



# ORDER FOR WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2024

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\* Please stand as you are able

Congregational responses are in **bold**

## GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WORDS OF WELCOME

Helen Upperman, Liturgist

PRELUDE

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful"* (*Adeste Fideles*) arr. Keith Snell

Flautist: Kristine Murphy | Keyboardist: Cindy Dwyer

LIGHTING OF THE MARY ADVENT CANDLE – THE CANDLE OF JOY

The Auriemma Family

Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light this candle in Hope.

*Light the first candle*

We light this candle for Peace.

*Light the second candle*

We light this candle for Joy.

*Light the third candle*

To those who live as exiles from home in a dark time, to those enslaved as exiles due to others' oppression, to those who are sin's exiles from their best God-promised selves, the Lord speaks the joy of good news.

A reading from Zephaniah 3:14-20 ...

L: Let us pray:

*From Isaiah 12:2-4, Philippians 4:4*

**P: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid, for the LORD is my strength and my might; God has become my salvation.**

L: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day:

**P: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice!**

L: Sing praises to the LORD, for God has done gloriously!

CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN: *"People Look East"*

**Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there.  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Rose, is on the way.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Helen Upperman

L: Who will save us from the ways of sin?

**P: Jesus Christ our Lord; thanks be to God!**

L: God's grace is sufficient for us.

**P: In Christ, the weak are made strong.**

L: Weeping may linger for the night,

**P: but joy comes with the morning.**

*All: Praise to the Lord, the giver of true joy!*

\* HYMN

*"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

# 83

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus proclaimed his mission to seek and save the lost. As we anticipate the celebration of our Lord's birth, let us confess and repent and draw near to the One who brings salvation.

*(We begin with a moment of silence for personal confession)*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*(unison)*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed: by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Mary

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. God's peace is ours, and we are restored to live in that peace with God and one another.

**Thanks be to God! We are forgiven and free to live in joy!**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

\* RESPONSE TO GRACE *"While We Are Waiting, Come"*

# 92

**While we are waiting, come;  
while we are waiting, come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,  
while we are waiting, come.**

## THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Helen Upperman

Let us pray: God of joy and revelation, open our hearts and minds to hear your Word today. As we reflect on the story of Mary, remind us that you call us to say "yes" to your plans, even when we do not fully understand them. Inspire us by your Holy Spirit to follow your will with courage and faith. May your Word take root in our lives, transforming us by your grace. **Amen.**

### 1<sup>st</sup> SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 12: 2-6

Pew Bible p. 596

### ANTHEM

*"All on a Silent Night"*

arr. Becki Mayo

Vocalists: Gene Murphy & Edmond Murphy

Flautist: Kristine Murphy | Keyboardist: Cindy Dwyer

### 2<sup>nd</sup> SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3: 7-18

Rev. Mary

Pew Bible p. 891

*The Words of Holy Scripture for the People of God;*

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### MESSAGE

*"Surprised by Joy"*

Rev. Dr. Mary Westfall

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### \* HYMN

*"In the Bleak Midwinter"*

# 144 vs. 1 - 4

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray: Gracious and loving God, we come before you with hearts filled with anticipation and joy. In this season of Advent, we remember the faith of Mary, who humbly accepted your call to bear the Savior. We give you thanks for her example of courage and obedience. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, fill us with joy and hope.

We pray for those who are burdened by grief, illness, or fear during this season. May your comfort and healing presence surround them. We lift up those who are without homes, food, or security, asking that you provide for their needs and inspire us to be agents of your care.

Guide the leaders of this world with wisdom and compassion. Help them to act justly and bring peace where there is conflict. Let your light shine in every dark place, transforming hearts and minds.

Lord, we ask that you bless our congregation, that we may be a beacon of your love in our community. Help us to serve others joyfully and generously, following the example of Jesus Christ, your Son.

We offer all these prayers in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying:

#### 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

Let us take a moment to silently thank God for the blessings in our lives, acknowledging all we have received through His grace.

#### OFFERING OF OUR LIVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Let us give thanks to God for all the blessings we have received and let us now return a portion of those blessings through our tithes and offerings. May these gifts be used to spread God's love and light in the world. Let us bring our tithes and offerings to God.

