



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

Sunday, March 9, 2025
First Sunday in Lent
10:00 A.M.

Prelude

Meditation for Lent

Paul Fey

***Call to Worship**

Leader: The season of Lent sets us on a journey.

People: The journey begins in the wilderness.

Leader: We follow the way of Jesus, who faced trials, trouble, temptation, and testing.

People: Like Jesus, we are not alone. The Holy Spirit is with us. God's Word is on our lips.

Leader: Our call is to trust in God alone, to do God's will in all things.

People: For God leads us not only into the wilderness, but also through the wilderness.

***Passing of the Peace**

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you!

People: ...and also with you.

***Processional Hymn 618** O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

DEO GRACIAS

Welcome and Announcements

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

Opening Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

O God, our refuge and fortress, forgive us when we fail to trust in you, when we fall to temptation, are swayed by false words; and speak them on our own. Too often, we choose our ease and comfort over your claims upon us and upon the world. In turning from you, we settle for less than the abundant generosity you intend. Forgive us, we pray. Hear us as we call to you and show us your salvation. This we pray in Christ's name, 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

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

Prayer for Illumination

Lesson from the Psalms: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

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Anthem

What Wondrous Love Is This
Chancel Choir

arr. Eugene Oldham

Lesson from the Gospels: Luke 4:1-13

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Sermon "God Moves into the Desert"

The Rev. Thomas A. Brown

*Hymn 168

Within Your Shelter, Loving God

ABBEY

*Affirmation of Faith

Bruce Prewer, based on Isaiah 40: 28-31

This we have come to know, this is what we have heard: the Eternal is an everlasting God, creator of heaven and earth, who does not grow weary or faint; whose wisdom is unsearchable, giving energy to the meek and strength to those who have none. Even youths shall faint and grow weary, young athletes shall fall exhausted; but those who love the Lord Jesus and patiently put their trust in

God, shall renew their strength; they shall soar with wings like eagles, they shall run and not weary, they shall walk and not faint.

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.

Minute for Mission

Steve Tompson

Call to Offering

Offertory

Jesus Walks This Lonesome Valley arr. Thomas Keesecker

***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 166**

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

ST. FLAVIAN

***Benediction**

***Choral Benediction**

Postlude

Recessional on DEO GRACIAS

arr. Douglas Wagner

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Today's worship leaders are Rev. Thomas A. Brown and Elder Steve Tompson.

Our ushers this morning are Cynthia Merwin, John Merwin,
Mark Skinner, and Carolyn Smith.

Our tabulators and processor are Ric and Carrie Butler.

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

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: March 10 - 15, 2025

Monday

7:00 pm Session, Halldorson Hall
Boy Scouts, Mulford Hall

Tuesday

10:00 am Staff Meeting, Halldorson Hall
12:00 pm Clergy Luncheon, Halldorson Hall
7:00 pm Presbytery Meeting, Zoom

Wednesday

9:30 am Bible Study, Theos Room
5:30 pm Chat & Chew, Choir Room
and Mulford Hall

Thursday

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

NEXT SUNDAY, March 16, 2025

Second Sunday in Lent

10:00 am **Worship, Sanctuary; Nursery, A-9**
10:15 am Church School
11:00 am Coffee and Fellowship, Mulford Hall
Faith Forward: Crafting the Most Important Documents of Your Life, Part I, Halldorson Hall
3:00 pm Lyrica Concert, Sanctuary & Mulford Hall

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

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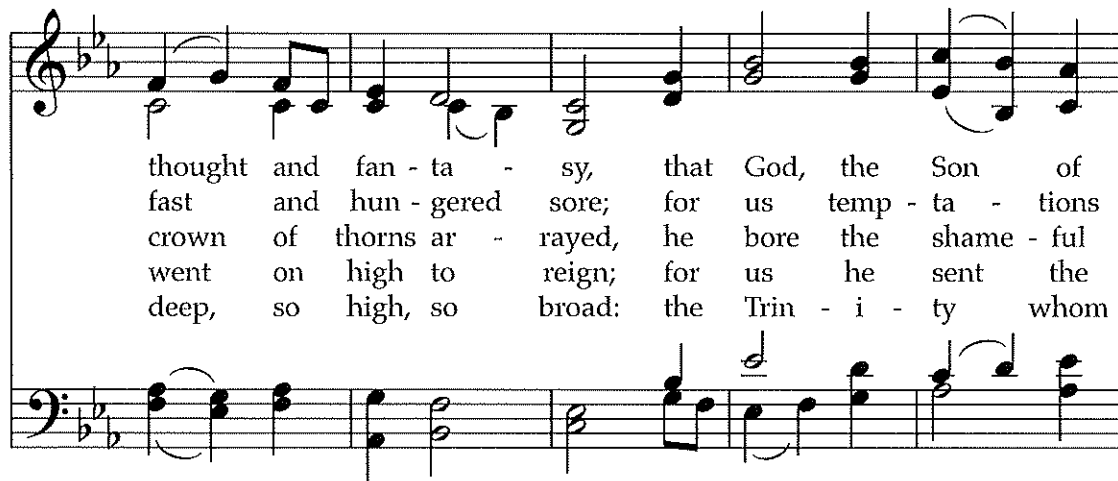
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618 O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all
 2 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
 3 For us by wick - ed - ness be - trayed, for us, in
 4 For us he rose from death a - gain; for us he
 5 All glo - ry to our Lord and God, for love so



thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
 fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tions
 crown of thorns ar - rayed, he bore the shame - ful
 went on high to reign; for us he sent the
 deep, so high, so broad: the Trin - i - ty whom



God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake.
 sharp he knew, for us, the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
 cross and death; for us gave up his dy - ing breath.
 Spir - it here to guide, to strength - en, and to cheer.
 we a - dore for - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

Reducing a twenty-three-stanza Latin text to these five English stanzas intensifies this survey of the mystery of the Incarnation and strengthens the repeated reminder that all was done "for us." A comparable tone of proclamation animates this 15th-century song celebrating a military victory.

Within Your Shelter, Loving God 168

(Psalm 91)



1 With - in your shel - ter, lov - ing God, my ref - uge and my tower,
 2 Be - cause I trust in you a - lone, no e - vil shall come near.
 3 Your ho - ly an - gels bear me up and keep my feet se - cure.
 4 As of - ten as I call to you, you kind - ly hear my prayer.
 5 All those who know your name on earth shall life a - bun - dant know.



I safe - ly walk by day and night be - neath your guid - ing power.
 The strong de - fend - er of my home, with you I have no fear.
 Though fierce and an - gry foes as - sail, in you my way is sure.
 In times of trou - ble and dis - tress I rest in your own care.
 On all a - bid - ing in your love your sav - ing grace be - stow.



The most familiar part of this paraphrase of Psalm 91 may be the third stanza, based on verses Satan quotes when tempting Jesus to throw himself off a pinnacle of the Temple (Matthew 4:5-6/Luke 4:9-11). Citing Scripture outside the context of faith undercuts its true power.

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

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1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and
 2 As you with Sa - tan did con - tend and did the vic - tory
 3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas - sion -
 4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be

pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
 win, O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con - quer sin.
 tide, yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
 past, an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.

Like many of this author's hymns, this text was written primarily for children but works equally well in reminding adults how Lent connects us with Christ's temptation in the wilderness and prepares us for Easter. The 16th-century English psalm tune provides sturdy support.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 9, 2025

We are delighted you've chosen to worship with us today. Please let an usher or a 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 Lent

- 9:00 am Faith Forward: Blood Drive, Halldorson Hall**
- 10:00 am Worship, Sanctuary; Nursery Care, A-9**
- 10:15 am Church School**
- 11:00 am Coffee and Fellowship, Mulford Hall**



CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel Flowers are presented to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Lauren Fairley, by Alex and Pamela Fairley.

LENTEN SERMON SERIES: GOD ON THE MOVE

Jesus didn't stay in one place for long. His earthly ministry was one of moving from one place and encounter to the next. He also moved through every part of the human experience, encountering everything from temptation, to joy, to suffering and even death. During the six Sundays of Lent, Pastor Tom Brown and Pastoral Assistant Kathleen Edwards Chase will help us reclaim the movement of Jesus' ministry from temptation to condemnation, through a series of sermons on his teaching and miracles that will prepare us for the stories of his death and resurrection. The comforting truth of Lent is that as we delve deeper into our own self-examination, we find that we are not alone. God is still on the move in our lives, walking with us every step as we travel the road to Easter.



WHO IS CHIP LEIGHTON?

Meet Chip Leighton, our special guest at **Laughter Gives Back!** Chip is the author of the *New York Times* Bestseller "What Time is Noon" and the creator of The Leighton Show on social media, with over 1.5 million followers. His hilarious videos focus on funny relationships and parenting moments. Don't miss your chance to see him live for a hilarious evening at **Laughter Gives Back: Comedy Night with Chip Leighton** on Friday, March 21 from 7-10 pm at Chatham Fish and Game! All proceeds go towards Renewal 2025, the PCCT Capital Campaign, ensuring PCCT remains a safe, welcoming space for future generations. To learn more and register for the event, scan the QR code here.



