



PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP



**Lessons and Carols Worship**  
**Sunday, December 15, 2024**  
**The Third Sunday of Advent**  
**10:00 A.M.**

**Prelude**                      Meditation on *In the Bleak Midwinter*                      arr. Paul Fey

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Sing aloud, daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

People: *Let us rejoice and exult with all our hearts.*

Leader: God has taken away the judgements against us.

People: *The King of Israel, the Lord, is in our midst; we shall fear no more.*

Leader: God is gathering us, bringing us home.

People: *We will sing and praise the Lord.*

All: *Come, let us worship God on this Advent journey.*

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you!

People: *...and also with you.*

**\*Processional Hymn 140**                      "Once in Royal David's City"                      IRBY  
(verse 1—Margaret Zehner, solo; verses 2—4—all)

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Lighting of the Third Advent Candle**                      The Schroeder Family

\*Those who are able, please stand.

Congregation sings:

*As we light the Advent candle  
with the light of hope burning bright,  
faithfully we wait for his coming;  
faithfully it shines through the night.  
In our humble hearts a fire burns as well;  
hear the prayer these flames would tell.  
O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel.*

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

Reader #2: Three candles to remind us of the holy triune God.

Reader #3: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, one in three, three in one.

Reader #4: Shine a light for those who hear the faithful's call: to know that God is love and never far away.

Reader #5: *Let us pray... Ever-present God, we thank you for people of every age whose faith goes above and beyond, stirring us to greater acts of mercy and grace. May we trust 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.*

**Second Lesson**

**What the Lord Requires**

Linda Barnes

Micah 6:6-8

*"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?"*

**Prayer of Confession (in unison)**

*God, we are not always good about being humble or seeking your ways. We prefer to think that we have all the answers, and that we know what is best for us and for others. Too often, we seek our own advantage rather than what is best for our neighbors and friends.*

*May we do more to try and be humble, because you said it will make us great. Help us more faithfully understand what you require from us, and teach us to be faithful servants that all might know of your saving love and endless grace. This we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.*



**Sixth Lesson**

**A New Covenant**

Courtney Halldorson

Jeremiah 31:31-34

*"The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make  
a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah."*

**Anthem**

*"Mary, Did You Know?"*  
Brynn and Reese Hageman, *duet*

arr. Jack Schrader

**Seventh Lesson**

**The Annunciation**

Carlene Pruitt

Luke 1:26-32

*"In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called  
Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the House of David."*

**Anthem**

*"Gabriel's Message"*  
Chancel Choir

Gail Lund

**\*Eighth Lesson**

**The Magnificat**

The Reverend Thomas A. Brown

Luke 1:46-55

In unison:

*And Mary said,*

*"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.*

*Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;*

*for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.*

*His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.*

*He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the  
thoughts of their hearts.*

*He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;*

*He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.*

*He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,*

*according to the promise he made to our ancestors,*

*to Abraham and to his descendants forever." Amen.*

**Anthem** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" arr. Timothy Kile  
Chancel Choir  
Carol Wooldredge, *cello*

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** (debts . . . debtors) Hymnal Page 35

**Call to Offering**

**Offertory** "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy" arr. Alan Smith  
Chancel Choir

**\*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**

**Ninth Lesson** **God With Us** John McCann  
Matthew 1:18-25

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
And they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us.'"

**Anthem** "Away In A Manger" arr. Howard Helvey  
Chancel Choir  
Carol Wooldredge, *cello*

\*Hymn

"God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen"

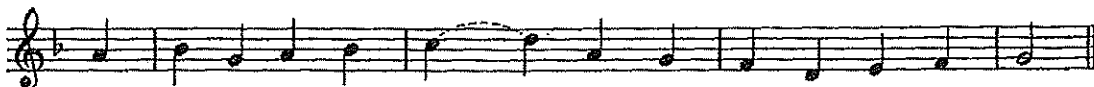
ENGLISH CAROL



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle-men, let noth-ing you dis - may;  
2 From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came  
3 "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth-ing you af - fright;  
4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with-in this place,



re - mem-ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ-mas Day,  
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same;  
this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,  
and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.  
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son - of God by name.  
to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might."  
this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem-ing grace.



