



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

Sunday, December 8, 2024
Second Sunday in Advent
10:00 A.M.

Prelude

Infant Holy, Infant Only

Traditional Polish Carol

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Show us your ways, O Lord! Lead us in your truth, and teach us.

People: *Open our eyes, minds, and hearts to know your will and to follow it.*

Leader: Reveal your vision for us, and keep us focused and faithful to what you would have us do.

People: *Bring us together to worship and work for your purpose, and move us forward into your future. Amen.*

***Passing of the Peace**

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you!

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

***Processional Hymn 88** (vv. 1,2,4,7) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel .VENI EMMANUEL

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

(see insert)

Call to Confession

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

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened. We have not always determined what is best or made way for your reign in our lives, our church, and our society. Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us, for the sake of 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 Hebrew Bible: Isaiah 40:27-31

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Anthem

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
Chancel Choir

arr. Marianne Forman

Lesson from the New Testament: Philippians 1:3-11

Page 196

Sermon "Renewing our Relationship to our Hearts"

The Reverend Thomas A. Brown

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

Adapted from the Confession of 1967

*Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus.
His faith and obedience were the response
of the perfect child of God.
He was the fulfillment
of God's promise to Israel,
the beginning of the new creation,
and the pioneer of the new humanity.
He gave history its meaning and direction
and called the church to be his servant
for the reconciliation of the world.*

***Hymn 100** My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

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 In dulci jubilo arr. David Schelat

***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

***Hymn 106** Prepare the Way, O Zion BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

*Benediction

Postlude O Come, O Come, Emmanuel arr. Cindy Berry

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Today's worship leaders are Rev. Thomas A. Brown and Elder Evan Skinner.

Our guest pianist is Sandy Batten.

Our ushers this morning are Carolyn Smith, Joslin Ruffle,
John McCann, Nancy Kmiecik, and Mike Kmiecik.

Special thanks to Bob Eager and Lynn Apolinaro
for their technical assistance today.

Our tabulators are Carolyn Smith and Rob Meyers
and our processor is Sandy Batten.

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: December 9 - 14, 2024

Monday

9:30 am Next Act Cookie Baking,
Kitchen
7:00 pm Session, 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, Choir Room
5:45 pm Chat & Chew, Mulford Hall

Thursday

6:45 pm Sanctuary Ringers, Bell Room
7:45 pm Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Saturday

9:30 am Cookie Walk & Soup Sale,
Mulford Hall
10:00 am Lessons & Carols Practice,
Sanctuary

NEXT SUNDAY, December 15, 2024

Third Sunday in Advent

Lessons & Carols

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

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

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Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

The Kostrowski Family

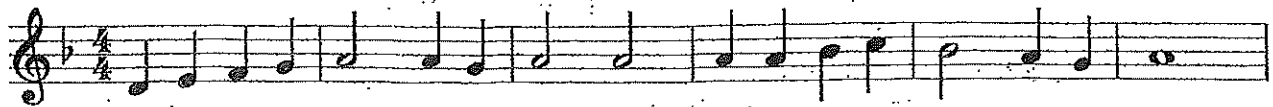
Congregation Sings:

"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



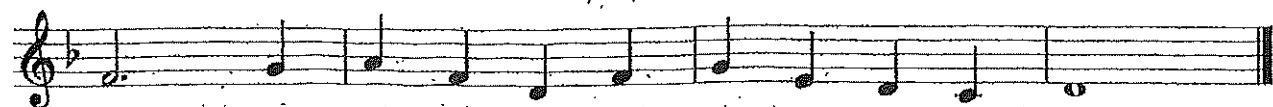
In our hum - ble hearts a fi - re burns as well; hear the prayer these flames wou - ld

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: Two candles remind us of the spirit within.

Reader #3: God's divine image, implanted in the human soul.

Reader #4: Shine a light for those who hear the beloved's call: to respond in love to grace so freely given.

Reader #5: Let us pray... Loving God, we thank you for people of every age who recognize in themselves your holy presence and seek to let their light shine. May we see 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.

