

## Sunday, November 24, 2024 Harvest Festival Stewardship Sunday 10:00 A.M.

Prelude

We Gather Together Sanctuary Ringers

arr. Anna Laura Page

#### **Welcome and Announcements**

### \*Call to Worship

Thom Schumann, adapted

Leader: With our lives scattered like papers on a cluttered desk, our limits pushed by stress and impatience, we come:

People: For here, God would gather us, bringing us to the realm of peace.

Leader: Wondering if truth is fake or worth pursuing, questioning whether anyone is worth following or believing, we come:

People: For here, God would feed us with wisdom, sending the One who would lead us to the realm of hope.

Leader: Questioning the motives of everyone in power, doubting that justice can be found anywhere, we come:

People: For here, God brings us to worship with our siblings, scooping us up from every place we have strayed.

## Passing of the Peace

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you!

People: ...and also with you.

## \*Processional Hymns

367 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR336 We Gather Together KREMSER

(During these hymns, please bring your pledge cards and food offerings to the front of the sanctuary, as directed by the ushers.)

## **Opening Prayer**

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

### **Call to Confession**

## Prayer of Confession (in unison)

O God, you are our creator and redeemer. You blessed the earth and called it good. You blessed our lives and call us your own. Forgive us, O God, when we fail to give you thanks, when we forget that you are the source of all that is good and that our lives are to be an offering of thanksgiving. Make us grateful, O God, for the gifts of your mercy, and draw us closer to you and one another.

## **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.

## Message For All God's Children

(Children and youth go downstairs for Church School and Breakfast Club.)

## **Prayer for Illumination**

Lesson from the Hebrew Bible: Joel 2:21-27

Page 847

Anthem

Now Thank We All Our God

arr. Marianne Forman

Chancel Choir

**Lesson from the Gospels:** Matthew 6:25-33

Page 6

Sermon "The Faithfulness of God"

The Rev. Thomas A. Brown

\*Hymn 716

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

BEACH SPRING

\*Affirmation of Faith (in unison)

adapted from the Confession of 1967

Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage. People are free to seek life within the purpose of God: to develop and protect the resources of nature for the common welfare, to work for justice and peace in society, and in other ways to use their creative powers for the fulfillment of human life.

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

Hymnal, Page 35

# Call to Offering

Offertory Come, Ye Thankful People Come & Now Thank We All Our God arr. Thomas Keesecker

\*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 (in unison)

Bounteous God, you have lavished your finest gifts on us. We thank you for the many ways in which you have touched our lives — with love, hope, friends, our church, and so many other things that we cherish. Through all the gifts we have shared this day, our morning offering, the donations of food, and our stewardship pledges for the coming year, may we be a blessing to others and a collective voice of hope in your unfailing love. This we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

\*Hymn 39

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

**FAITHFULNESS** 

\*Benediction

Postlude

Praise and Thanksgiving

arr. Thomas Keesecker

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Please join us in Halldorson Hall following worship to help sort food that has been so generously donated. These donations go to the Interfaith Food Pantry.

Today's worship leaders are Rev. Thomas A. Brown and Elder Kathy Hoffman.

Our ushers are Linda Barnes, Martin Barbato, Carolyn Smith, Richie Wislocky, and Bob Wislocky.

Special thanks to Nathan Brown and Lynn Apolinaro for their technical assistance this morning.

Our tabulators and processor are Ric and Carrie Butler.

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Scripture taken from the Page 1 and 1 and

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# 367 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



- 1 Come, ye thank-ful peo ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.
- 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit in thank-ful praise to yield,
- 3 For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the har-vest home;
- 4 E ven so, Lord, quick-ly come to thy fi nal har-vest home.



All is safe - ly gath - ered in, ere the win - ter storms be - gin. wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown. from each field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way; Gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup-plied. First the blade, and then the full corn shall ap - pear. ear, then the give the an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast, there for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, thy pres-ence a - bide: in to



Come to God's own tem - ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home. Lord of har-vest, grant that we whole-some grain and pure may be. but the fruit - ful ears to store in God's gar - ner ev - er - more. come, with all thine an - gels, come; raise the glo-rious har-vest home!



