

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Coming Christ, you may not find us as you hoped. We have looked away from what we do not wish to see. We've stopped listening to distress we do not wish to hear and have become numb to inconvenient truths. Keep us alert, O God, to the needs of our neighbors. Revive our hearts laden with compassion fatigue. Sharpen our minds clouded by worries. Sober our lives addicted to privilege. Show us the signs of your coming, that we may be ready for you to arrive in our midst once more, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

***Hymn 113**

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

*Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

Message For All God's Children

Yvonne Anderson
Director of Family Ministries

(Children and youth will go downstairs for Church School.)

Prayer for Illumination

Lesson from the Hebrew Bible: Genesis 1:26-30

Page 1

Anthem

E'en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come
Chancel Choir

Paul Manz

Lesson from the Psalter: Psalm 8

Page 492

Sermon "Renewing our Relationship with our Planet"

The Reverend Thomas A. Brown

***Affirmation of Faith** (responsive)

Daniel Berrigan, S.J., *adapted*

Leader: Because God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son...

People: *The human family and indeed all of creation are worthy of renewal.*

Leader: Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

People: *We reject all inhumanity and discrimination, and work to end hunger and poverty in all forms.*

Leader: Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, the Everlasting, the Prince of Peace.

People: *Violence and hatred should never have the last word; war and destruction must one day come to an end.*

Leader: So let us enter Advent in hope, even hope against hope. Let us see visions of love and peace and justice.

People: *Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage: Jesus Christ is the life of the world, Amen.*

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, now and forever, Amen.

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 welcome to partake of the sacrament. Ushers will serve worshippers in the pews, first the bread, then the cup. Please hold the elements until all have been served so we may take them together. Bread in the center dish is gluten-free.

Prayer after Communion

***Recessional Hymn 357** The Days Are Surely Coming LLANGLOFFAN

***Benediction**

Postlude Creator of the Stars of Night arr. Thomas Keesecker

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This morning's plate offering (gifts received in cash) is designated for the work of our Board of Deacons, which coordinates important ministries of congregational care and compassion. Please remember them in your giving today and on the first Sunday in the months to come.

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

Our ushers this morning are Linda Barnes, Lucy Deutsch,
Patti Montefusco, Carolyn Smith, and Jamie Wilson.

Special thanks to Craig, Lisa, and Natalie Duke
for their technical assistance today.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

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

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect-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.

The Days Are Surely Coming 357

1 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says God to all the earth,
 2 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says Christ, the prom - ised one,
 3 The days are sure - ly com - ing when we will know at last

when you will see my prom - ise: sal - va - tion come to birth.
 when you will read my warn - ing in moon and stars and sun.
 the full - ness of God's pres - ence, God's prom - ise, come to pass.

My righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land
 Though earth and heav - en trem - ble, stand up and do not fear,
 Then righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land

and you will be de - liv - ered by my al - might - y hand.
 for I am your re - deem - er, and I am draw - ing near.
 and we will be de - liv - ered by God's al - might - y hand.

This text uses imagery from Jeremiah 33:14–16 and Matthew 24:29–36/Mark 13:24–32/Luke 21:25–36. These passages are especially associated with the beginning of Advent, a season that looks forward to Christ's second coming while also preparing us to remember his first coming.

Lighting of the First Advent Candle The Karzon Families


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 - - - O come, O come Em - man - - u - -

23



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

Reader #1: The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

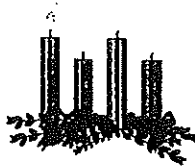
Reader #2: One candle reminds us of our precious earthly home.

Reader #3: God's magnificent gift, entrusted to our care.

Reader #4: Shine a light for those who hear the prophet's call: to nurture, protect, and restore the Earth.

Reader #5: Let us pray... Creator God, we thank you for courageous people of every age who speak the truth of your care and concern for the earth. May we hear and be inspired as we seek to follow in your ways. Together, we ask in one voice:

All: Sustain our hearts, renew our hope, draw near to us once again, O Lord. Amen.