O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com-fort and



joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

\*Benediction

\*Choral Benediction

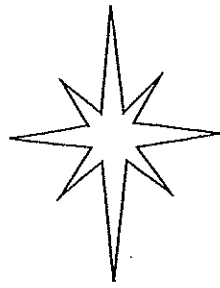
Go Forth, Prepare

Christiana Cole

Postlude

"Variations on an Old Basque Noel"

arr. Marco Lo Muscio



## **CHRISTMAS EVE**

### **3:00 p.m. Worship Service**

Worship service with children's ensembles  
Led by Yvonne Anderson and Caitlyn Huetz  
*Child care for infants and toddlers will be provided.*  
In-person, not livestreamed

### **5:00 p.m. Candlelight Service**

Worship service with adult ensembles and brass  
The Reverend Thomas A. Brown and Matthew Zabiegala  
In-person and Livestreamed

*Please come early to avoid traffic congestion, secure  
a parking spot and seats, and to enjoy pre-service music.*

### **11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service**

The Reverend Thomas A. Brown and Matthew Zabiegala  
In-person, not livestreamed

December 22, 10:00 a.m. ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Dr. Edward M. Halldorson preaching,  
Carols and Coffee in Mulford Hall after worship

December 29, 10:00 a.m. ~ First Sunday of Christmas with hymn sing,  
*No Nursery Care or Church School*  
In-person, not livestreamed

January 5, 10:00 a.m. ~ Worship service with the Sacrament of Communion



### Origins of the Lessons & Carols Service

*"A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols" was introduced to King's College in Cambridge, U.K., on Christmas Eve 1918 to offer solace to people who were distressed, exhausted, injured and, in many cases, bereaved at the end of the First World War. This Carol service, and others like it (notably the 12/24 Carol Service at the Cathedral of Truro in 1880) introduced the new college Dean, Eric Milner-White, who had been an Army Chaplain in WWI. Dean Milner-White wanted a different and more positive way of celebrating Christmas for the choir and people in the college. In 1919 he changed the opening hymn/carol to be "Once in Royal David's City" and set the main order and structure of the lessons/readings as it stands as tradition today. It is also a King's College tradition that the opening verse of the hymn be sung by a single treble chorister.*

*A service of Nine Lessons and Carols features nine Bible readings that tell the Christmas story, interspersed with carols or songs between each reading. This creative telling of scripture and song continues to allow for interpretation and musical variety and an opportunity to encounter the birth of the Savior in this glorious tradition.*

### "He Shall Feed His Flock" from 'Messiah' by George Frederic Handel

*He shall feed his flock like A shepherd, And He shall gather The lambs with his arm.*

*With his arm He shall feed his flock like A shepherd, And He shall gather The lambs with his arm.*

*With his arm And carry them in his bosom And gently lead those That are with young.*

*Come unto Him All ye that labour, Come unto Him, ye That are heavy laden And He will give you rest.*

*Take his yoke upon you And learn of Him For He is meek and lowly of heart And ye shall find rest Unto your souls.*

"Variations on an Old Basque Noel" arr. Marco Lo Muscio.

A Basque folk carol, originally based on 'Angelus Ad Virginem', a 13th or 14th Century Latin carol, it was collected by Charles Bordes and then paraphrased into English by Sabine Baring-Gould, who had spent a winter as a boy in the Basque country. It quotes the biblical account of the Annunciation (Luke, Chapter 1, verses 26–38) and Mary's Magnificat (Luke Chapter 1, verses 46–55) with the opening lines:

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
"All hail", said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favoured lady." Gloria.*

*The arranger, Marco Lo Muscio, is an internationally accomplished concert organist and composer. He arranged six variations on this tune; Song, Meditation, Medieval Dance, Ostinato, Pedal Solo, and Song of Gabriel. Each variation showcases varying and exciting colors of this versatile tune. This morning you will hear every variation with the exception of the pedal solo.*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024

Welcome!

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.

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** are presented in memory of William W. Howell, father, grandfather and music lover, by the MacCallum Family.

**THE POINSETTIAS AND GREENS** in our chancel have been contributed by many to the Glory of God and in memory or in honor of family and friends. Specific names are in today's insert.

**OUR MUSIC FILLED SANCTUARY!** Thank you to all who so generously donated to our music program and helped fill our sanctuary with beautiful Advent music.

**THANK YOU** to all who are ushering and greeting today.

**SPECIAL THANKS** to our tech team for their assistance today.

**STEWARDSHIP:** All 2024 PCCT contributions must be postmarked by December 31, 2024. 2025 pledge envelopes are in the Lobby. Please stop by to pick yours up if you requested them. Thank you to all who have pledged towards 2025.