Despite its familiar Thanksgiving associations, the real concern of this text is to recall the harvest imagery Jesus used to describe the fulfillment of God's sovereignty. The tune name commemorates the royal chapel where the composer was organist for forty-seven years.



First published among songs celebrating the end of Spanish control of the Netherlands, this text's blend of patriotism and piety has made it popular at (often ecumenical) Thanksgiving Day services. The tune is named for the Viennese arranger whose male chorus popularized it.

# God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending



- 1 God, whose giv ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
- 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the
- 3 Trea sure, too, you have en trust ed, gain through powers your



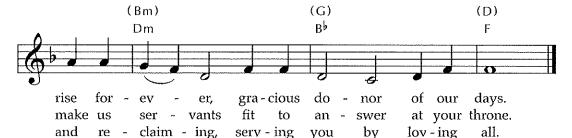
end - less store, na-ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost-ly Christ, your Son: in health and free - dom. at peace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to



grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by cross, we turn you, joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly gos - pel O - pen wide spread the word. hands in our



of-fering up our - selves in praise; thank-ful song shall la - bor. lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents, we heed Christ's age - less call, shar - ing, heal - ing, teach - ing,



Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text on stewardship was one of about 450 submissions in a search for such hymns conducted by the Hymn Society of America in 1961. These words are well grounded by their musical setting, an early American shape note tune named for a Baptist church in Harris County, Georgia.

# Great Is Thy Faithfulness



\*Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22–23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS November 24, 2024

We are delighted you've chosen to worship with us today. Please let an usher or the 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 Harvest Festival Sunday

Stewardship Sunday

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

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

10:15 am Church School & Breakfast Club

11:00 am Harvest Festival Food Sorting, Halldorson Hall

Coffee & Fellowship, Mulford Hall

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



#### **CHANCEL FLOWERS**

The Chancel Flowers are presented to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Gordon Granger, husband, and Gregory Granger, son, by Marilyn Granger.

#### HARVEST FESTIVAL SUNDAY

Thank you for bringing items to be donated to the Interfaith Food Pantry, which provides food to those in need in Morris County. Please bring your offering of food to the front of the Sanctuary during the opening hymns, coming forward as directed by the fushers. If possible, please also join us briefly after worship in Halldorson Hall to help sort food.

### STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY: Join Us in Giving Back

Today is Harvest Sunday, a day of joy, gratitude, and generosity. It's the perfect time to pledge to the "Strength for Today, Bright Hope for Tomorrow" campaign and contribute to our church's ongoing growth and outreach. Together, we can make this year's campaign a resounding success. Please make sure to hand in your pledge card today, mail it or fill out a pledge card online by going to our website or scanning the QR code here. Let's celebrate and give together.



# LYRICA: Sunday, This afternoon at 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary Piano Quartets Featuring Orion Weiss



Internationally renowned pianist Orion Weiss joins star string players for piano quartets with Deborah Buck on violin, Paul Laraia on viola, and Ani Kalayjian on cello. Please stay after the concert for a reception and an opportunity to meet the artists.

### COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE: Tuesday, November 26, 7:30 pm

Join with Chatham friends and neighbors across all faiths and traditions in a joyous celebration of the many blessings we share. The service will be held here at PCCT. The event is sponsored by the Interfaith Council of the Chathams and Green Village. Please bring a non-perishable food item for donation to the CUMC Food Pantry; offering to go to the Chatham Emergency Squad. The Chatham Emergency Squad is an all-volunteer squad that serves both Chatham Township and Chatham Borough. The Squad is almost 90% funded by donations from the community. With 100+ members, more than any time in their history, the CES serves the community 24 hours a day, seven days a week. No member is compensated for their service as an EMT or an officer. The squad is always looking for new volunteers and invites anyone who is interested to contact us at: membership@chathamemergencysquad.org

#### THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

The envelopes in your pews are for any donations that you would like to make to PCCT in gratitude for all our blessings at this time of thanksgiving.

