



Hope

Order of Worship

We are caring believers who grow, share, and live out our faith in Christ.

December 3, 2023

1st Sunday in Advent

10:00 A.M.

PRELUDE

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"
Amy Duran, piano

arr. Joel Raney

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Approach to God

CHORAL INTROIT

OPENING PSALM

"Psalm 23 (I Am Not Alone)"
Nate Giordano, guitar

arr. Grant Wall
Psalm 23

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock! Stir up Your might, and come to save us!

People: Let Your hand be upon the one at Your right hand, the one whom You made strong for Yourself.

Leader: Then we will never turn back from You; give us life, and we will call on Your name.

People: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved.

*HYMN

"God Has Spoken by His Prophets"

#407

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Gracious God, we are weary. For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

People: Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard. Remind us that we deserve Sabbath rest.

Leader: For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:

People: Forgive us for creating so many distractions. Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear You.

Leader: For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

People: Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves. Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.

Leader: For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,

People: Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Remind us that Your Good News knows no bounds. Amen.

HEARING OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

LIVING THANKFULLY AS FORGIVEN PEOPLE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Jill and Les Cox

Leader: How does a weary world hope?

People: By telling stories of hope, by lighting candles in the night, and planting seeds in the winter that will bloom in the spring.

Leader: By praying for children as they grow and picking up trash on the sidewalk.

People: By insisting that small acts can make a difference.

Leader: There are a million ways to practice hope. So, today, we light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.

People: With God’s help, may we bring hope into a weary world. Amen.

CHANCEL CHOIR

“When We See Him”

David Lantz III

The Word of God

GREETING EACH OTHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

*HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

#245

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:1-23

p. 56 (NT)

SERMON

“How Do I Know?”

Pastor Sayer

PRAYER FOR BLESSING ON THE WORD

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Meaning of the Sacrament (Responsive)

insert

Invitation

Communion Prayer (Responsive)

insert

Communion

Communion Thanksgiving (Responsive)

insert

Our Response to God

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

#815

JOYS, THANKS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

THE GENERAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

*HYMN *"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"* screens

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *"Every Valley Shall be Exalted"* Handel
Amy Duran, piano

Portions of today's liturgy are written by the Rev. Sarah Speed.

***Please stand if you are able.**

PRAYER CONCERNS: Anonymous; Lynn Baker; DeAnna and Roger Carman; Ernie Hepperle; Janet Kosack; Nancy Lanzalotto; Marge Louis; Ed Serrano; Craig Terjanian.

THE UNITY PRAYER: Lord, we pray that Your church will experience a freshness of power and a spirit of boldness to demonstrate God's Kingdom and love in public places and in all places.

THE FLOWERS are given by Chris Doyle in loving memory of Jean Dollman and by Dorothy Abelman in loving memory of her parents and grandparents.

THIS WEEK

Today	11:15	Alleluia Choir
	2-6	HP's Home for the Holidays
Tuesday	7:30	Consistory
Wednesday	10:00	Publicity Meeting
	7:00	RWS in FH
Thursday	5-7:00	HPBOE in FH
	7:30	Chancel Choir
Friday		COURIER DEADLINE
Saturday	8:30	Men's Group

Sunday, December 10, 2023 – 2nd Sunday in Advent

9:00 AM Chancel Choir
10:00 AM Worship, Puppets & Sunday School
11:15 Alleluia Choir
11:15 Congregational Care Meeting

THE COURIER DEADLINE is this Friday, December 9th. Please submit your articles to thomserr@aol.com and cchp@verizon.net by the end of that day.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS are available in the narthex. Please feel free to take one.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL kids will be decorating the Johnson Chapel tree this morning. If you have a faith-based ornament that you would like to display, please feel free to bring it in and hang it on the tree.

COMMITMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX! If you were unable to be with us on Commitment Sunday, please fill out a form, put it in an envelope, and leave it on the counter or on Lori's desk in the office. Thank you!

FLOWER ENVELOPES are in the pews for your convenience in contributing to our Christmas poinsettia display. Checks should be made payable to Guild for Christian Service. You may place them in the offering plate along with your regular offering.

