

ORDER FOR WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD

December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent

* Please stand as you are able

Congregational responses are in **bold**

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WORDS OF WELCOME

Liturgist: Tom Fortier

PRELUDE

"Love's Pure Light"

By Joel Raney

BPC Choir | Bells: Susan Gargano and Lori Evans
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

Gibis Family

In this season of Advent, we long for God's presence.

Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

In this season of Advent, we search for God's truth.

Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

In this season of Advent, we seek God's guidance.

Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

In this season of Advent, we remember God's promise.

Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

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

This morning we light the first candle, the candle of hope. This candle reminds us that God's promises give us reason to be filled with hope – hope for unity in a world of division, hope for healing in a world of pain, and hope for peace in a world filled with anger and strife. We remember that Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

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

Gracious God, as we begin our Advent journey we thank you for the gift of your Son, and for sending hope into a world occupied with dread. Help us remember that we are your people, and because of your promises we have every reason to be hopeful. Take away our doubt and fear, and remind us that Christ is our light, and the true source of hope. **Amen.**

* HYMN

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

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CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Pastor Kristie

CALL TO CONFESSION

Isa. 64:6–9

We have all sinned, not one of us is clean; but there is mercy for those who call on the name of the Lord. 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

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

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace.

In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Isaiah 35:1, 10

“The wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will blossom. The people of God will return with joy and singing.” In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God. 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”

583

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 64:1-9 p. 643 in pew Bible

ANTHEM *“Rise Up, Come On and Get Ready”* by Pepper Choplin
BPC Choir | Keyboardist: W. R. Mahns

2nd SCRIPTURE READING Mark 13:24-37 p. 882 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

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 hope 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

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.

OFFERING OF OUR LIVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

“Blessed Is the Lord (Benedictus)”
BPC Choir | Flutist: Susan Gargano
Keyboardist: W. R. Mahns

by Dan Forrest

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Creator and Lord of All, we ask for your blessing upon these gifts returned to be dedicated to Your work, Your will and Your way. Amen.

* HYMN

“Feed Us, Lord”

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THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

Hallelujah! The Lord our God the Almighty reigns! Let us rejoice and exult and give God the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come.

Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

How can we thank you, O God? For sun and moon and stars; for breath and life and all things good; for your steadfast promise and your faithful love; for the day that is surely coming when all things will be made new.

With saints, with angels, and with the whole creation, we join the ancient and eternal hymn:

Men: **Holy,**
Women: **Holy,**
All: **Holy!**

**God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

We give you thanks, Holy God, for Jesus, who came to be your living Word, to baptize us with Spirit and fire, to feed the hungry, to humble the mighty, and to announce the good news of your coming realm. With thanksgiving, we remember how, when the hour had come, Jesus took his place at the table with the apostles. He said to them,

**I will not eat this Passover again until it is fulfilled
in the kingdom of God.**

Then Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying,

This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

After supper, he took a cup, saying,

**This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.
I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.**

With thanks and praise we offer ourselves to you, sharing this holy meal, remembering Christ's dying and rising, and praying:

Come, Lord Jesus!

According to Christ's commandment:

**We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us— this bread, this cup, these people— Christ's body and blood, given in love for the world. Make us one in the Spirit, one in the church, and one with Christ our Lord. Make us gentle,

joyful, thankful people, serving our neighbors, worshiping you alone. Keep us in the peace of Christ until you gather us at your table in glory. Even now, a voice is crying in the wilderness:

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENTS

The Bread of Heaven; **Thanks be to God.**

The Cup of Salvation; **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our hope, we give you thanks that you have given us this foretaste of the justice, righteousness, and peace of your promised new creation. Strengthen us with this heavenly food as we seek to serve your holy realm. Lead us to live in joyful expectation of the coming again in glory of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

RETURNING TO THE WORLD IN GOD'S NAME

HYMN

"People, Look East"

105, v. 1,2,5

CONNECTING OUR FAITH TO THE ACTIONS OF OUR CHURCH

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Arr. E. Broughton

W. R. Mahns



Worship Notes

Brick Presbyterian Church CCLI#1853779/Streaming#20110146¹

<https://www.crs.org/resource-center/>

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.*



Next Sunday, the Christmas Pageant, ***The Gift of the Animals***, will be performed during the church service.



PRAYER LIST

Gary Baker, Elba Figueroa, Rich Irwin, Jim McCue, Michael Toth

And Our Homebound:

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

The church has learned of the passing of **Elsie Edelman**.
Arrangements were private. Please keep her family in your prayers.



MONDAY	Bell Choir Rehearsal	7:00PM
	Deacons Meeting	7:00 PM
TUESDAY	Fundraising	7:00 PM
	Committee Meeting	
	PB&G Meeting	7:00 PM
WEDNESDAY	Food Pantry Open	10:00AM – 2:00PM
	Stewardship & Benevolence Meeting	7:00 PM
THURSDAY	Choir Rehearsal	6:30PM
SUNDAY	* Church School	9:00AM
	For children & adults	
	* Worship with	10:00AM
	Christmas Pageant	
	December 4 – 10	

** 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.



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 soup, chicken noodle soup.

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 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. Please consider donating to beautify our church for Christmas. **Thank you.**

Christmas Cookie Sale - *Our Annual Christmas Cookie Sale is coming up on December 16, 2023 - 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 and add to the wide variety of cookies in our inventory for the sale.* This sale will be open to the community, so join us in welcoming our neighbors to BPC.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE - This is new for us! We are selling specialty Christmas cards, handcrafted in Tennessee. **These cards are not the typical boxed cards - you have to see them to appreciate them!** We will have a limited

number of each of three scenes. Perfect for sending to a special person on your list this year! *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*