**CHRISTMAS EVE USHERS & GREETERS:** We still need ushers and greeters for our 3 pm and 11 pm Christmas Eve services. Please sign up on the Ushers & Greeters boards in the Upper Lobby or call the church office if you are able to help.

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING:** In your pews you will find two special Christmas offering envelopes, one for a contribution that helps PCCT in our ministries and the other for a contribution to support retired clergy and provide educational support for minority students.

**2025 FLOWER CHART:** Please stop by the Flower Chart in the Lobby to add your name to the chart, or go to our website to sign up online if you would like to donate and dedicate sanctuary flowers in the new year. Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Deacon's flower ministry and also provide the sanctuary with beautiful flowers all year.

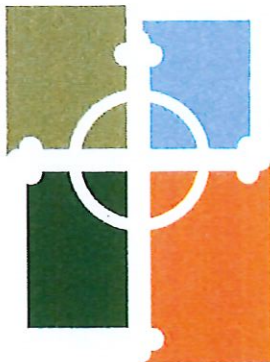
**SAVE THE DATES!**

**DINNER CHURCH:** Wednesday, January 15, 6:00—7:15 pm, Mulford Hall

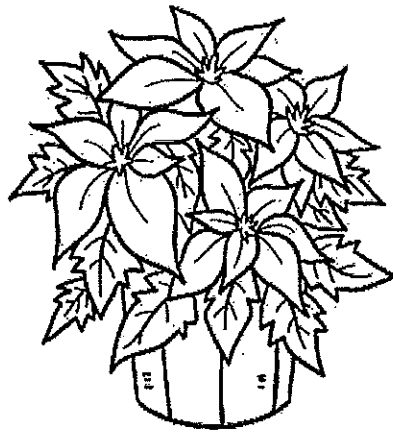
**ANNUAL MEETING AND WINTER BREAKFAST:** Sunday, January 26, 2025



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP  
240 Southern Blvd., Chatham, NJ 07928 • 973-635-2340 • [www.pcct-nj.org](http://www.pcct-nj.org)



The Rev. Thomas A. Brown, Pastor  
Yvonne Anderson, Director of Family Ministries  
Matthew Zabiegala, Director of Music  
Caitlyn Huetz, Director of Children's Music  
Ceri Gilpin, Church Administrator  
Gloria Newson, Administrative Assistant  
Allie Goldstein, Bookkeeper  
Lynn Apolinaro, Director of External Communications  
Mark Van Nest, Sexton



**POINSETTIAS AND GREENS IN OUR CHANCEL  
have been contributed to the glory of God . . .**

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF . . .**

**Anne and Bob von Hoffmann**, parents and grandparents, by Susan and Steven  
Tompson.

**Susan and Ralph Johnson**, parents, by Nancy Johnson.

**Ken Halldorson**, our son, brother and uncle, by the Halldorson and Bakosi Families.

**Herbert and Ellin Reichlin**, parents, by Evan Skinner.

**Teedee Carroll**, wife, and parents, siblings and nephew, by Steve Carroll.

**Family and Friends**, by Sally Steinmetz.

**Loved Ones**, by Dick and Dorie Simon.

**Christopher Blackman**, brother-in-law, by The Birdsall Family.

**Danielle Rolon**, friend, by Laura Birdsall.

**Molly B. Wilson**, mother and grandmother, by The McCann Family.

**Jonathan Drury**, brother, and **Marla Drury**, sister-in-law, by The Dowling Family.

**Our Parents and Sally's Brother**, by Tom and Sally Abbott.

**Gertrude and Ian MacCallum**, parents and grandparents, by The MacCallum  
Family.

**Carl and Frances Barbato**, parents, by Martin Barbato.

**Jack Gesell**, husband, by wife **Marcia** and family.  
**David Gesell**, son, by **Marcia** and family.  
**Joan Donovan**, friend, by **Marcia Gesell** and family.  
**James M. Meyers**, husband and father, by **Ann Meyers** and **Robert Meyers**.  
**Lucille and Louis Babic, Jr.**, parents, by **Lisa, Craig** and **Natalie Duke**.

**Our departed parents**, by **Maury Gately** and **Songqian Lu**.  
**John and Gail Ball**, parents, by **Cindy Wilson**.  
**Our parents**, by **Peck** and **Virginia Hofler**.  
**Paul and Isabel Broshek**, parents, by **Carolyn Smith**.  
**David and Shirley Kearns**, parents and grandparents, by **The Fields Family**.  
**Sara Kelly Fields**, sister and aunt, by **The Fields Family**.  
**Sara Nell and Jack Fields, Sr.**, parents and grandparents, by **The Fields Family**.

