

ORDER FOR WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD

December 10, 2023
Second Sunday of Advent

* Please stand as you are able

Congregational responses are in **bold**

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WORDS OF WELCOME

Liturgist: Frank Mizer

PRELUDE

"Love's Pure Light"

by Joel Raney

BPC Choir | Flutists: Susan Gargano and Kris Murphy

Keyboardist: W. R. Mahns | Liturgist: Ray Nalewicki

Choir:

Creator of the stars of night,
Thy people's everlasting light,
Jesu, Redeemer, Savior of all,
Hear thy servants when they call.

Choir and Congregation:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,
and end this gloom of night.
Bring hope to the world,
bring peace to the earth,
and fill us with love's pure light.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Moberg/Britton Family

In this season of Advent, we pray for God's peace.

Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

We witness the hostility between nations and neighbors.

Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

We see a world full of fractured relationships and unforgiving hearts.

Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

We seek relief from our own inner turmoil and restlessness.

Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

... *The Advent Candle is lit* ...

This morning we light two candles, the candle of hope and the candle of peace. This candle reminds us that Christ came into our world to restore peace, and that only through trust in God's word and his promises, can we find our own inner peace. We remember that Christ is the Prince of Peace, who taught us that through simple acts of love and forgiveness, peace is spread throughout the world.

Choir and Congregation:

Choir:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,
and end this gloom of night.
Bring hope to the world,
bring peace to the earth,
and fill us with love's pure light.

Bring hope and joy and peace,
And fill us with love's pure light.

OPENING PRAYER ^k

Heavenly Parent, we have gathered here to worship You as we prepare for the birth of your incarnation. Guide our thoughts, words, and actions by Your Spirit so that *all* that we are is an irresistible reflection of Your Glory.
Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Kristie

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM OF IVY EILEEN AURIEMMA

PRESENTATION

* PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostle's Creed

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise . . .

THE BAPTISM

LAYING ON OF HANDS

WELCOME

* HYMN

"Jesus Loves Me"

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CALL TO CONFESSION

Isa. 12:2

Surely God is our salvation. Have faith, and do not be afraid. We begin with a moment of silence for personal confession, then join together in our collective prayer. Trusting in God's grace, let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION ¹

(we begin with a moment of silence for personal confession)

O God, you search us out and know us, and all that we are is open to you.
We confess that we have sinned.

In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.

When we make no room for Christ, and fail to welcome him into our lives,

In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.

When we follow shooting stars and squander our gifts in Herod's court,

In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.

When we seek to cut down those who might rise above us,

In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.

When we sanitize your birthplace and erase from memory the poor and displaced,

In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.

When we sing sweet sentiments over Christ's birth, and fail to rejoice over his everyday presence,

In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.

We turn to you, O Christ, perfect union of Spirit and flesh;

We renounce evil; We claim your love; We choose to be made whole.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON ^k

What a relief! What a joy! God *rushes in* to forgive sin in response to genuine repentance. Hallelujah, in the name of Jesus Christ, I proclaim to you that we are forgiven. **Amen!**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since God has reconciled us through Jesus Christ, let us also be reconciled to one another. The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

* RESPONSE TO GRACE

"Glory to God"

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THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 11:1-10 p. 595 in pew Bible

ANTHEM *"Breath of Heaven"* Chris Eaton and Amy Grant

Flutists: Susan Gargano and Kris Murphy | Keyboardist: W. R. Mahns

2nd SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1:1-8 p. 867 in pew Bible

The Words of Holy Scripture for the people of God;
Thanks be to God, Amen.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

BPC CHILDREN & YOUTH

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Watching and waiting for the coming of Christ, we pray for the promise of a new creation, saying: Come quickly, Lord; **our peace is in you . . .**

... God our hope, as the promised day approaches, fill us with the joy of your Holy Spirit and strengthen us to serve you faithfully; through Christ, who is coming to reign. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

To rule with power and might, to give them what they dreamed.
What a big surprise! The Savior was a child!
The Christmas story goes to show God's plans are really wild!
Refrain

Stanza 2 God's love is for all, there can be no doubt.
The poor, the weak, the small--no one is left out!
The reason Jesus came: God wanted to be near;
God wanted to draw close to us, and that is why we cheer!
Refrain

CONNECTING OUR FAITH TO THE ACTIVITIES OF OUR CHURCH

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *"Christmastime"* by M. Smith and J. Carlson
Flutists: Susan Gargano and Kris Murphy | Keyboardist: W. R. Mahns



Today we celebrate the baptism of Ivy Eileen Auriemma.
Daughter of Michael & Sarah Auriemma.
Grandparents are Bob and Paulette Auriemma and
Steven and the late Eileen Vallarelli.
Great-Grandfather is Robert Auriemma, Sr.
Godfather, Nicholas Auriemma / Godmother, Lindsay Chovanes



Worship Notes

Brick Presbyterian Church CCLI#1853779/Streaming#20110146

¹ written by Nathan Nettleton, and posted on his Laughingbird website.

