr. Howard Helvey
Chancel Choir and Elizabeth Monkemeier, *clarinet*

Lesson from the New Testament: Philippians 2:1-11

Page 197

Sermon "If God is Love..."

The Reverend Thomas A. Brown

***Hymn 693**

Though I May Speak

GIFT OF LOVE

***Affirmation of Faith** Adapted from Confirmands' Faith Statements (see insert)

The Prayers of the People

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

Hymnal, Page 35

Call to Offering

Offertory

Great is Thy Faithfulness
Sanctuary Ringers

arr. Anna Laura Page

***Doxology**

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Recessional Hymn 69**

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

HERE I AM

***Benediction**

Postlude

Theme

W.A. Mozart

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Worship leaders this morning are Associate Pastor Rev. Thomas A. Brown
and Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Ellen C. Clémot.

Thank you to our greeters and ushers this morning.

Special thanks to Bob Eager, Dylan Mangel and Nathan Brown
for their technical assistance today.

THIS WEEK AT PCCT: May 22 – 27, 2023

Monday

5:00 pm Personnel Mtg., Halldorson Hall
6:30 pm Boy Scouts, Mulford Hall
7:00 pm Finance & Operations Mtg., Theos

Wednesday

10:30 am Bible Study, Theos Room
5:00 pm Children's Handbells, Room A-8
5:30 pm Children's Choir, Room A-8

Tuesday

10:00 am Staff Meeting, Halldorson Hall
7:00 pm Fellowship Mtg., Zoom

Thursday

6:00 pm Sanctuary Ringers, Sanctuary
7:15 pm Chancel Choir, Choir Room

NEXT SUNDAY, May 28, 2023

Pentecost Sunday

10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Lemonade and Fellowship, Mulford Hall
11:15 am Seven Marks of the Church Discussion
on Leadership, Halldorson Hall
6:30 pm AA, Theos Room

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

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Matthew Zabiegala, Director of Music, mzabiegala@pcct-nj.org

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Mark Van Nest, Sexton, mvannest@pcct-nj.org

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
Confirmation Class of 2023

The congregation is enriched by each person who chooses to join our family of faith. Please welcome our Confirmation students who are being received into membership today.

*"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."
(1 Corinthians 12: 27)*

Matthew Savage Baum

Abigail Elizabeth Dowling

Julia Sue Halldorson

Olivia Helen Mangel

Eleanor Rose Meyers

Katharine Lillian Patten

Wesley Fitzpatrick Thomas

Georgia Duncan Young

Our sincere thanks to our Confirmation leaders:

Scott Heller, Megan McCann, Amanda Medina, and Mackenzie Wilson

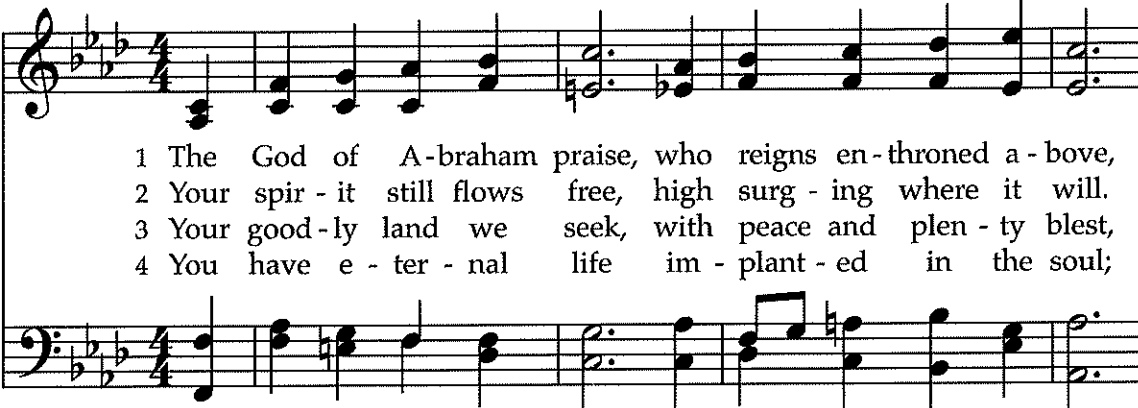
Rev. Tom Brown

*Guest Teachers Rev. Dr. Ellen C. Clémot and Rev. Mary Anne Collins-Stauffer
and all the parents who provided snacks and transportation.*

