



# PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Advent

10:00 A.M.

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**Prelude**

Twos In the Moon of Wintertime arr. Thomas Keesecker

**\*Call to Worship**

Christine Sine, adapted

Leader: Alleluia the Christ child comes, and we await his birth.

People: *Let us throw off our distractions, and allow the chaos to settle.*

Leader: Let us watch for the signs, and listen to the messengers.

People: *Let us stand on tiptoe, and shout aloud and sing.*

Leader: Something new is emerging,

People: *Something new is being birthed.*

**\*Passing of the Peace**

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you!

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

**\*Processional Hymn 105**

People, Look East

BESANÇON

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle**

*(see insert)*

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

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession (in unison)

*O God, giver of all good gifts, we come before you as children in need of your wisdom and grace. Our fears and our hopes are braided together in the rhythm of daily life. Our visions of the future depend on our own hands and ability. Our expectations remain reasonable and within our control. Break into this tangle of fear and hope, bringing peace to our souls. Break into our vision of the future, returning us to your hands. Break into our expectations, awakening us with curiosity and wonder; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

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

### Prayer for Illumination

**Lesson from the Gospels:** Luke 10:25-29

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**Anthem**

Still, Still, Still  
Chancel Choir

arr. Norman Luboff

**Lesson from the New Testament:** Galatians 3:23-29

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**Sermon "And Who is My Neighbor?"**

The Rev. Dr. Edward M. Halldorson

**\*Hymn 93**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

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

United Church of Canada

*We are not alone; we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.*



**THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: December 23 - 28, 2024**

**Tuesday**

- 3:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship with Children's Ensembles
- 4:00 pm Confirmation Class Luminary Set-Up
- 5:00 pm Candlelight Worship with Adult Ensembles and Brass
- 11:00 pm Candlelight Worship

**Wednesday**

Church Office Closed – Christmas Day

**Thursday**

Church Office Closed

**Friday**

Church Office Closed

6:30 pm AA Dance, Mulford Hall and Kitchen

**NEXT SUNDAY, December 29, 2024**

**First Sunday of Christmas**

**Songs of Witness, Songs of Worship**

10:00 am **Worship, Sanctuary**

11:00 am **Coffee & Fellowship, Mulford Hall**

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**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP**

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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: Four candles to remind us of the power in community.

Reader #3: People gathered in faith, fellowship, and service in Jesus' name.

Reader #4: Shine a light for those who hear the church's call: to know in our hearts that we belong to God.

Reader #5: Let us pray... God of all, we thank you for people of every age who have become one in your name. May we band together 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.

The song is an excerpt from "Light the Advent Candle" by Ruth Elaine Schram, sung to the tune Picardy (Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence), except the last two lines.

People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more  
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the  
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more  
 5 An - gels, an-nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are  
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to  
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are  
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y  
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

Peo - ple, look  
 a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.  
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.  
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.  
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.  
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

This text was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing carol tune, here named for the city in eastern France where it originated. The author has imaginatively expressed the cosmic implications of Christ's coming by addressing each stanza to a part of creation.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

east and sing to - day:



Peo-ple, look east:

Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
Love, the Bird, is on the way.  
Love, the Star, is on the way.  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Peo-ple, look east:

(Love is on the way.)





## Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the  
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a  
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is  
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for  
 thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner

draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.  
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
 pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

Beginning as a paraphrase of Psalm 24:7–10, this text then applies the door imagery to the singer's heart, and concludes with the individual's welcome of the approaching Savior. It is set to a very effective anonymous 18th-century English tune that has served many texts.

# 123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,  
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un - furled,  
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf-fered long;  
 4 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,  
 5 For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
 and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:  
 be - neath the heaven-ly hymn have rolled two thou-sand years of wrong;  
 who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,  
 when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gra-cious King":  
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,  
 and we at war on earth hear not the tid - ings that they bring;  
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing:  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,

The "it" of the first line of this text by a Unitarian minister does not refer to the birth of Jesus, but to "that glorious song of old," the angelic tidings of peace on earth. The restored third stanza laments how often the noise of human strife has obscured that message.

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

the world in sol - emn still - ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.  
and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing!  
O, rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing.  
and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. It contains a vocal melody with lyrics underneath. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature. It contains a piano accompaniment consisting of chords and single notes. The lyrics are: "the world in sol - emn still - ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing. and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing. O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing! O, rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing. and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing."

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **December 22, 2024**

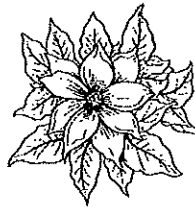
We are delighted you've chosen to worship with us today. Please let an usher or the minister know if we can assist you in any way. Our Sanctuary is equipped with an induction loop system for those with hearing difficulties.

#### **TODAY AT CHURCH**

#### **Fourth Sunday in Advent**

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

10:00 am **Worship, Sanctuary;** Nursery Care, A-9  
10:15 am Church School & Breakfast Club  
11:00 am Carols and Coffee, Mulford Hall



#### **CHANCEL FLOWERS**

The Chancel Flowers are presented to the Glory of God and in honor of our PCCT staff who have come through a challenging year - working and leading with grace and care, by Evan and Mark Skinner.

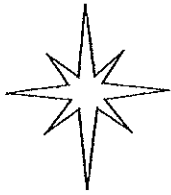
#### **FAITH FORWARD: CAROLS AND COFFEE: This morning after worship**

Join us today 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.

#### **SONGS OF WITNESS; SONGS OF WORSHIP: Sunday, December 29, 10:00 am**

#### **First Sunday of Christmas with Hymn Sing**

Join us Sunday, Dec. 29 at 10 am for an exploration of four well-known Christmas Carols. We'll hear the stories about how and why the songs were written and sing several verses from each. Please note this service will be in-person only, not livestreamed and there will be no Nursery Care or Church School that day.



**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

*Nursery Care will be available during the 3:00 pm service  
for infants to 35 months.*

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

The Rev. Thomas A. Brown and Matthew Zabiegala

Featuring Adult Ensembles and Brass

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

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

The Rev. Thomas A. Brown and Matthew Zabiegala

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**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.

**SAVE THE DATES!**

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

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