² written by Rev. Christine Sobania Johnson on her blog, **Freshly Squeezed Liturgy.** <http://freshlysqueezedliturgy.blogspot.com/>

Children and Families Have Options in Worship!

At the front of the sanctuary on the right-hand side, we have a **“PrayGround area.”** This space is for children to sit together and do quiet activities while being present for the worship service. Children's bulletins, lap desks, crayons / colored pencils, puzzles, soft toys, and children's Bibles are available in the narthex.

*The Nursery, in classroom #1, is available from 9:00AM-11:00AM
for children pre-k and under.*



This morning's chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Craig & Patrice Law, in celebration of their granddaughter's 3rd birthday.

Happy Birthday Ella Law !



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS - Now through December 17, 2023,
there are envelopes placed in the church pews to donate
Christmas flowers in memory of, or in honor of loved ones.



December 11 - 17

MONDAY	Finance Bell Choir Rehearsal	6:00PM 7:00PM
TUESDAY	Session	7:00PM
WEDNESDAY	Food Pantry Open Com/Tech Work Session	10:00AM – 2:00PM 11:30AM
THURSDAY	Choir Rehearsal	6:30PM
SATURDAY	Cookie Sale	12:00PM – 4:00PM
SUNDAY	* Church School For children & adults * Worship	9:00AM 10:00AM

** The Nursery, in classroom #1, is available from 9:00AM - 11:00AM
for children pre-k and under.*

This year, ***Christmas Eve is on Sunday.*** We will have our ***10:00 a.m.*** service which will be the 4th Sunday of Advent.

At 4:30 p.m., there will be a candlelight service to celebrate Christmas Eve.

PRAYER LIST

Gary Baker, Elba Figueroa, Lori & Harold Fisher, Marlene Hirt,
Rich Irwin, Jim McCue, Andy Meehan, Michael Toth, Bob Towlen



And Our Homebound:

Don Bertrand, Jack Macaluso,
Christine Meiselman - Hampton Ridge, Toms River
Ada Trinidad - Monmouth Crossing, Freehold



With the holidays approaching, the following items are on the Deacons Food Pantry wish list: Thanks for your support.

Soups: cream of chicken soup, chicken broth, hearty & chicken noodle soups.

Canned Goods: baked beans, yams, corn, peas, carrots, fruit.

Packaged Goods: mashed potatoes, pancake mix, syrup, oatmeal, saltines, ramen noodles, crackers.

Beverages: juice, coffee, tea.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE - Our Annual **Christmas Cookie Sale** is coming up **this Saturday, December 16th - from 12:00 – 4:00**. Buy a container for \$20.00 and fill it to the top with cookies!! *A sign-up sheet is available to volunteer to bake your family favorites for the sale.*

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE - We are selling specialty **Christmas cards, handcrafted in Tennessee**. We have a limited number of each of three scenes. *Come over to the Narthex table and have a look!*

Brick Presbyterian Church

Rev. Kristie Miles, *Pastor*
Patrice Law, *Clerk of Session*
Sandy Alho, *Moderator of Deacons*

Session

Class of 2024

Brian Aldrich, Bob Auriemma Jr., Linda Kathenes, Jill Moberg, Elaine Salto

Class of 2025

Chuck Cumella, Tom Fortier, Patrice Law, Christy Tompkins, Craig Trautweiler

Class of 2026

Katie Candeloro, Marty Haluza, Michael Kraynick, Lynn Mizer, Jean Reilly

Board of Deacons

Class of 2024

Sandy Alho, Tom Erickson, Jennifer Kathenes, Tracey Podolsky, Wendy Schweis

Class of 2025

Dorothy Aldrich, JoAnne Habenicht, Carol Orbann, Elorm Banini, Sharon Thomas

Class of 2026

Sue Britton, Michael Candeloro, Joan Horan, Tim Towlen, Shawn Trautweiler

Staff

Karen Ellis, *Financial Secretary*
Mike Kraynick, *Treasurer*
Patricia Loboda, *Administrative Assistant*
Lorrie Haluza, *Interim Christian Education Coordinator*
Bonnie Luton, *Handbell Choir Director*
Edmond Murphy, *Director of Vocal Music*
Christy Tomkins, *Praise Team Leader*
W R Mahns, *Pianist / Organist*
Rev. Doug Chase, *Pastor Emeritus*