



# PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

**Sunday, December 10, 2023**  
**Second Sunday in Advent**  
**10:00 A.M.**

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**Prelude**

E'en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come  
Carol Wooldredge, *cello*

Paul Manz

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: A voice cries out in the wilderness:

*People: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make God's way clear!"*

Leader: "Lift up every valley; lower every mountain."

*People: "For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed."*

*All: Our Savior is coming! Prepare the way! Alleluia. Amen*

**\*Processional Hymn 88** (vv. 5-7) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel VENI EMMANUEL

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Lighting of the Second Advent Candle**

*(see insert)*

**Call to Confession**

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

**Prayer of Confession** (in unison)

*Faithful God, we confess that we have not led lives of holiness. We suffer from impatience, apathy, greed; we have not been at peace. We repent of these offenses and turn to you in love. Forgive our iniquity and pardon our sins, that we may walk in righteousness to the glory of your name. Amen.*

**Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Hymn 113**

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

**Message For All God's Children**

Yvonne Anderson  
Director of Family Ministries

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Lesson from the Hebrew Bible:** Isaiah 40:1-11

Page 667

**Anthem**

Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room  
Chancel Choir

arr. Lloyd Larson

**Lesson from the Gospels:** Mark 1:1-8

Page 34

**Sermon "Prepare the Way"**

The Rev. Dr. Ellen Clark Clémot

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

Terri Peterson

*We trust God, whose Love and Justice are revealed over and over through creation, community, and story, through the voices of prophets and the lives of ordinary people, through a helpless newborn baby.*

*We trust Jesus the Christ, embodiment of God's word, born a refugee, raised in poverty, dependent on the kindness of others.*

*We trust the Holy Spirit, breath of all life, who blows where she will, calling us to the same path Jesus walked, and leading us all in the holy dance of life in the kingdom of God.*

*Even as days grow dark, even in the midst of uncertainty, even now: the fire of God's love burns bright, the wind of the spirit cannot be contained, streams of living water flow in the desert, and all earth cries glory, as we wait the dawn of God's new day.*

**\*Hymn 87**                      Comfort, Comfort Now My People                      GENEVAN 42

**The Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** "debts . . . debtors"                      Hymnal, Page 35

**Call to Offering**

**Offertory**                      In dulci jubilo                      arr. David Schelat

**\*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 82** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus                      HYFRYDOL

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**                      Lo! How a Rose e'er Blooming    arr. Thomas Keesecker

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Today's worship leaders are Senior Pastor Ellen Clark Clémot  
and Associate Pastor Thomas A. Brown.

Thank you to all of our ushers today.

Thank you also to our tabulators Kent Stevens and Cindy Murphy  
and our processor Sandy Batten.

Special thanks to Bob Eager, Dylan Mangel, and Lynn Apolinaro  
for their technical assistance today.

## THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: December 11 - 16, 2023

### Monday

9:30 am Next Act Brunch, Theos  
6:30 pm Boy Scouts, Mulford Hall  
7:00 pm Session, Halldorson Hall

### Tuesday

10:00 am Staff meeting, Halldorson Hall

### Wednesday

10:00 am Bible Study, Halldorson Hall  
5:00 pm Children's Pageant Bells with  
Corpus Christi  
5:45 pm Chat & Chew, Mulford Hall

### Wednesday. (cont'd)

5:45 pm Children's Choir, Bell Room/A8

### Thursday

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

### Saturday

9:00 am Community FoodBank, Hillside  
10:00 am Music Practice, Sanctuary  
2:00 pm Children's Pageant Rehearsal,  
Sanctuary

## NEXT SUNDAY, December 17, 2023

### Third Sunday in Advent

#### Lessons & Carols

10:00 am **Worship, Sanctuary;** Nursery Care, A-9  
11:00 am **Carols & Coffee, Mulford Hall**  
Confirmation Class Luminary Prep, Lower Level  
4:00 pm **Children's Christmas Pageant, Front Lawn**

### THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

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# Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

The Zehner Family

Congregation Sings:

## "Light the Advent Candle"

PICARDY  
VENI EMMANUEL

arr. Ruth Elaine Schram  
ad. Matthew Zabiegala

$\text{♩} = 120$



As we light the Ad - ve - nt can - dle with the light of hope burn - ing bright,

7



faith - fu - lly we wait for his com - ing; faith - fu - lly it shines through the night.

13



In our hum - ble hearts a fi - re burns as well; hear the prayer these flames wou - ld

19



tell - us O - come, O - come Em - man - u -

23



el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - - - ra - el.

