

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Eternal God, wondrous star, light no darkness can overcome: we seek the fullness of life you offer. Too easily though, we turn away, deny your truth, and resist the ways you would have us move through life. Refresh us and restore us, we pray; enlivening us with the brilliant light of Jesus Christ, that we may see his glory and follow in his ways, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

***Hymn 581**

Glory Be to the Father 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

Yvonne Anderson
Director of Family Ministries

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

Prayer for Illumination

Lesson from the New Testament: Ephesians 3:1-12

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Anthem

The Journey
Chancel Choir

Lloyd Larson

Lesson from the Gospels: Matthew 2:1-12

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Sermon "Mystery and Light"

The Reverend Thomas A. Brown

A Canticle of Praise for Epiphany (responsive)

David Beswick

Leader: Blessed are you, O Christ, our God; you were before time began, and came to the world to save us.

People: *Blessed are you, Sun of righteousness; you shine with the Father's love and illumine the whole universe.*

Leader: Blessed are you, Son of Mary; born a child you shared our humanity.

People: *Blessed are you, Son of David; born to rule, you received gifts from the wise men.*

Leader: Blessed are you, Son of Man; baptized by John, you saved us from ourselves.

People: *Blessed are you, heavenly King; teaching and preaching, healing and comforting, you proclaimed the kingdom.*

Leader: With all the voices of heaven we celebrate the coming of our Savior. Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

People: *With all the creatures on earth we sing and dance at your birth. Praise and glory to you, O Lord Jesus Christ.*

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (debts . . . debtors)

Hymnal Page 35

Call to Offering

Offertory The Coventry Carol with Away in a Manger arr. Cindy Berry

***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 265** (vv. 1,3,5) Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

DUKE STREET

***Benediction**

Postlude

Epiphany Waltz

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 Evan Skinner.

Our guest pianist is Sandy Batten.

Our ushers this morning are Rob Eisenhardt, John McCann,
Patti Montefusco, and Joslin Ruffle.

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

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

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151 We Three Kings of Orient Are

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty night;
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:

field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries (Matthew 2:1-12) as "kings," perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more accurate to think of them as magi or astrologers, the scholars of their day.

265 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - oners
 5 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring hon - ors pe -

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 thron'g to crown his head; his name, like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song, and in - fant voic - es
 leap to loose their chains; the wea - ry find e -
 cu - liar to our King; an - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume, shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud A - men!

This hymn is a classic example of how Isaac Watts Christianized the Psalms, in this case Psalm 72:5–19, by turning their messianic language to New Testament equivalents. The tune was at first nameless and anonymous, but is now called by the address of the supposed composer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 5, 2025

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 of Christmas

The Sacrament of Communion

- 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



CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel Flowers are presented to the Glory of God and in gratitude for all of our wonderful PCCT volunteers.

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

Join us for an informal, all-ages worship service to be held on Wednesday, January 15, starting at 6 p.m. Come as you are for a casual dinner and time to center your week around the sustaining presence of God. There is nothing you need to bring. Expect to be fed in body, mind, and spirit and to be on your way home no later than 7:15 pm.

WOMEN'S EVENING FELLOWSHIP MILESTONES: Tuesday, January 21 at 7:00 pm

Please join other PCCT midlife moms for our next "Milestones, embracing grace in the middle place" evening of fellowship. We'll gather on Tuesday, January 21 at Meghan Hess's home. We'll be discussing Angels, God's Secret Agents by Billy Graham. You can RSVP to Stacy McCann at swmccann@optonline.net if you plan to attend and to find out more about the group.

COMMUNITY FOODBANK OF NJ: Saturday, January 25, 9:00 – 11:00 am

Sign up to help at the Community FoodBank in Hillside. Volunteers ages 12 and up help sort and repackage food for distribution. Advance sign up is required. Contact Joslin Ruffle for more information.

ANNUAL MEETING & WINTER BREAKFAST: Sunday, January 26, in Mulford Hall

Please join us for our Winter Breakfast and the Annual Meeting in Mulford Hall following worship on Sunday, January 26. Your attendance is important as we vote on Nominating Committee recommendations for Elders and Deacons, and the Terms of Call for the Pastor. We'll also review the 2025 Budget as approved by the Session and the Annual Financial Reports from 2024.

LYRICA: Sunday, January 26, 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Acclaimed pianist Inna Faliks performs a solo recital of Brahms and Schoenberg. Please stay after the concert for a reception in Halldorson Hall and an opportunity to meet the artists. Complimentary tickets are available for church members - please call the office to reserve a ticket.

FLOWER DEDICATIONS 2025

The 2025 Flower Chart is posted on the bulletin board in the lobby and there are many dates available. Thank you for supporting our flower ministry.

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: January 6 - 11, 2025

Monday

11:30 am A New Day, Halldorson Hall
7:00 pm Deacons, Halldorson Hall
7:00 pm Budget Meeting, Theos Room
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
7:30 pm Scout Leader Mtg., Theos

Thursday

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

NEXT SUNDAY, January 12, 2025

Third Sunday of Christmas

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