



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

Sunday, December 3, 2023
First Sunday in Advent
The Sacrament of Communion
10:00 A.M.

Prelude Of a Father's Love Begotten arr. Thomas Keesecker

***Call to Worship**

Leader: The time, dear friends, is upon us now.

People: *Prepare the way of the Lord!*

Leader: Rejoice and make room, for God draws near.

People: *We wait, we hope, we prepare our hearts!*

Leader: Over the horizon, just beyond our sight,

People: *The peace of our Lord is gathering strength.*

All: *Prepare the way of the Lord!*

***Processional Hymn 88** (vv. 1-3) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel! VENI EMMANUEL

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

(see insert)

Call to Confession

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

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God-with-us, even in Advent, we confess that you can seem far away. You are hidden when we need you near. In our hurt, doubt, and fear, we do not try to draw closer to you; instead we lash out - against you, our neighbor, even those we love. Forgive us we pray, and come save us! Let your face shine until our tears are dried, our sins are faded, and our hope is restored. After all, we belong to you, and in your hands, we can be made new.

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

*(K-4th graders will go downstairs to their classrooms;
Breakfast Club will meet in the Youth Suite.)*

Prayer for Illumination

Lesson from the Psalter: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Page 540

Anthem

Lo' How A Rose/The Rose arr. Craig Hella Johnson
Chancel Choir

Lesson from the Hebrew Bible: Isaiah 64:1-9

Page 694

Sermon "What Are We Waiting For?"

The Reverend Dr. Ellen Clark Clémot

***Affirmation of Faith: Hymn 102** (vv. 1-2, 4) Savior of the Nations, Come
NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

The Prayers of the People

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

Hymnal, Page 35

Call to Offering

Offertory

Meditation on *Veni Emmanuel*

arr. Paul Fey

***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**

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

All who put their trust in Jesus are invited and encouraged to partake in Communion. Ushers will serve worshippers in the pews, first the bread, then the cup. Gluten-free elements are available in the center dish on each tray. The ministers will invite you to take the bread and cup all together after all have been served.

Prayer after Communion

***Recessional Hymn 384**

Soon and Very Soon

SOON AND VERY SOON

***Benediction**

Postlude

Creator of the Stars of the Night arr. Thomas Keesecker

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

Our ushers are Carolyn Smith, Linda Barnes,
Sarah Murchison, and Shannon Kostrowski.

Special thanks to our technical team for their assistance today.

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: December 4 - 9, 2023

Monday

9:30 am Next Act Baking, Kitchen
11:30 am A New Day, Halldorson Hall
6:30 pm Boy Scouts, Mulford Hall
7:00 pm Deacons, Halldorson Hall

Tuesday

10:00 am Staff meeting, Halldorson Hall

Wednesday

10:00 am Bible Study, Halldorson Hall
5:00 pm Children's Choir, Bell Room/A8
5:45 pm Chat & Chew, Mulford Hall

Wednesday. (cont'd)

5:45 pm Children's Handbells, Bell Room/A8
7:30 pm Men's Group, off-site

Thursday

6:00 pm Sanctuary Ringers, Sanctuary
7:00 pm Budget Meeting, Halldorson Hall
7:15 pm Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Saturday

9:00 am Audit Committee, Halldorson Hall
9:30 am Cookie Walk & Soup Sale,
Mulford Hall

NEXT SUNDAY, December 10, 2023

Second Sunday in Advent

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
5:00 pm Senior High Youth Group Christmas Party
7:00 pm Compassionate Friends Worldwide
Candle Lighting, Halldorson Hall

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

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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-joyce! Re-joyce!
 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.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> |
|--|--|

- 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:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| <i>Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)</i> | <i>Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)</i> | <i>Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)</i> |
| <i>Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)</i> | <i>Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)</i> | |
| <i>Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)</i> | <i>Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)</i> | |

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.

Lighting of the First Advent Candle The Dierks and Kautzmann Families

Congregation Sings:

"Light the Advent Candle"

PICARDY
VENI EMMANUEL

arr. Ruth Elaine Schram
ad. Matthew Zabiegala

♩=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 - - - 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 spark holding back darkness with possibility.

Reader 2: One candle shines as light peeks through the cracks: the dawn of God's kingdom in our midst.

All: Vision 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*

Savior of the Nations, Come 102

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's
 2 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds; back to
 3 Now your man - ger, shin - ing bright, hal - lows
 4 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, vir - gin's

son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
 God his path - way leads; out to van - quish
 night with new - born light. Night can - not this
 son, in - car - nate Word! To the ho - ly

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
 death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.
 light sub - due; let our faith shine ev - er new.
 Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

Though some hymns attributed to Ambrose are doubtful, this one seems rather surely to be by him. Luther's German version (commemorated in the tune name) dropped one syllable from each line of the Latin text, giving the hymn its characteristically declarative Lutheran form.

TEXT: Atr. Ambrose of Milan, 4th cent.; German para. Martin Luther, 1523;

English trans. stanza 1, William Morton Reynolds, 1850, alt.;

English trans. stanzas 2-4, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 2006

MUSIC: Erfurt *Enchiridion*, 1524; harm. Sethus Calvisius, 1594

English Trans. St. 2-4 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

7.7.7.7

384 Soon and Very Soon

1 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
 2 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
 3 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
 4 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're going to see the King!