**Susan Daggett**, Mother and Grammy, by **The Bealer Family**.  
**Jack Kenney**, Father and Pop-pop, by **The Medina Family**.  
**Antoinette and Paul Nolle, Sr.**, parents and grandparents, by **The Nolle Family**.  
**Grace and John Farley**, parents and grandparents, by **The Nolle Family**.  
**Willibald and Ute Bliemel**, parents and grandparents, by **The Bliemel Family**.

**Gloria and Frank Leitner and Betty and George Graham**, our parents,  
by **Betty and Frank Leitner**.  
**Mary Ann and Edwin Pomeroy**, mother and father, by **The Pomeroy children**  
**Ray, Barbara, Ted** and **Rob**.  
**Andy Patten**, husband, by **Linda Patten**.  
**Lauren Fairley**, daughter, by **Alex and Pamela Fairley**.  
**George and Virginia Eberhardt**, parents, by **Wendy Hart and Family**.

**Pop**, by **The Zehner Family**.  
**Mark Paliy**, brother, by **Robin Hoppe**.  
**Barbara and Jim Collins and Nancy and Fred Montefusco**, parents, grandparents  
and great-grandparents, by **The Montefusco Family**.  
**Dick and Sally Deatly and Anne and George Ross**, parents,  
by **George and Cindy Ross**.  
**Anne and John Wislocky**, parents and grandparents, by **Bob, Gail**  
and **Richie Wislocky**.

**IN HONOR OF . . .**

**The Reverend Tom Brown and Staff of PCCT whose compassion and care  
serve us all so well, by Sally Steinmetz.**

**Loved Ones, Pat and Doug Frank.**

**Our dedicated PCCT Staff, by Jack and Joslin Ruffle.**

**Tom Brown, by The Collins Family.**

**My Family, by Marilyn Granger.**

**Thanks to Ceri, Gloria and Mark for all they do! by Kathy and Warren Hoffman.**

**Our 8 Grandchildren, by Jon and Gayle Dierks.**

**Rolland, James, Teddy, Charlie, Luke and Brooks Ahsler, grandsons, by Deb and  
Rick Ahsler.**

**My Family, Kelly, Jeff, Robert, Katharine, Ann and Drew, sons, daughters-in-law  
and grandchildren, by Linda Patten.**

**Our wonderful Pastor, by Story Savage.**

**THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO DONATED FOR THE CHRISTMAS  
DECORATIONS IN THE SANCTUARY...**

*Virginia and Peck Hoffer, Cindy and Jamie Wilson, Maury Gately and Songqian Lu,  
Marilyn Granger, Lisa and Craig Duke, Delilah and Bill Collins, Jack and Joslin Ruffle,  
Lissa and Ian MacCallum.*

*...Your generosity is greatly appreciated.*

# CHRISTMAS MUSIC!



**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED . . .**

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF . . .**

*Harry and Donna Cooper, by Julie Bliemel.*

*Donald L. Warren, beloved father and grandfather, by The McAuliffe Family.*

*Dick Wilson, by Jamie Wilson.*

*Lauren Fairley, by Pamela and Alex Fairley.*

*Our loving Grandparents and Parents, by Sue and Jeff Keating.*

*Gloria and Tom Tompson, parents and grandparents, by Steven and Susan Tompson.*

*Michael Hazzard, by Story Savage.*

*Kenneth Fowler, by Katherine Fowler.*

*Our Parents and Grandparents, by Robin, Sam and Bruce Hoppe.*

**IN HONOR OF . . .**

*The Chancel Choir, by Ann Meyers.*

*Matthew and our wonderful choir, by Carla Bond.*

*Peace, by The Collins Family.*

*The Chancel Choir and Bell Choir, by The MacCallum Family.*

*Carleigh and Cate Birdsall, our daughters, by The Birdsall Family.*

*Matt Zabiegala and Caitlyn Huetz, by Lucy and Gary Deutsch.*

*Matt Z. and the choir, by Evan and Mark Skinner.*

*The men and women of the United States Coast Guard,*

*by George and Brenda Shepherd.*



**A GENERAL DONATION...**

*Deb and Rick Ahslar  
Maury Gately and Songqian Lu  
Steve Carroll  
The Fields Family  
George and Cindy Ross  
Jack and Joslin Ruffle  
Cynthia and John Merwin  
The McCann Family  
Dorie and Dick Simon  
The Nolle Family*