FAITH FORWARD: Sundays, March 16 & March 23, 11:00 am in Halldorson Hall

Crafting the Most Important Documents of Your Life

Adult Education will be presenting this important and informative two-part seminar session. Please join us.

Part I (March 16)

Learn the importance of Powers of Attorney, Health Care Proxies, Advance Directives, Wills, and all other documents that should and must be prepared and organized **before** a crisis. Examples of what to do – and what not to do – will be discussed. Facilitated by (retired) geriatric care manager, Lucy Deutsch.

Part II (March 23)

Learn about issues that arise as we age: how to protect a healthy spouse when the other becomes ill, the benefits and disadvantages of transferring assets, and issues resulting from outdated or improperly executed wills, living wills, and proxies. Facilitated by elder law attorney Robert A. Bernstein, Esq.

LYRICA CONCERT: Sunday, March 16, 3:00 pm

Art Song and Opera with Ashley Marie Robillard

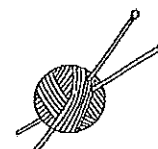
Rising star soprano Ashley Marie Robillard leads a program of art song and opera with pianist David Kaplan and cellist Ani Kalayjian. Please stay after the concert for a reception in Mulford Hall and an opportunity to meet the artists. Complimentary tickets are available for church members – please call the office to reserve a ticket.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH FELLOWSHIP: Bowling Night
Sunday, March 16, 4:45-6:45 pm at Hanover Lanes

All 5th - 8th graders are invited to a fun evening of bowling, pizza, and games. Friends are welcome to attend. **Cost is \$20** and includes 90 minutes of bowling, shoe rental, pizza and sodas. Participants should bring some extra \$\$ if they want to play in the arcade after they bowl. *A special thank you to Laura, Michelle, and Stacey for planning, organizing and leading this special event!* Please let one of us know if you have any questions.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: Monday, March 17, 7:00 pm

The prayer shawl ministry will be meeting in Griswold Parlor on Monday, March 17 at 7 pm. Refreshments will be provided, so we can sip, stitch, chat, crochet, and learn to knit. Yarn and needles will be provided if you're a beginner or don't have a project in the works.



WOMEN'S EVENING FELLOWSHIP MILESTONES: Thursday, March 27 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 Thursday, March 27 at Carlene Pruitt's home and will discuss "When God Winks: How the Power of Coincidence Guides Your Life" by Squire Rushnell. Contact Stacy McCann at swmccann@optonline.net to RSVP or for more information.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Our special offering during the season of Lent is One Great Hour of Sharing. This offering goes to the Presbyterian Church USA to be used for disaster relief and those suffering from hunger, poverty and oppression. If you would like to contribute, please use one of the envelopes found in the pews.

SPRING CHAT & CHEW REGISTRATION

Please join our mid-week Church school program for student fellowship and dinner. Our Spring sessions will be held on: March 12, 26; April 9, 30; May 14, 28; June 4. For these sessions we ask that you consider giving a donation to help us cover some of the costs. You can register on our website. Thank you.

FAITH FORWARD: THE QUESTION OF SALVATION

Sunday April 6, 11:15 am in Halldorson Hall

As the church all over the world prepares to celebrate Easter, the Sunday on which we recognize the resurrection of Jesus, the question of salvation comes to the forefront. What does it mean to be saved, and how do we understand our Christian heritage in light of valued ecumenical partnerships? This morning, we will discuss a Reformed perspective on Salvation, examining our historical creeds, theological texts and relevant passages from scripture. Join us for an informative and engaging discussion

2025 EARTH CARE CERTIFICATION



PCCT has once again been certified as a PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation - 13th year in a row! To become certified, our church took the "Earth Care Pledge" and completed activities and projects in the fields of worship, education, facilities, and outreach. Thanks to all our members who have helped us attain this certification and special thanks to Steve Carroll who spearheads this every year.

SIGN-UP TO RECEIVE TEXTS FROM PCCT

Sign-up today to receive occasional texts from PCCT! We'll send reminders about upcoming events to keep you in the know! In this busy world, a gentle nudge is helpful. Instructions are below:



1. Use the QR Code
2. Fill out the Form
3. When you click "Text me with news and offers" an option to enter your mobile number will appear
4. Once you've filled out the form completely, click the "sign-up" button and a "Thank you" page will appear
5. NEXT you will receive a text to the mobile phone number you submitted, asking you to confirm your interest in receiving SMS messages from PCCT. When you respond "Yes" to the text message, you are opted into SMS messaging, and sent a confirmation text message.