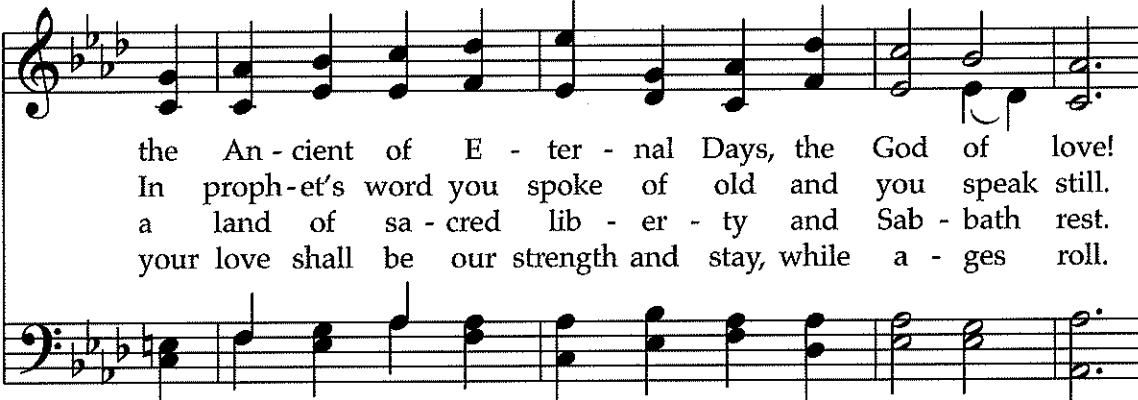
AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(adapted from Confirmation students' Faith Statements)*

- Leader: God must have a lot of love and hope for all of us because He created such a beautiful world for us to live in.
- People: I view God as somebody who loves me for who I am, that truly cares about me.
- Leader: God has no expectations for who I have to be... my eyes are opened to how God will love me no matter what.
- People: I've felt close to God everywhere, not only church. I feel connected to him when praying, when I'm hiking or running, I feel him right there with me.
- Leader: Jesus made so many sacrifices and constantly helped, and still helps, others. I can truly celebrate him, and return the favor of all things Jesus has done with his undying kindness.
- People: I understand how much of a truly selfless person Jesus was and how much he did for the good of humanity and everything on this earth.
- Leader: Jesus is more than someone who died on a cross for our sins. He continued to follow what he believed in despite numerous people standing in his way.
- People: What it means to be Jesus' disciple is having complete and total trust in him, as well as listening to his guidance. I do this mainly by following his stories.
- Leader: By saying God is the spirit, it means that he is the wind on a cool day. He is the blue jay that soars past you on your walk into school. He is a figure who will always be with you.
- People: The Holy Spirit transports God's intentions and blessings; it preserves our belief in divinity and faith.
- Leader: The Holy Spirit helps me experience God because not only is it God, it is also the path, the tour, the guide.
- People: I describe the Holy Spirit as the Breath of life. That God created me to live this life and even though it can be hard, I can always trust that God is on my side.
- Leader: An understanding I have is that God isn't a genie. Whenever you want something, it won't just appear right out of thin air.
- People: Faith is a two-way operation. You get what you give, and that is why it is so incredibly important to have strong faith, because you always want God by your side.
- Leader: God is part of my life by being a constant reminder that I should be treating others the way I would want to be acted towards myself.
- People: Seeing a sunset or a waterfall is all because of God. He created all of these beautiful places in nature and I can't help but say "thank you."

