

ORDER FOR WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

* Please stand as you are able

Congregational responses are in **bold**

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WORDS OF WELCOME

Liturgist: Jean Reilly

PRELUDE

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

arr. by A L Page

Bell Choir

OPENING SONG

"Love's Pure Light"

By Joel Raney

BPC Trio | Bells: Susan Gargano and Bonnie Luton

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

Choir:

Choir and Congregation:

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

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

Kathenes Family

During Advent we see God's love for us embodied in our Savior's birth.

Christ is our light and the source of our everlasting love.

Advent calls us to love others with patience and kindness.

Christ is our light and the source of our everlasting love.

Advent calls us to be slow to anger and quick to forgive.

Christ is our light and the source of our everlasting love.

Advent reminds us that Christ commanded us to love as he loved.
Christ is our light and the source of our everlasting love.

... The Advent Candle is lit ...

This morning we light *four* candles – the candles of hope, peace, joy, and today’s candle – love. This candle reminds us, that God so loved the world that he sent his only son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have life everlasting. Today we celebrate God’s gift of love and remember that we have been commanded to love others as God loves 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 RESPONSES ¹

Lord Jesus, there was no room for you in the inn on the night that you were born:

Help us to make room in our hearts for you.

Lord Jesus, a star shone brightly in the sky to announce your birth:

Lead us to your light that we too may worship you.

Lord Jesus, angels sang at your birth filling the night sky with the celebration of divine love:

Fill us with joy

**as we sing the praises of the Christ child
who is God-with-us.**

CALL TO CONFESSION ^k

Our prayers of confession can run the range from *simple* to *complicated*, from *individual*, such as “I did such-and-such” to *collective*, such as “We did this-and-that,” and from *mundane* to *grievous*. Whatever our sins, we confess to God with humility, we ask God to gently expose our sins to our awareness, and gratefully accept that God greets our confession with grace and mercy. So let us pray, first in silent individual prayer and then collectively:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION ^k

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

I’m truly sorry.

Please forgive me.

I won’t do it again.

Thank you. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON ^k

1 John 1:9 says: “If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Receive God’s forgiveness now and go and live your life reflecting it. Alleluia, **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.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, by your Word, and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16 p. 269 in pew Bible

ANTHEM *"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"* arr. Jason Krug
Bell Choir

2nd SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:47-55 p. 888 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 The Nicene Creed, 1.2a

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

* HYMN

"Sing Out, My Soul"
Sing twice

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(unison)

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

OFFERTORY

"Ave Maria"

by Franz Schubert

Vocalist: Sharon Thomas | Keyboardist: W. R. Mahns

* RESPONSE TO BLESSINGS *"In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful"*

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* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

In this season of extreme gift-giving, we return these gifts to You, O Lord. Bless them and direct them to be used according to Your will alone. Amen.

RETURNING TO THE WORLD IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

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CONNECTING OUR FAITH TO THE ACTIVITIES OF OUR CHURCH
BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"All Is Well"

Michael W. Smith

Vocalists: Sharon Thomas & Edmond Murphy

Keyboardist: W. R. Mahns

Worship Notes

Brick Presbyterian Church CCLI#1853779/Streaming#20110146

¹ Simon Taylor. Winter by Ruth Burgess. Wild Goose Publications, 2023: Glasgow, Scotland.
P. 164.



**This morning's chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God by
the Towlen family, in loving memory of Robert White,
beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather.**

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.*

**DECORATIONS FOR OUR SERVICES ARE GIVEN
BY THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
OF OUR CONGREGATION...**



The Aldrich Family,
in memory of our loved ones

Paulette & Bob Auriemma,
*in memory of Irene Auriemma, Anita Marinelli,
and Eileen Vallarelli*

Mary & Bill Burdge and Nancy and John,
in memory of Lewis & Ruth Cook

The Ellis Family,
in loving memory of all our loved ones

The Evan & Lane Families,
in memory of all our loved ones who are dearly missed

Lori Evans,
*in memory of my parents, Rev. Walter & Martha Evans and
my sister-in-law Barbara Evans*

Lori & Hal Fischer,
*in memory of our parents and grandparents,
Morgan & Gloria Hughes*

Judy Gavan,
*in memory of my beloved mother and father,
Anna & Kenny Hunt*

Joyce Shields-Gibson,
in memory of Joseph Gibson & Judi and Rob Shields

JoAnne Habenicht,
*in memory of Gert & Tom Habenicht, Nana Dykes Gaynor and
Lois & George Erickson*

The Horan & Palumbo Families,
*in loving memory of Gary Horan and Arthur & Muriel Best
You are forever in our hearts*

Joe & Debbie Johnson,
in memory of our parents and to the Glory of God

Jimmy Kathenes,
in memory of Larry Kathenes

The Kathenes Family,
in memory of Hank & Gloria Kathenes and Florence Mallinson

The Law Family,
in memory of Patricia Bertrand and Jewell & Dorothy Law

Victoria Oliver, Mia, Steve Pham

Jean Reilly,
*in loving memory of Doug, Tim & Erin Reilly and
Gratitude for my Church Family*

PRAYER LIST

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



December 25 – January 2

MONDAY	Christmas Day!	Office closed
TUESDAY		Office closed
WEDNESDAY		Food Pantry closed
THURSDAY	Choir	6:30PM
FRIDAY		Office closed
SUNDAY	* Worship	10:00AM
MONDAY	New Year's Day	Office closed
TUESDAY	Fundraising Meeting	7:00PM

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



**There will be a Candlelight Worship Service
this afternoon at 4:30PM to
*Celebrate the Birth of Our Savior!***



***It's almost time!* On January 1st, Brick Presbyterian Church Food Pantry starts benefiting from the Stop & Shop *Bloomin' 4 Good Program* at: 55 Brick Boulevard, Brick NJ.**

***Spread the budding excitement* and make sure everyone knows that for every specially marked \$10.99 *Bloomin' 4 Good bouquet* purchased during January, Stop & Shop will donate \$1 to Brick Presbyterian Church Food Pantry!**



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.

All committee reports, for the Congregational meeting, are due in the church office by **January 12th**

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*