

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*



# ORDER FOR WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

December 22, 2024

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\* Please stand as you are able

Congregational responses are in **bold**

## GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WORDS OF WELCOME

Zain Voegborlo, Liturgist

PRELUDE

*"Ding Dong! Merrily on High"*  
The Bell Choir

arr. J. Kimball

LIGHTING OF THE SHEPHERDS ADVENT CANDLE - THE CANDLE OF LOVE

Lauren Dyke, Maddie Latshaw and Penelopi Weaver

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***

We light this candle with Love.

***Light the fourth candle***

Hear again the Word of the Lord drawn from Zephaniah 3:17

The LORD your God . . . will rejoice over you with gladness; God will quiet you with divine love like a child upon the breast. The Lord will exult over you with loud singing.

Let us pray:

God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, and God of love, teach us how to love one another as reflections of your light in the world.

**God of promise, God of love, into our darkness come.**

CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN: *"People Look East"*

**Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.**

**People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT      *"The Christmas Canon"*      Church School Kids

CALL TO WORSHIP<sub>1</sub>      Zain Voegborlo

L: The Spirit and The Church Cry out:      (Rev. 22:20)

**P: Come, Lord Jesus.**

L: All those who await his appearance pray:

**P: Come, Lord Jesus.**

L: The whole creation pleads:

**P: Come, Lord Jesus.**

\* HYMN      *"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"*      # 88 verses 1, 2, 6

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us in a moment of silent prayer seek God's mercy for that which burdens our spirits with the weight of guilt and shame.

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION      *(unison)*

**Holy, and Gracious God: We come before you individually and collectively, as persons in need of your mercy. We've failed to love and be gracious toward others, as we would want others to be toward ourselves. We've allowed fear and anxiety to influence us more than faith and trust in you. We've not been open to the unexpected ways you seek to work in our lives. We too readily make excuses for ourselves, rather than submitting to your**

**will. Lord, have mercy on us. Mold the clay of our lives to serve your will.  
Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Doug

Friends, hear the good news: God loves us and forgives us, offering grace upon grace. In Christ, we are made new.

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

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

**And also with you.**

\* RESPONSE TO GRACE *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

#121

**O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.**

### THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Zain Voegborlo

Gracious God; you spoke through ancient prophets, and your still small voice still speaks today. Tune our ears, that we may recognize your voice, speaking as the scriptures are read. Remove the smoke and fog hindering the eyes of our

hearts and minds from seeing what you'd have us see in unexpected ways. Then help us faithfully follow the Christ whom you send to us. **Amen.**

1<sup>st</sup> SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 5:2-5a  
Pew Bible p. 805

Rev. Doug

ANTHEM

*"Sing We Now of Christmas"*  
The Bell Choir

arr. M. Eithun

2<sup>nd</sup> SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

Pew Bible p. 888

*The Words of Holy Scripture for the People of God;*  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

MESSAGE

*"Unexpected"*  
Rev. Douglas G. Chase, Pastor Emeritus

### **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostle's Creed

*(unison)*

**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.**

\* HYMN

*“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”*

# 129

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

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.

OFFERTORY

*“Ave Maria”*

Vocalist: Sharon Thomas | Keyboardist: Cindy Dwyer

\* DOXOLOGY

# 91

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

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Ever faithful God: You keep showing up in unexpected ways and places in our lives: Receive this offering from our earnings and investments, along with the service of our lives so your amazing love and grace may transform the lives of others, and even this world in unexpected ways. To you alone belongs all the glory. **Amen.**

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

\* HYMN

*"Hark! The Glad Sound"*

#349

CONNECTING OUR FAITH TO THE ACTIONS OF OUR CHURCH

CHARGE & BLESSING

Rev. Douglas G. Chase

POSTLUDE

*"Soon and Very Soon"*

arr. by Fred Bock



Acolytes: **Anna Kathenes and Jimmy Kathenes**

**Worship Notes** - Brick Presbyterian Church CCLI#1853779/Streaming#20110146

*1 Used with permission from The Book of Common Worship. ©2018. Westminster John Knox Press*

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



Chancel Flowers

**This morning's chancel flowers**  
are given to the Glory of God by Susan Britton  
*in honor of her grandchildren, Mia, Brooks, Alex, Chelsea*  
*and Audrey who is celebrating her 15<sup>th</sup> birthday today!*

**BPC's Winter Blood Drive - Wednesday January 8, 2025 - 3PM – 8PM**

**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**



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 be a part of.

**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

**DECORATIONS FOR OUR SERVICES ARE GIVEN BY:**



**The Aldrich Family**

*in memory of our loved ones*

**Paulette & Bob Auriemma and Family**

*in memory of our mothers, 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 our loved ones*

**Lori Evans**

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

**The Fortier Family**

*in memory of Oreste Costa, Margaret Costa and Bob Fortier*

**Susan Gargano**

*in memory of Alice & Fred Schwankert*

**Natalie J. Hajek**

*in memory and honor of Agnes & Rudolph Hajek*

**Carol & Rich Irwin**

*in memory of our mothers, Marion Irwin and Violet Korte*

**JoAnne Habenicht**

*in memory of Lois & George Erickson and Gert & Tom Habenicht*

**Joan Horan**

*in memory of Gary Horan and Arthur & Muriel Best - You are always in our hearts*

**Joe & Debbie Johnson**

*in memory of our parents and to the Glory of God*

**Beverly Jones**

*in memory of my husband Bob, and the Jones family  
and my parents, Walter & Marian Reichert, and the Reichert family*

**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 our beloved parents, Patricia Bertrand and Jewell & Dorothy Law*

**Cheryl McCue**

*in memory of my husband, James McCue*

**Ginger Oppenheimer**

*in memory of Harry Oppenheimer, Cathy Oppenheimer and in honor of Janet Moore*

**The Paschedag and Schweis Families**

*in loving memory of Henry Paschedag*

**Jean Reilly**

*in loving memory of Doug, Tim & Erin Reilly and loved ones*

**Fred & Wendy Schweis**

*in loving memory of Mandy Sue*

**Jane Steinhauser**

*in memory of our loved ones*

**Bob & Sue Towlen**

*in memory of our parents, Bob & Gerry White and Ellsworth & Daisy Towlen*

**THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH**

<b>Monday, Dec 23</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>Tuesday, Dec 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Worship</b>	<b>7:00PM</b>
<b>Wednesday, Dec 25</b>	<b>Merry Christmas</b>	<b>Church Office Closed</b>
<b>Thursday, Dec 26</b>		<b>Church Office Closed</b>
<b>Friday, Dec 27</b>		<b>Church Office Closed</b>
<b>Saturday, Dec 28</b>	<b>Strength Club</b>	<b>9:00AM</b>
<b>Sunday, Dec 29</b>	<b>Hymn Sing Worship Service</b>	<b>10:00AM</b>

## **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*