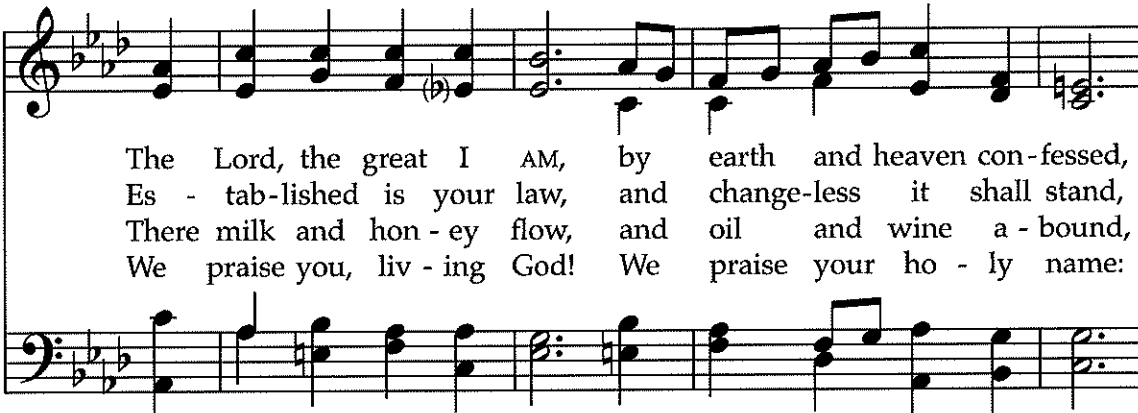
49 The God of Abraham Praise



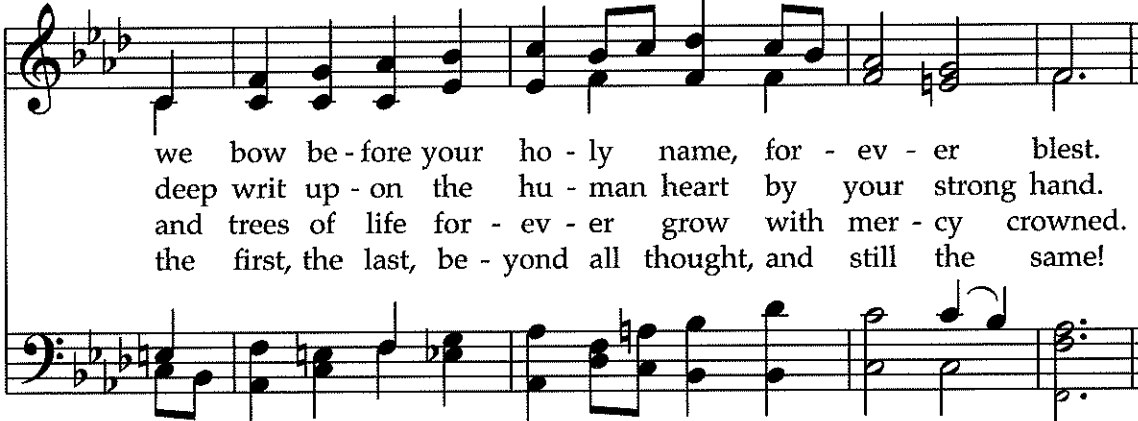
1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove,
 2 Your spir - it still flows free, high surg - ing where it will.
 3 Your good - ly land we seek, with peace and plen - ty blest,
 4 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;



the An - cient of E - ter - nal Days, the God of love!
 In proph-et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
 a land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and Sab - bath rest.
 your love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.



The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con-fessed,
 Es - tab-lished is your law, and change-less it shall stand,
 There milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound,
 We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name:



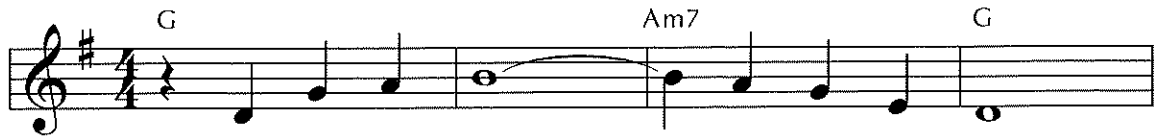
we bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart by your strong hand.
 and trees of life for - ev - er grow with mer - cy crowned.
 the first, the last, be - yond all thought, and still the same!

Shaped by its traditional Jewish tune, this selection of English stanzas conveys the essence of the *Yigdal*, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith about the nature of God and often used in synagogue worship, alternately chanted by cantor and congregation.

