



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

**Sunday, March 17, 2024
Fifth Sunday in Lent
10:00 A.M.**

Prelude What Wondrous Love Is This arr. Brian Mathias

***Call to Worship**

Leader: The Lord is making a new covenant with the people of God.

People: *Here in this place, Christ writes the law of love on our hearts.*

Leader: We are children of the living God.

All: *Together, let us worship the Lord of Love!*

***Processional Hymn 53** O God, Who Gives Us Life NOEL

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)

Through the season of Lent, O God, we have prayed for clean hearts and right spirits. Forgive us if we have prayed with our words but failed to pray with our actions. Forgive us what we have done that has contributed to the suffering of another, and forgive us for what we have failed to do that could have lightened a neighbor's burden. Forgive us, O God, and wash us in your mercy. Forgive us, O God, and free us to try again. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

***Hymn 583**

Glory to God

GLORIA

*Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!*

Message For All God's Children

(Children and Youth will go downstairs to Church School.)

Prayer for Illumination

Lesson from the Hebrew Bible: Jeremiah 31:31-34

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Anthem

Give Me Jesus
Chancel Choir

arr. Trevor Manor

Lesson from the Gospels: John 12:20-26

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Sermon "God's Goals and Ours"

The Reverend Thomas A. Brown

***Hymn 250**

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

PROMISE

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

Adapted from the Confession of 1967

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares God's labor of healing the enmities that separate people from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Prayers of the People

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: March 18 - 23

Monday

6:30 pm Boy Scouts, Mulford Hall

Tuesday

10:00 am Staff Meeting, Halldorson Hall

7:00 pm Development & Communications
Meeting, off-site

Wednesday

5:45 pm Chat & Chew, Mulford Hall

6:00 pm Worship & Music, Staff Conf. Rm.

Wednesday (cont'd)

7:00 pm "Milestones" Women's Evening
Fellowship, Pruitt's Home

7:15 pm Christian Education Mtg., Theos

7:30 pm Men's Group, off-site

Thursday

6:00 pm Sanctuary Ringers, Bell Room

7:15 pm Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Friday

5:45 pm Parent's Night Out, Youth Suite

7:00 pm "Sandwich" Club, Benton's Home

NEXT SUNDAY, March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Dr. Edward M. Halldorson Preaching

9:15 am & 11:00 am Confirmation Class, Youth Suite

10:00 am Worship, Sanctuary; Nursery Care, A-9

10:15 am Church School

11:00 am Coffee and Fellowship, Mulford Hall

3:00 pm Lyrica Concert & Reception,
Sanctuary and Mulford Hall

4:30 pm Middle School Youth Fellowship,
Bowling 4 Charity, Hanover Lanes

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

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53

O God, Who Gives Us Life

1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
 2 O God, who calls your peo-ple out to ven-ture and to dare,
 3 O God of cov-e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,

who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
 to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:
 your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.

de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
 when we de-spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,

Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
 re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
 as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Christians often fail to appreciate how much we can learn about God from the Hebrew Scriptures. This text draws on a variety of passages that call attention to God's faithfulness toward the Chosen People and the promise of a new covenant written on the heart (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

In the Bulb There Is a Flower 250

Hymn of Promise

Capo 3: (D)

(Em)



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7)

(D)



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7)

(G)

(Em)

(D)

(Bm)

(Em)

(F#)

(Bm)



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

(G)

(Em)

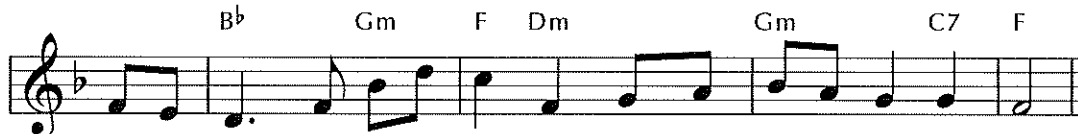
(D)

(Bm)

(Em)

(A7)

(D)



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning."
 Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.