#### **GIVING TREES**

The PCCT tradition of Christmas Giving Trees has begun. Please see today's insert for more information and grab a tag or two off the trees in the lobby or check our website/weekly emails for more giving opportunities.

#### **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS & MUSIC**

Please see today's red insert to order poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for the December 15 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 on our website.

#### CHRISTMAS EVE USHERS AND GREETERS

Please sign up on the Christmas Eve Ushers and Greeters board in the Lobby if you are able to serve.

#### **FLOWER DEDICATIONS 2025**

The 2025 Flower Chart is posted on the bulletin board in the lobby and you may now choose dates for next year. Thank you for supporting our flower ministry.

### CHILDREN'S MUSIC MEETING: Wednesday, December 4, 5:00 pm

Children's Music will be meeting again on Wednesday, December 4 from 5:00 - 5:45 pm in the Bell Room with Ms. Caitlyn. All are welcome to join. Ms. Caitlyn will be there to escort children to Chat & Chew with Ms. Yvonne for those who are participating in both programs. Feel free to reach out at chuetz@pcct-nj.org with any questions!

### CHILDREN'S CLUB CHAT & CHEW: Wednesday, December 4, 5:45 pm

Our mid-week Church school program meets again this week on Wednesday, December 4 from 5:45~pm-7:00~pm. Please contact our Director of Family Ministries Yvonne Anderson for more information.

### COMMUNITY FOODBANK OF NJ: Saturday, December 7, 9:00 - 11:00 am

Our next day to join us at the Community FoodBank of New Jersey in Hillside is coming up. Volunteers ages 12 and up generally help sort and repackage food for distribution. Carpooling can be arranged as needed. Advance signups are required. Please contact Joslin Ruffle at joscookson@aol.com for more information.

# COOKIE WALK & SOUP TO SOOTHE SOULS Saturday, December 14, 9:30 – 11:00 am

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

### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: Monday, December 16, 7:00 pm

Calling all knitters and crocheters — beginners, experts, and anyone in between are welcome! The prayer shawl ministry will be meeting in Griswold Parlor on Monday, December 16 at 7 pm. Refreshments will be provided, so we can sip, stitch, chat, and learn to knit. Yarn and needles will be provided if you're a beginner or don't have a project in the works. Please contact the church office for details.

#### SEEKING MEMORIAL GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

Did you know the Memorial Garden has been around for more than 40 years? During this time, we've had some wonderful volunteers who have shaped it into what it is today, however we are currently looking for new volunteers who would be willing to share their time and talents to continue making the garden flourish. If interested, please contact Virginia Hofler (973-443-4323) or Lauren Magill (973-610-5081).



## THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: November 25 - 30, 2024

THIS WEEK AT OOK CHOKE	ii November 23 - 30, 2024
<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>
9:30 am Next Act, Theos	10:00 am Staff Meeting, Halldorson Hall
2:00 pm Nancy Heller's Memorial Service &	7:30 pm Community Thanksgiving Service
Reception, Sanctuary & Mulford Hall	& Reception, Sanctuary & Mulford
7:00 pm Budget Meeting, Halldorson Hall	Thursday & Friday
Boy Scouts, Mulford Hall	Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving
7:30 nm Mission & Outreach Zoom	

# **NEXT SUNDAY, December 1, 2024**

First Sunday in Advent
The Sacrament of Communion

10:00 am Worship, Sanctuary; Nursery, Room A-9
10:15 am Church School & Breakfast Club
11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, Mulford Hall

#### CHRISTMAS GIVING TREES



Advent Giving Trees 2024! There are nearly 200 opportunities to support local organizations that serve homeless families, refugees, and children and adults impacted by domestic violence and substance abuse. PCCT will offer virtual "tag" selection via Sign-Up Genius as well as in-person tag selection from the Christmas trees in the church lobby- gifts can be mailed directly to PCCT or dropped off in the lobby.