Though I May Speak

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The Gift of Love



1 Though I may speak with brav - est fire,
 2 Though I may give all I pos - sess,
 3 Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol;



and have the gift to all in - spire,
 and striv - ing so my love pro - fess,
 our spir - its long to be made whole.



and have not love, my words are vain,
 but not be given by love with - in,
 Let in - ward love guide ev - ery deed;



as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.
 the prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.
 by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

As paraphrases of 1 Corinthians 13:1, 3 the first two stanzas here are in the first person singular, yet they lead into a plural prayer for the gift of such love, for it thrives in community. These words are especially poignant with this adaptation of an English folk melody.

69 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I Am, Lord

G Am D G C G D
Leader or All

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

G Em C Am7 D G

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est

Am D G C G D

made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

G Em C Am7 C/G D D7

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

All G C G D G C G D G

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you

Am7 G Am7 D G C G C

call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you

G C G D G Am7 D7 G Am7 G

lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

The stanzas here need to be understood as representing the voice of God, while the refrain (based on Isaiah 6:8) is the faithful human response to God's call. This becomes clearer if a leader or small group sings the stanzas, with the congregation joining on the refrain.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 21, 2023

We are delighted you've chosen to worship with us today. Please let an usher or a minister know if we can assist you in any way. Our Sanctuary is equipped with an induction loop system for those with hearing difficulties.

TODAY AT PCCT

Confirmation Sunday

Recognition of Church School Teachers

- 10:00 am **Worship;** Nursery Care & Pre-K, Rm. A-9
- 10:15 am Church School & Breakfast Club
- 11:00 am Reception for Confirmands & Church School, Mulford Hall
- 5:00 pm Middle School Youth Fellowship
End of Year Banquet, Mulford Hall
- 6:30 pm AA, Theos Room
- 7:00 pm Compassionate Friends, Halldorson Hall

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel Flowers are presented to the Glory of God
and in loving memory of Edwin (Teddy) Holt Ahsler,
beloved son and brother, by Deb, Rick, Philip and Sam.



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY: Sunday, May 21

Today is Confirmation Sunday when we celebrate our Confirmation Class of 2023 being received into membership. It is also the last day of Church School. Please join us after worship at a special reception to welcome our newest members, celebrate the last day of Church School and honor our teachers and Confirmation leaders.

NOURISH.NJ Breakfast Bags

Our drop off dates for May are May 15-24. Thank you to everyone who continues to support this ministry each month. You may sign up on our website or on the sign up board in the Upper Lobby.

ANNUAL MARLA DRURY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

In fond memory of long-time PCCT member Marla Drury, Women's Ministries will be awarding a \$1,000 Marla Drury Memorial Scholarship (MDMS) to a high school senior or current college student, male or female, who is an active PCCT member and exemplifies the same generous, giving spirit as Marla did. Applications are available on our website. The deadline for submission is May 28. Contributions towards the funding of the scholarship are also welcome; make checks payable to PCCT, with "MDMS" in the memo line. Contact Kristin Winter with any questions.

COMMUNITY GARDEN: Summer Garden Tutorials

Saturdays: June 3, 2:00 pm & June 10, 9:00 am

Calling all gardeners! Are you a veteran gardener? Are you a novice interested in learning more? Please join our merry team of gardeners to learn more about maintaining and harvesting our rapidly growing Community Garden. We need people to sign up to help manage the garden on a weekly basis this summer. Written directions will be provided but this introduction will cover watering, weeding and harvesting. Please join us in our mission to help provide produce for local charities. Many hands make light work!

PRIDE VESPERS: Sunday, June 4, 5:00 pm

The Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township (PCCT) will host an inaugural "PRIDE Vespers" event that celebrates and affirms the LGBTQ+ community with a message of love. The event will be centered around music, messages of affirmation and love, and include a meaningful moment of candle lighting. The Chancel Choir will be leading the event musically along with the Director of Music, Matthew Zabiegala and they will be performing choral music that expresses, uplifts, and focuses on members of the LGBTQ+ community. This event welcomes all and monetary donations will go to an LGBTQ+ charity.