Reader 1: Deeply planted in the mystery of life  
is a stream of living water  
filling dry lands and dry people.

Reader 2: Two candles shine as shadows lengthen and chaos roars:  
the dawn of God's kingdom in our midst.

*All: Courage awakens in us, a spark to brighten the way.*

Reader 3: Deeply planted in the mystery of life  
is God's love;  
gracing the world with presence and purpose.

Reader 4: Let us pray...  
We wait, Holy God, longing for the dawning of a new day.  
We prepare, trying to make room,  
expectant yet worried; hopeful yet wondering.

Reader 5: God, we believe you long for the world's transformation,  
and are preparing us for it even now,  
making us into vessels of light and love.  
Help us get ready to receive the gift of Jesus anew. Amen.



*Advent Candle Liturgy adapted from the work of Rev. Teri Peterson.  
The hymn is an excerpt from "Light the Advent Candle" by Ruth Elaine Schram.*

# 88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge  
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;  
 make safe the way that leads on high,  
 and close the path to misery.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
 our spirits by thine advent here;  
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
 all peoples in one heart and mind;  
 bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
 fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

*One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:*

Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)

Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)

Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)

Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)

Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)

Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)

Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

# Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

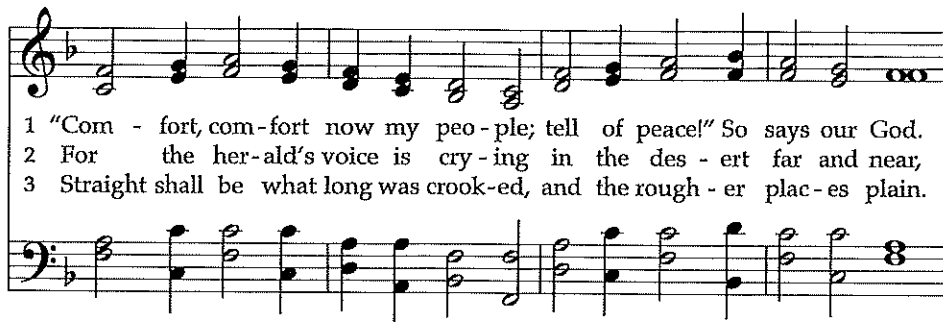
With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744  
MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1830; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

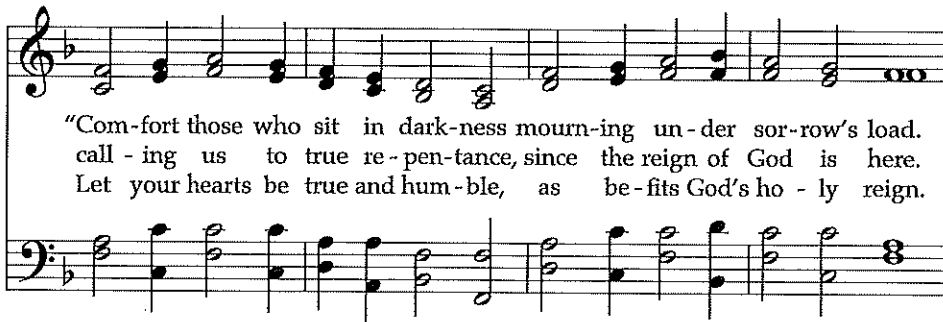
HYFRYDOL  
8.7.8.7.D  
(alternate tune: STUTTGART, 83)



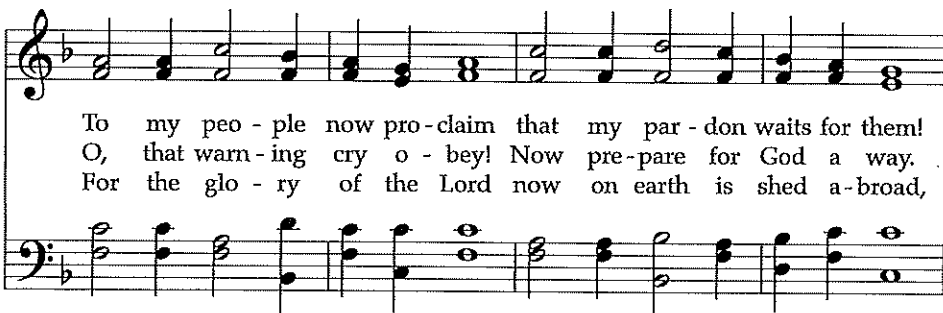
## Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87