HP'S ANNUAL HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS, sponsored by the Lions Club, HP Business Alliance, Jr. Women's Club, and HP Fire Department, will be held this afternoon, Sunday, December 3, (inclement weather date December 10, 2023) from 2-6 PM at the corner of LaRoche Ave and Carman Road/Semmens Road. The Christmas tree and Menorah will be lit at 5 PM. There will be a visit from Santa, food, vendors, crafts, and music.

THE MEN will gather for their monthly breakfast meeting this coming Saturday, December 9, at 8:30 AM in the Johnson Chapel. All men are invited to attend and enjoy some fellowship and devotional time.

THE ANNUAL MUSICALE will be held on Sunday, December 17, at 10 AM, featuring all of CCHP'S talented musical groups and some special guests. Following that will be a light lunch which will precede the Live Nativity. Please sign up in the Narthex. Lots of help is needed to set up. All children are invited to participate. Bring your friends and come at 12:30 for costuming. The narration with live animals begins at 1 PM. There will be hot cocoa and cookies and carols. Please invite your neighbors and friends to come.

COOKIE BAKERS WANTED! We are looking for Christmas cookie bakers to bake 1 – 3 dozen cookies for the Live Nativity on December 17. Cookies can be dropped off at the church on the morning of the 17th. Storebought or bakery cookies are welcome too.

ACCORDING TO THE BOOK OF CHURCH ORDER, consistories are required to publish the names of persons elected as elders and deacons preceding their installation in order that "any legitimate objections may be presented to the Board of Elders for its judgment." Those elected at our November 12th congregational meeting and scheduled for installation on January 7th are listed below. Please speak to Barry Wood or Steve Sayer if you have any questions:

Deacon: Dave Hall (Class of 2024)

Elder: Chris Doyle (Class of 2025)

Deacon: Steve Baumann (Class of 2025)

Meaning of the Sacrament

- Leader:** Beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ, the holy supper which we are about to celebrate is a feast of remembrance, of communion, and of hope.
- People:** **We come in remembrance that our Lord Jesus Christ was sent of the Father into the world to assume our flesh and blood and to fulfill for us all obedience to the divine law, even to the bitter and shameful death of the cross.**
- Leader:** By His death, resurrection, and ascension He established a new and eternal covenant of grace and reconciliation that we might be accepted of God and never be forsaken by Him.
- People:** **We come to have communion with this same Christ who has promised to be with us always, even to the end of the world.**
- Leader:** In the breaking of the bread He makes Himself known to us as the true heavenly bread that strengthens us unto life eternal:
- People:** **In the cup of blessing He comes to us as the Vine in whom we must abide if we are to bear fruit.**
- Leader:** We come in hope, believing that this bread and this cup are a pledge and foretaste of the feast of love of which we shall partake when His kingdom has fully come, when with unveiled face we shall behold Him, made like unto Him in His glory.
- People:** **Since by His death, resurrection, and ascension Christ has obtained for us the life-giving Spirit who unites us all in one body, so are we to receive this Supper in true love, mindful of the communion of saints.**

Communion Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: . . . With your whole Church on earth and with all the company of heaven we worship and adore Your glorious name.

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, 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!

Leader: . . . Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

People: Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

Communion Thanksgiving

Leader: Brothers and sisters, since the Lord has now fed us at His Table, let us praise God's holy name with heartfelt thanksgiving! Bless the Lord, O my soul,

People: and all that is within me, bless His holy name.

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

People: and do not forget all His benefits

Leader: Who forgives all your iniquity,

People: Who heals all your diseases,

Leader: Who redeems your life from the Pit,

People: Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious,

People: slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Leader: He does not deal with us according to our sins,

People: nor repay us according to our iniquities.

Leader: For as the heavens are high above the earth,

People: so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him;

Leader: As far as the east is from the west,

People: So far does He remove our transgressions from us.

Leader: As a father has compassion for his children,

People: So the Lord has compassion for those who fear him,

Leader: Who did not spare His own Son,

but gave Him up for us all,

and will also give us all things with Him.

People: Therefore shall my mouth and heart show forth the praise of the Lord, from this time forth forevermore. Amen



FIRST SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

*The Community Church
One Spring Street, PO Box 185
Harrington Park, New Jersey
201-768-2457*

*The Rev. Steve Sayer, Pastor
cchp@verizon.net
www.cchpchurch.org*