#### OFFERTORY

*"Mary, Did You Know"*

arr. Erik Foster

Vocalist: Gene Murphy | Keyboardist: Cindy Dwyer

\* DOXOLOGY

# 91

**Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.  
Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.**

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Mary

**RETURNING TO THE WORLD IN GOD'S NAME**

\* HYMN

*"Joy to the World"*

#266

CONNECTING OUR FAITH TO THE ACTIONS OF OUR CHURCH

CHARGE & BLESSING

Rev. Dr. Mary Westfall

POSTLUDE

*"Christmas Medley"*

arr. Gary Lanier

Flautist: Kristine Murphy | Keyboardist: Cindy Dwyer



*The Nursery, in classroom #1, is available for young children.*

**Worship Notes**

Brick Presbyterian Church CCLI#1853779/Streaming#20110146



**Jacob Gibis and Penelope Weaver**



This morning's chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God by  
Craig & Patrice Law,  
*In memory of Tom Ashe*  
Our daughter in law, Shannon Ashe-Law's beloved father.



*Last Day is Today to Place Christmas Flowers*

There are envelopes in the church pews to donate Christmas flowers in memory of, or in honor of, loved ones.



*Holiday Gift Wrapping Fundraiser for the Youth Group*

*Today from 11am - 3pm*

Bring your gifts and we'll wrap them for you in the BPC Family Life Center. Drop off and pick up service available. For more information, contact Sharon @ 732-858-4340. 1-5 gifts \$5. 5-10 gifts \$10. *Free will offerings accepted.*

*Christmas Eve Worship Service*







be a part of.

Some of our members have expressed a desire to create an **informal grief sharing group**.

I am happy to host these gatherings in my home once a month, if there is sufficient interest.

Please text me, **Paulette Auriemma**, at **732-925-5944** if this sounds like something you want to

### *Prayer List*

Gary Baker, Donovan & Family, Carol Chandler, Figueroa family,  
Lori & Harold Fisher, Kiernan Holster, Rich Irwin,  
Greg Morrison, Steve Prioli, Michael Toth, Judy Willbergh



### *And Our Homebound:*

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



<b>Monday, Dec 16</b>	<b>Seated Strength &amp; Stretch</b>	<b>5:30PM</b>
	<b>Strength Club</b>	<b>6:00PM</b>
	<b>Bells Rehearsal</b>	<b>7:00PM</b>
<b>Wednesday, Dec 18</b>	<b>Food Pantry Open</b>	<b>10:00AM - 2:00PM</b>
	<b>Seated Strength &amp; Stretch</b>	<b>5:30PM</b>
	<b>Strength Club</b>	<b>6:00PM</b>
	<b>Junior Praise Team Rehearsal</b>	<b>6:30PM</b>
	<b>Praise Team Rehearsal</b>	<b>7:00PM</b>
<b>Thursday, Dec 19</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b>	<b>6:30PM</b>
<b>Saturday, Dec 21</b>	<b>Strength Club</b>	<b>9:00AM</b>
<b>Sunday, Dec 22</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>9:00AM</b>
	<b>Worship</b>	<b>10:00AM</b>



## **Winter Blood Drive**

Wednesday January 8, 2025

3PM – 8PM

**at: Brick Presbyterian Church**

**To schedule an appointment:**

Visit [rcblood.org/appt](http://rcblood.org/appt)

Sponsor Code: Brick Presbyterian Church

or

Call/Text Tracey Podolsky @ 732-300-0886

## **Brick Presbyterian Church**

111 Drum Point Road, Brick, NJ 08723  
732-477-0676 BrickPresby.com [Brick.Presbyterian@Verizon.net](mailto:Brick.Presbyterian@Verizon.net)

*Annemarie Gilman, Clerk of Session - Pro-Tem*  
*Tim Towlen, Moderator of Deacons; Michael Candeloro, Vice-Moderator*

### **Session**

#### ***Class of 2025***

*Chuck Cumella, Tom Fortier, Christy Tompkins, Craig Trautweiler*

#### ***Class of 2026***

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

#### ***Class of 2027***

*Brian Aldrich, Michael Auriemma, Missy Brino, Mark Ellis*

### **Board of Deacons**

#### ***Class of 2025***

*Dorothy Aldrich, Carol Orbann, Elorm Banini, Sharon Thomas, Lauren Towlen*

#### ***Class of 2026***

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

#### ***Class of 2027***

*Kevin Nagy, Sabrina Nagy, Tracey Podolsky, Wendy Schweis*

### **Staff**

*Karen Ellis, Financial Secretary*  
*Mike Kraynick, Treasurer*  
*Patricia Loboda, Administrative Assistant*  
*Lauren Dyke, Christian Education Leader*  
*Cindy Dwyer, Pianist*  
*Bonnie Luton, Handbell Choir Director*  
*Edmond Murphy, Director of Vocal Music*  
*Christy Tompkins, Praise Team Leader*  
*Rev. Doug Chase, Pastor Emeritus*