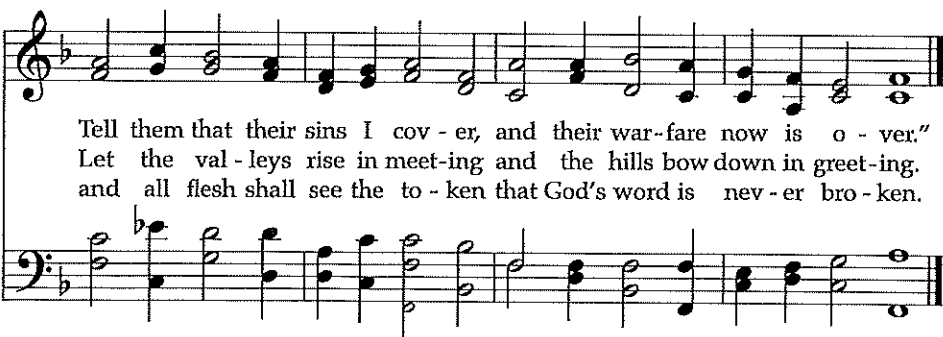
1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.  
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!  
 O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."  
 Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.  
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1-5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular Genevan Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folksong.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**December 10, 2023**

## Second Sunday in Advent

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 CHURCH

- 9:15 & 11:00 am Confirmation Class, Youth Suite
- 10:00 am** **Worship, Sanctuary;** Nursery Care, A-9
- 10:15 am Church School and Breakfast Club
- 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, Mulford Hall
- 11:45 am Children's Pageant Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 7:00 pm Compassionate Friends Worldwide  
Candle Lighting, Halldorson Hall

### CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel Flowers are presented to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Willibald Bliemel, father and grandfather, by the Bliemel Family.



### LESSONS AND CAROLS: Sunday, December 17

Join us for this special worship service blending music performed by PCCT music groups, along with youth and adult leaders sharing Scripture and featuring festive music and many "sing-a-longs." Don't miss this family-friendly celebration of Advent and Christmas.

### FAITH FORWARD: CAROLS AND COFFEE: Sunday, December 17, 11:00 am

Join us for a fun and festive holiday songfest with PCCT's own Sandy Batten! Stop in to sing a few of your favorite Christmas carols and enjoy seasonal refreshments after worship in Mulford Hall. All ages and voices are welcome as we sing well-known and much loved tunes.

### CHILDREN'S CAROLS & LIVE NATIVITY WITH CORPUS CHRISTI

**Sunday, December 17, 4:00 pm**

All are welcome to come to our special outdoors live nativity pageant and carol sing. Co-hosted with Corpus Christi Church, the event features kid participants and live animals. All school age children are invited to participate. Special community event!

**MUSICAL MEDITATION: Tuesday, December 19, 6:00 - 7:00 pm**

Come and enjoy instrumental and piano/vocal music in our beautiful, tranquil sanctuary by Director of Music Matthew Zabiegala. There will be different styles of quiet music from classical to pop, medieval to Avant Garde, everything in between and arrangements of familiar, holiday tunes and hymns.

**CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS**

In your pews you will find two special Christmas offering envelopes, one that helps PCCT in our ministries and one (Christmas Joy) that supports retired clergy and provides educational support for minority students.

**CHRISTMAS EVE USHERS AND GREETERS**

Please sign up on the Christmas Eve Ushers & Greeters board in the Lobby. Thank you!

**FLOWER DEDICATIONS 2024**

The 2024 Flower Chart is posted on the bulletin board in the lobby and you may now choose dates for next year by signing up on the board or by going to our website.

**STEWARDSHIP REMINDERS**

All 2023 PCCT contributions must be postmarked by December 31, 2023. Thank you to all who have pledged toward 2024. Pledge envelopes are now available in the Lobby for everyone who requested them. If you haven't already done so, please submit your 2024 pledge cards as soon as possible as we work toward our next year's financial goals and keep our church community strong and welcoming.

**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! Thank you.

*Managed by the Worship & Music Committee*

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES**

3:00 pm ~ Christmas Eve worship service with children's ensembles and brass *(in-person only; Nursery Care available)*

5:00 pm ~ Christmas Eve candlelight worship service with adult ensembles and brass *(livestreamed and in-person)*

11:00 pm ~ Christmas Eve candlelight worship service *(in-person only)*

**ANNUAL MEETING AND WINTER BREAKFAST**

**Save the Date! Sunday, January 28, 2024, after worship**