265 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - oners
 5 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring hon - ors pe -

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 throng to crown his head; his name, like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song, and in - fant voic - es
 leap to loose their chains; the wea - ry find e -
 cu - liar to our King; an - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume, shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud A - men!

This hymn is a classic example of how Isaac Watts Christianized the Psalms, in this case Psalm 72:5–19, by turning their messianic language to New Testament equivalents. The tune was at first nameless and anonymous, but is now called by the address of the supposed composer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 17, 2024

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. Our Sanctuary is equipped with an induction loop system for those with hearing difficulties.

TODAY AT CHURCH

Fifth Sunday in Lent

- 10:00 am** **Worship, Sanctuary; Nursery Care, A-9**
- 10:15 am Church School
- 11:00 am Coffee and Fellowship, Mulford Hall
- 11:15 am** **Faith Forward: Prayer as a Spiritual Practice,**
Halldorson Hall
- 7:00 pm Compassionate Friends, Halldorson Hall



CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel Flowers are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of Teedee Carroll, from her family.

FAITH FORWARD: Prayer as a Spiritual Practice
The Reverend Mary Anne Collins-Stauffer
This morning at 11:15 a.m., Halldorson Hall

"Nothing will change your life so completely, absolutely and forever like really learning how to pray." (Matthew Kelly)

The time of Lent is when Christians traditionally renew a focus on their inner life and relationship with God. One of the spiritual disciplines that help us to do this is daily prayer. Today, we will have an opportunity to think more about how daily prayer fits into our lives. Rev. Mary Anne Collins-Stauffer will discuss the practice of daily prayer, especially as it is presented in the book *"Celtic Prayers from Iona."* This book was written by J. Philip Newell during the time he led the religious community of Iona Abbey in the western isles of Scotland. Everyone will receive a copy of the book to take home.

WOMEN'S EVENING FELLOWSHIP "MILESTONES"

Wednesday, March 20, 7:00 pm

Please join other PCCT midlife moms for our next "Milestones, embracing grace in the middle place" evening of fellowship. We'll gather at 7 pm on Wednesday, March 20 at Carlene Pruitt's home. Our discussion topic will be Part 1 of Savannah Guthrie's new book "Mostly What God Does." These first 40 pages discuss the tremendous power of God's love. Even if you don't have time to do the reading, please join us for a relaxing evening of conversation. RSVP to Stacy McCann at swmccann@optonline.net

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP: Wednesday, March 20, 7:30 pm

Join us every first and third Wednesday night of the month at 7:30 pm for food, drinks, and conversation around current topics and theology at 54 Main Bar and Grill in Madison (54 Main Street). Please contact Jeff Crater by email at jcrater@verizon.net to learn more.

THE "SANDWICH CLUB" - NEW!

Friday, March 22, 7:00 pm

Are you recently retired or nearing retirement? Have parents that need your support? Have young adult children who have or will soon leave your nest? This stage of life is sometimes referred to as the sandwich generation - hence a new fellowship opportunity known (for now) as The "Sandwich Club". Come reconnect with friends both old and new. No agenda. Simply social. The plan is to meet every 2 months during the winter, spring and fall. Cost of admission is an appetizer/dessert and or beverage to share! The first official meeting will be at Wendy & Jeff Benton's home on Friday, March 22 at 7 pm. Check the weekly PCCT news email for more info. Questions? Contact Cathy McAuliffe jgmcaul@aol.com. Hope to see you there!



LENTEN BROCHURE

Please pick-up a Lenten Brochure in the Upper Lounge or the Church Office. There is something for all ages!



PALM SUNDAY: March 24 at 10 am

The Rev. Dr. Edward M. Halldorson, Pastor Emeritus Preaching

Rev. Halldorson served as pastor of PCCT for 30 years during a time of great community growth and change. The fourth Senior Pastor of PCCT, Rev. Halldorson is the longest-serving minister in the church's over 60-year history. He was given the title Pastor Emeritus when he retired in January 2019. Join us at Coffee and Fellowship following worship.