Following are the organizations supported by the PCCT Giving Trees:

### November 14-November 24 Online giving via Sign-Up Genius:

Jersey Battered Women's Services is dedicated to the prevention of domestic violence. JBWS provides protection and empowerment of the victim and rehabilitation of family members. JBWS advocates for social reform and public education about partner violence and its consequences.

#### November 24- December 15 Online giving via Sign-up Genius:

Freedom House provides long term residential treatment and outpatient services for men with substance abuse illness- treatment is based on the values of faith, hope, trust, and freedom. The Family Afterward provides transitional housing for mothers and their children with a focus on recovery and family reunification.

#### Choose one tag (or more!) from the trees in the lobby:

**RAMP** is a coalition of faith-based organizations dedicated to helping families from Middle-Eastern counties transition to safe, independent, and productive lives in the Morris County area. RAMP assists refugee families with housing, employment, and other resources- education, English language instruction, transportation, and medical care.

Family Promise believes that families should not be separated during the stressful period of home insecurity. Their mission is to help these families achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response providing shelter, mentoring, and education.

The **Homeless Solutions** philosophy is "A Hand Up, Not A Handout." Homeless Solutions offers shelter, social services, and supportive housing to people experiencing home insecurity and the working poor in Morris County.

Helping Hands of NJ is an organization that was founded by a Chatham resident in March, 2020 to address food insecurity due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. Helping Hands is housed at PCCT where families can "shop" for baby items, non-perishable food items, toiletries and clothing. Helping Hands is currently supporting the needs of nearly 50 local families- since 2020, Helping Hands has donated over \$50,000 in gift cards to enable food insecure families to shop in local grocery stores.

## CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

# ANNUAL COOKIE WALK AND SOUP TO SOOTHE SOULS Saturday, December 14, 9:30—11:00 am

Your help is needed to make this ever-popular event a success!

- <u>Soup to Soothe Souls</u>: Would you be willing to fill 4 one-quart containers with your favorite soup for our sale? Stop by the table in the Lounge for more information.
- <u>Cookie Walk</u>: 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!

### ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS: Sunday, December 15, 10:00 am

The Chancel Choir, Sanctuary Ringers, Children's Choirs and guest musicians will bring their gifts, along with congregational singing. Celebrate the season with us!

MUSICAL MEDITATION: Tuesday, December 17, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Amidst the pressure of the holiday season, come and enjoy instrumental and piano/vocal musical in our beautiful, tranquil sanctuary.

FAITH FORWARD: CAROLS AND COFFEE: Sunday, December 22, 11:00 am

Stop in to sing a few of your favorite Christmas carols with PCCT's own Sandy Batten and enjoy seasonal refreshments after worship in Mulford Hall.

#### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP SERVICES

3:00 pm ~ Christmas Eve Worship (in-person only)

Led by Yvonne Anderson and Caitlyn Huetz Featuring Children's Ensembles

5:00 pm ~ Candlelight Worship (livestreamed & in-person)

The Rev. Thomas A. Brown and Matthew Zabiegala Featuring Adult Ensembles and Brass

11:00 pm ~ Candlelight Worship (in-person only)

The Rev. Thomas A. Brown and Matthew Zabiegala

Nursery Care will be available during the 3:00 pm service

for infants to 35 months

#### 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 6. The price is \$15.00 per plant.

## Red or White Poinsettia (circle choice)

I wish to donatepoinsettia(s) at \$15.00 each, to be taken by the Deacons to a sick or homebound member of the congregation.
I wish to donatepoinsettia(s) at \$15.00 each, which I will pick up following worship on Sunday, December 15.
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 6.

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 6. You can also make a donation online through Breeze if you go to our website. Thank you for your support!

DONAT	TION AMOUNT <u>\$</u>	(will NOT be listed in Bulletin)
<u>OPTIO</u>	NAL DEDICATION:	
NAME	IN MEMORY OF	(or) IN HONOR OF (circle one)

# Please return this form to the church office by Friday, December 6.

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