This spirited African American gospel hymn draws on John's vision of the new heaven and the new earth in Revelation 21:3-4, with its wonderful promise that God will wipe away the tears from all eyes, that death will be no longer, and that there will be no more mourning or pain.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 3, 2023

First 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

The Sacrament of Communion

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 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 | Faith Forward: Belonging to a Connectional Church, Halldorson Hall |
| | Coffee & Fellowship, Mulford Hall |
| 11:45 am | Children's Pageant Rehearsal, Sanctuary |
| 5:00 pm | Middle School Youth Fellowship,
Christmas Party, Youth Suite |



CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel Flowers are presented to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Molly B. Wilson, mother and grandmother, by the McCann Family.

FAITH FORWARD: BELONGING TO A CONNECTIONAL CHURCH

This morning after worship in Halldorson Hall

Join us for a brief and informative Faith Forward presentation about how the connections we share within the Presbyterian Church (USA) inform our beliefs, structure and practice of ministry. Pastor Tom will share insights and wisdom drawn from his extensive experience serving two presbyteries, most recently as moderator of the Presbytery of the Highlands.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH FELLOWSHIP: Christmas Party

Tonight from 5:00 – 6:30 pm in the Youth Suite

Join us for games of the season and a White Elephant Gift Exchange! Bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

COOKIE WALK AND SOUP TO SOOTHE SOULS

Saturday, December 9, 9:30 – 11:00 am

Your help is needed to make this ever-popular event a success! Soup to Soothe Souls: Would you be willing to fill 4 one-quart containers with your favorite soup for our sale? Containers and labels available in the Lounge. Cookie Walk: When you are baking your Christmas cookies, please add an extra batch of 2-4 dozen for this event. This is a great family event and cannot happen without your support!

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP: Christmas Party

Sunday, December 10, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Join us for a fun and festive get-together as we close out the year with a White Elephant Gift Exchange and games of the season.

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. For more information, please contact Yvonne Anderson, Director of Family Ministries or Elizabeth Monkemeier, Director of Children's Music. Special community event!

MUSICAL MEDITATION



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. Feel free to come for 10 minutes or the whole time. There will be no reading, speaking, scripture reading, or the expectation to participate. Simply different styles of quiet music from classical to pop, medieval to Avant Garde, everything in between and arrangements of familiar, holiday tunes and hymns.

GIVING TREES

The PCCT tradition of Christmas Giving Trees is ongoing. There are still many opportunities to sign up online.



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

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

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)

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS & MUSIC FUND

Please see today's red insert to order poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for the December 17 worship service, and also the green insert to donate to our music program to support special music during the Christmas season. You can also find both order forms online on our website. Our deadline for ordering is Friday, December 8.

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 if you are able to serve.

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. Also, **Dec. 10** is the last date available for 2023 - please call the office if you would like to dedicate flowers in memory or in honor of someone on that day.

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

BLOOD DRIVE: Saturday, December 9, 8:30 am – 2:30 pm
Hosted by the Chatham Emergency Squad
Ogden Memorial Presbyterian Church
286 Main Street, Chatham



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

If you would like to order poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary during the Christmas season, please fill out this form and return it to the church office no later than Friday, December 8. The price is \$15.00 per plant.

Red or White Poinsettia (circle choice)

I wish to donate _____ poinsettia(s) at \$15.00 each, to be taken by the Deacons to a sick or homebound member of the congregation.

I wish to donate _____ poinsettia(s) at \$15.00 each, which I will pick up following worship on Sunday, December 17.

I wish to make a \$_____ donation towards the Christmas decorations for the Sanctuary.

**The bulletin will read: *The poinsettias in our chancel have been contributed...*

IN MEMORY OF . . . (or) IN HONOR OF . . . (circle one)

NAME _____
(as it should appear in the Sunday bulletin)

RELATIONSHIP TO DONOR _____

DONOR'S NAME _____
(as it should appear in the Sunday bulletin)

DAYTIME TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

**Return this form to the church office no later than
Friday, December 8.**

Your check should be made out to The Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township and marked "flower fund" on the memo line. You can also place your order online through Breeze if you go to our website. Thank you!

HELP OUR MUSIC PROGRAM
PRESENT BEAUTIFUL MUSIC THIS CHRISTMAS

- The holiday season is upon us, and our music program is hard at work preparing wonderful music for the season.

This requires hours of rehearsal by our dedicated volunteer musicians, along with significant financial support, as there are professional musicians, instrument rentals, and sheet music to be paid for.

Any and all donations are welcome, with your name and optional dedication appearing alphabetically in a special insert included in the worship bulletin.

Simply fill out the form below and return, with your donation, to the church office by Friday, December 8. You can also make a donation online through Breeze if you go to our website. Thank you for your support!

DONOR'S NAME

DONATION AMOUNT \$_____ (will NOT be listed in Bulletin)

OPTIONAL DEDICATION:

NAME *IN MEMORY OF* . . . (or) *IN HONOR OF* . . . (circle one)

Please return this form to the church office
by Friday, December 8.

Your check should be made out to The Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township and marked "Music Fund" on the memo line. Thank you!