CHILDREN'S CLUB CHAT & CHEW

Our last mid-week program meeting will be on **Wednesday, June 7** from 5:45 pm – 7:00 pm. Parents are requested to donate \$10 per child per week to cover the cost of the dinners and craft supplies. Please contact our Director of Family Ministries Yvonne Anderson for more information.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: June 19 - June 23, 2023, 8:45 am - 1 pm

This year's Vacation Bible School theme is "*God's Wonder Lab*" and will feature Fun and Creative activities, Lessons, Crafts, Breakfast and Lunch! Sign up today!

FISHAWACK: Saturday, June 10

CALLING ALL PCCT RUNNERS (AND WALKERS TOO)! Mark your calendars now to run the Fishawack Run on Saturday, June 10, 2023. Maybe even invite a friend to motivate each other to get in shape before the Summer. Register at <https://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/Chatham/JayceesFishawackRun> for the one-mile walk/run starting at 9:00 am or the four-mile run at 9:30 am. Stop by the PCCT booth at the festival afterwards to say hello and have a chance to brag about our Wonderful Church to the Chatham community. For information (or to volunteer), check the PCCT bulletin board in Mulford Hall or contact Gage Johnson at gagerjohnson676@gmail.com (917-207-8019). See you there!

THANKSGIVING IN JUNE: Sunday, June 11

"We gather together to praise the Lord's blessings..." We're familiar with these words in late November but what could be wrong with singing them any time of the year? The Mission and Outreach Committee is pleased to invite you to start humming now and get ready for Sunday, June 11.

FAITH FORWARD: Helping Hands

Sunday, June 11, 11:15 am in Halldorson Hall

In March of 2020, Chatham resident Joann Carroll created a new initiative, "Helping Hands of Chatham," to facilitate help for local families who found themselves "food insecure" as a result of COVID-19. The inspiration for "Helping Hands of Chatham" came about after witnessing all the different ways the Chatham community bonded together to support each other during this crisis. Join us in Halldorson Hall to hear about Helping Hands and testimonies from families that the organization supports.

HELP US SUPPORT JOHNSONBURG CAMP

Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center in NJ has launched an ambitious capital campaign to raise much needed funds for improvements for facilities and operations, housing options, and site areas. For over 60 years, PCCT has enjoyed using the Camp's facilities for confirmation retreats and other programming events and many of our youth have long-lasting memories from their time attending summer camp at Johnsonburg. Our Mission and Outreach Committee has pledged \$500 towards this campaign, and will match up to an additional \$500 for any PCCT member willing to contribute to the campaign. We invite you to prayerfully consider how you might support this effort. To donate, you can go to our website and choose "miscellaneous" on the drop down menu and write "Johnsonburg Camp" in the notes section. We will be collecting donations until the end of June. For more information about the campaign, visit: <https://www.campjburg.org/marked/>

SERMON SERIES INTRODUCTION – Seven Marks of the Church


On April 23, Pastor Clémot began a Sermon Series on the Seven Marks of the church. We began the series with the first mark of the church: Discipleship, the ways we follow Jesus. Each week we invite you to consider ways that you understand the mark of the church as presented that Sunday. Please note down your thoughts on the question prompts placed in the pews each week. Then place them in the offering plate, or the note basket in the narthex, or hand them to Ellen after worship for us to discuss during coffee hour. We are considering how the marks of the church help us feel a sense of belonging to this particular church, the Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township. Thank you for participating – your thoughts will help guide Session as we re-envision the mission of our church! **Please note there will be a break in the series today on May 21 for Confirmation Sunday and we will resume next Sunday, May 28.**

CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY CONCERT!

Save the date for our Caring for the Community Concert on **Saturday, July 15, from 6:30 - 8:30 pm** on the front lawn of the church with music by Blue Soul. Plan to join us!



MUSIC NOTES

You can read all the music notes for today's worship service by using this QR code 



VIRTUAL COMMENT BOX

We're glad that you are here worshipping with us! Please share your worship experience with us today and every time that you attend worship. You may submit feedback via the QR code at any time! Open your camera app, hold your phone over the code, and follow the pop-up link. Thank you!

Managed by the Worship & Music Committee

The Chatham Emergency Squad is having a **Blood Drive** on Saturday, June 10, from 8:30 am-2:30 pm, St. Patrick Church - Parish Gymnasium, 85 Washington Ave., Chatham