Our Advent theme this year is Renewal. It speaks of the hope we have in the promise of God that there is more to come in this world of ours. As it says in Isaiah: "Look, I am about to do something new; even now it is coming." (Isaiah 43:19, CSB) Though not yet seen by human eyes, the Spirit is at work even now. Throughout this season, as we celebrate Christ's coming into the world, we watch and pray with expectant hope for signs that God is on the move.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 1, 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

**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

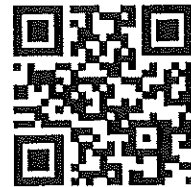


CHANCEL FLOWERS

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

STEWARDSHIP: Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who has pledged to the *Strength for Today, Bright Hope for Tomorrow* stewardship campaign. Your generosity and commitment to our beloved church are truly inspiring! Thanks to your support, we are more than 87% towards our \$700,000 goal and ensuring a strong future for PCCT. If you haven't had a chance to pledge yet, it's not too late! There's still time to make your pledge and be part of this incredible effort to sustain and grow our community. You can mail your pledge card or complete the online pledge form today on our website or by scanning the QR code here. If everyone who pledged last year pledges again this year, we will meet our goal! Thank you for being part of this journey with us. Together, we are building a church that will thrive for years to come!





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 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 education support for minority students.

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.

STEWARDSHIP REMINDERS

All 2024 PCCT contributions must be postmarked by December 31, 2024. Thank you to all who have pledged toward 2025. Weekly pledge envelope boxes are available in the Lobby for everyone who requested them.

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 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.

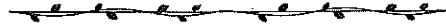
COMMUNITY FOODBANK OF NJ: Saturday, December 7, 9:00 – 11:00 am
Our next day to join us at the Community FoodBank of New Jersey in Hillside is coming up. Volunteers ages 12 and up generally help sort and repackage food for distribution. Carpooling can be arranged as needed. Advance signups are required. Please contact Joslin Ruffle at joscokson@aol.com for more information.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY
Sunday, December 8, 5:00 - 6:30 pm in the Youth Suite
All 5-8 graders are invited to join us for a festive evening with games of the season and the ever-popular White Elephant Gift Exchange. We'll have dinner and time for a few rounds of Manhunt too - they won't want to miss it! All participants should bring a gift for the White Elephant Gift Exchange (humorous is best ~\$10 value).

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.



THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: December 2 - 7, 2024

Monday

11:30 am A New Day, Halldorson Hall
7:00 pm Deacons, Halldorson Hall
Boy Scouts, Mulford Hall

Tuesday

10:00 am Staff Meeting, Halldorson Hall

Wednesday

9:30 am Bible Study, Theos Room
5:00 pm Children's Music
5:45 pm Chat & Chew, Mulford Hall
7:00 pm Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Thursday

6:45 pm Sanctuary Ringers, Bell Room

Friday

7:00 pm Cub Scouts, Mulford Hall

Saturday

8:00 am Audit Meeting, Mulford Hall
9:00 am Community FoodBank, Hillside

NEXT SUNDAY, December 8, 2024

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 & Breakfast Club
11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, Mulford Hall
11:30 am Worship & Music Meeting, Staff Conf. Room
5:00 pm Middle School Youth Fellowship, Mulford Hall
7:00 pm Compassionate Friends Candle Lighting Ceremony,
Halldorson 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!

- Soup to Soothe Souls: 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.
- 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!

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)

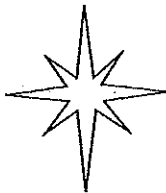
The Rev. Thomas A. Brown and Matthew Zabiegala

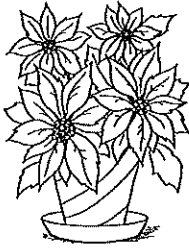
Featuring Adult Ensembles and Brass

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 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 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!

DONOR'S NAME *(as it should appear in the December 15 bulletin)*

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 6.**

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

