

ORDER FOR WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD ¹

December 17, 2023
Third Sunday of Advent

* Please stand as you are able

Congregational responses are in **bold**

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WORDS OF WELCOME

Liturgist: Sharon Thomas

OPENING SONG

"Love's Pure Light"

By Joel Raney

BPC Trio | Electronic Bells: Christy Tompkins

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

Voegborlo Family

In this season of Advent, we celebrate with joyful hearts.

Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

We count our blessings, and give thanks for God's goodness and grace.

Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

We strive to search for the good in neighbors near and far.

Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

We remember that God has promised us full and joyful lives.

Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

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

This morning we light *three* candles – the candles of hope, peace, and today, joy. This candle reminds us that we have reason to be joyful, even in the midst of strife. We remember that the angel proclaimed Christ’s birth as “Good news of great joy, to all people.” We celebrate today with joyful hearts and commit ourselves to spreading that joy to the world around us.

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.

Choir:

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

OPENING PRAYER ^k

Creator God, 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

* HYMN

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

107 v. 1,2,4

CALL TO CONFESSION

When we come to worship God, we must first remember who we are: people who often sin and turn from the ways of God. Relying on God’s abundant grace, let us offer our confession together, knowing that we will

be offered forgiveness in Christ. We begin with a moment of silence for personal confession. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

Gracious God, long ago you sent Christ to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, and to proclaim liberty to the captives. You then asked us to go and do the same, for we are the church of Jesus Christ.

Forgive us, we pray, for we have not continued to share the good news. We have focused on ourselves and neglected to help others. Help us to continue to share the healing and loving words of Christ to all the world and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

My friends, hear this Good News: the straight way of the Lord includes God's gracious and loving forgiveness of our sins genuinely lain down in confession. Hallelujah, **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

Gracious God, for generations, your Word has brought love and life to your people. Speak to us now; we pray that we may hear, and in hearing, we may be transformed. **Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 p. 641 in pew Bible

ANTHEM *"Light of the World"* by Lauren Daigle
BPC Praise Team | Keyboardist: W. R. Mahns

2nd SCRIPTURE READING John 1:6-8, 19-28 p. 922 in pew Bible

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

MESSAGE Rev. Kristie Miles

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the PCUSA Declaration of Faith)

**Jesus Christ stands at the center of the biblical record.
The Bible is the account of God's word and action in history,
Together with his people's response in faith.
It tells how the Lord has moved with Israel and the church towards the
kingdom of God,
his just and loving rule over all.
It is the story of the one God,
who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
That story is still unfolding, and in faith, we make it our own.
It forms our memory and our hope.**

**It tells us who we are and what we are to do.
To retell it is to declare what we believe.**

* HYMN

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

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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, forever. Amen.

MOMENT FOR GRATITUDE

You are invited to silently thank God for one of your recent blessings.

OFFERING OF OUR LIVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

In this holiday season, we find many demands made upon our time and resources. Yet in worship we are called to remember who is the author of all that we are and all that we have. In response to God’s gracious action in our lives, we are called to give an offering to God.

OFFERTORY

“Christmas Offertory”

by Paul Baloche

BPC Praise Team | Keyboardist: W. R. Mahns

* RESPONSE TO BLESSINGS *“In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful”*

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* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Thank you, God, for all that we have and all that we are. We take these gifts given today and dedicate them ever and only to you. Amen.

RETURNING TO THE WORLD IN GOD'S NAME

* CLOSING SONG *"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"* Verses 1 & 2
BPC Praise Team | Keyboardist: W. R. Mahns

CONNECTING OUR FAITH TO THE ACTIVITIES OF OUR CHURCH

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG *"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"* Verses 3 & 4
BPC Praise Team | Keyboardist: W. R. Mahns



Worship Notes

Brick Presbyterian Church CCLI#1853779/Streaming#20110146

¹ Liturgy written by Rev. Dr. Tara Bulger. https://images.pres-outlook.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Outlook-Order-of-Worship-12_17.pdf



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.



Today is the deadline for Christmas flowers. There are envelopes placed in the church pews to donate Christmas flowers in memory of, or in honor of loved ones.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE at the Narthex table, *come and take a look!*



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.

SAVE THE DATE – The Annual Congregational meeting is January 28th. Please prayerfully consider if you are called to serve as a **Member-at-Large** on the **Standing Nominating Committee**. We will be seeking to fill these positions at the Annual meeting.



Please keep member Todd Ferry & his family in your prayers following the passing of his grandmother, (Donna's mom) Alice Brzyski.

A memorial service will be held at **11AM on Saturday, December 23, 2023**, at **Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church**, 701 Forman Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach. *Family and friends will be received from 10-11 prior to the service.*



PRAYER LIST

Dan Kleban - South Carolina hospital

Gary Baker, the Ferry family, Elba Figueroa,
Lori & Harold Fisher, Marlene Hirt, Rich Irwin, the Kleban family,
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

New Office Hours:

Monday 10:00AM - 4:00PM

Tuesday-Thursday 8:30AM-4:00PM

Friday 8:30AM – 2:00PM



*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.



November 18 - December 24

MONDAY	Bell Choir Rehearsal	7:00PM
WEDNESDAY	Food Pantry Open	10AM – 2PM
	Worship Committee meeting	5:45PM
	C & T meeting (<i>zoom</i>)	7:00PM
THURSDAY	Choir rehearsal	6:30PM
SUNDAY	*Worship (<i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>)	10:00AM
	Christmas Eve Service	4:30PM

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

There will be no Christian Ed for Adults & Children on December 24 and 31.

Notes

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*