LYRICA CONCERT: "Mixtape"

Sunday, March 24, 3:00 pm



Please join us for our next Concerts@PCCT. Multi-GRAMMY Award winning cellist Andrew Yee, founding member of the Attacca Quartet, bends genre with every note. She joins fellow cellist Ani Kalayjian for an inventive duo concert exploring the limits of what two cellos can do together. Their concert features works by Caroline Shaw, Andrea Casarrubios, and Andrew herself.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH FELLOWSHIP: Bowling 4 Charity

Sunday, March 24, 4:30 - 6:15 pm

Hanover Lanes, Hanover New Jersey

Help us raise money for a local charity - high score each round decides on a recipient. Advance sign-ups required; permission slip must be on file. Cost is \$25.00 for bowling, shoes and pizza, plus any amount you want to donate toward our charities.



2024 EARTH CARE CERTIFICATION

PCCT has once again been certified as a PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation - 12th year in a row! To become certified, our church took the "Earth Care Pledge" and completed activities and projects in the fields of worship, education, facilities, and outreach. Thanks to all our members who have helped us attain this certification and special thanks to Steve Carroll who spearheads this every year.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Our special offering during the season of Lent is One Great Hour of Sharing. This offering goes to the Presbyterian Church USA to be used for disaster relief and those suffering from hunger, poverty and oppression. If you would like to contribute, please use one of the envelopes found in the pews.

HOLY WEEK

Sunday, March 24, Palm Sunday

Worship at 10:00 am

Thursday, March 28, Maundy Thursday

The Sacrament of Communion

Worship at 7:30 pm in Halldorson Hall

Friday, March 29, Good Friday

Worship at 7:30 pm

Sunday, March 31, Easter

Two Worship Services 9:00 am and 11:00 am

Egg hunt on the front lawn following the 11:00 am service

(weather permitting)



EASTER FLOWERS AND MUSIC

Today is the last day to order an Easter Lily or an azalea to decorate our Sanctuary this Easter or if you would like to help support our music program in presenting beautiful music during the Easter season, you may fill out one of the inserts found in today's bulletin or you may go to our website. Thank you!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024: June 24 – 28

The theme is the ***Ultimate Scavenger Hunt!*** This year's VBS will be a week long and will feature fun and creative activities, lessons, crafts, breakfast and lunch! The day will begin with a simple breakfast and the kids will then move on to stations including music & drama, crafts, recreation & games, and at the end of the day all of the kids will gather together for lunch. The cost for the week is \$150 per camper. Please feel free to pass along to friends that may want to attend. There are flyers in the lounge and you can sign up online on our website. Also, if you are interested in volunteering or need more information, please contact Yvonne Anderson at yanderson@pcct-nj.org.

EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to order plants to decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, please fill out this form and return it to the church office no later than Sunday, March 17. The price is \$20 for an Easter Lily and \$30 for an azalea plant. Please indicate how many and what kind of plant you would like:

_____ Easter Lily(ies) [\$20 per plant]
(# of plants)



_____ Pink Azalea plant(s) [\$30 per plant]
(# of plants)

I wish to donate _____ plant(s), which will be taken by the Deacons to a member of the congregation.

I wish to donate _____ plant(s), which I will pick up after the 11:00 am worship service on Easter Sunday, March 31.

*****THE BULLETIN WILL READ:

*The Easter flowers in our chancel have been contributed
IN MEMORY OF.....(or) IN HONOR OF.....(circle one)*

NAME(S) FOR DEDICATION

(as it should appear in the Sunday bulletin)

RELATIONSHIP TO DONOR

by....DONOR'S NAME

(as it should appear in the Sunday bulletin)

Daytime Telephone Number _____

Return this form to the church office no later than Sunday, March 17. Checks should be made out to PCCT and marked "flower fund" on the memo line. You can also order on our website. Thank you!

**HELP OUR MUSIC PROGRAM
PRESENT BEAUTIFUL MUSIC THIS EASTER**

Lent 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 in a special insert included in Easter worship bulletins.

Simply fill out the form below and return, with your donation, to the church office by Sunday, March 17. 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 Sunday, March 17.**

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