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.

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
 our spirits by thine advent here;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 all peoples in one heart and mind;
 bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
 fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2) | Dec. 20: O Key of David (5) | Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1) |
| Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3) | Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6) | |
| Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4) | Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7) | |

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

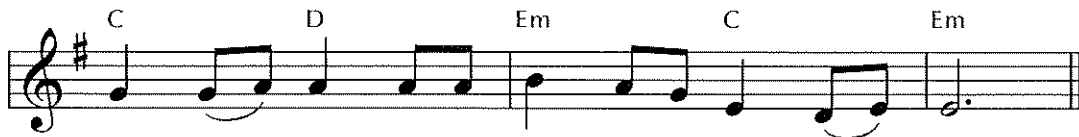
Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



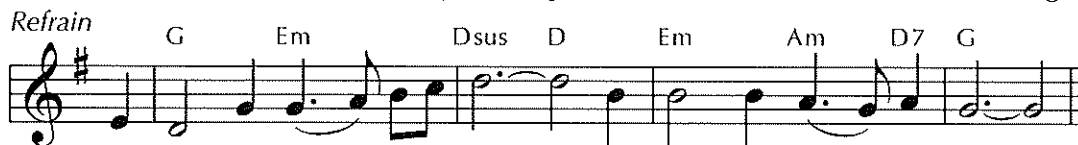
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3-5 and Psalm 24:7-10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812, rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958;
 adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.

MUSIC: *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930
 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 8, 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

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, Youth Suite
7:00 pm	Compassionate Friends Candle Lighting Ceremony, Halldorson Hall



CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel Flowers are presented to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Richard Simpson - Husband, Father and Grandfather, by Barbara Simpson and Carrie, Rob, Alexis and Ryan Kern.

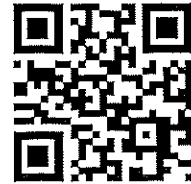
MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tonight from 5:00 - 6:30 pm in the Youth Suite

All 5-8 graders are invited to join us this evening 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).

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 90% 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 is in full swing! Please see today's insert for more information. There are still plenty of opportunities to give. Check our website/weekly emails for more online giving opportunities.

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.

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! Cookies and soup can be dropped off at the church any time before Friday, December 13 between 8:30 am and 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Extra soup containers and labels can be picked in the church office or from the table in the Lounge. Please sign up to help through the link in our weekly eblasts. Thank you!

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

Join us for this special worship service blending music performed by PCCT music groups, along with youth and adult leaders sharing Scripture and featuring festive music and many "sing-a-longs." Don't miss this family friendly celebration of Advent and Christmas.

WOMEN'S EVENING FELLOWSHIP MILESTONES: Monday, December 16, 6:30 pm

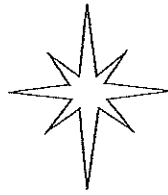
Please join other PCCT midlife moms for our next "Milestones, embracing grace in the middle place" evening of fellowship. We'll gather on Monday, December 16 at Annie DesMarais' home for light appetizers. Please bring one wrapped \$30 gift for a Yankee Swap. You can RSVP to Stacy McCann at swmccann@optonline.net if you plan to attend and to find out more about the group.

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

Come and enjoy instrumental and piano/vocal music in our beautiful, tranquil sanctuary by Director of Music Matthew Zabiegala. There will be different styles of quiet music from classical to pop, medieval to Avant Garde, everything in between and arrangements of familiar, holiday tunes and hymns.

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

Join us 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.



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*

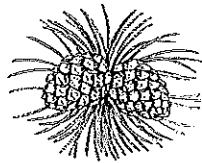
5:00 pm ~ Candlelight Worship (livestreamed & in-person)

The Rev. Thomas A. Brown and Matthew Zabiegala

Featuring Adult Ensembles and Brass

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

The Rev. Thomas A. Brown and Matthew Zabiegala



**SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, January 26, 2025
ANNUAL MEETING & WINTER BREAKFAST**