



Order of Worship

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

December 10, 2023

2nd Sunday in Advent

10:00 A.M.

PRELUDE

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"
Amy Duran, piano

arr. Cindy Berry

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Approach to God

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid.

People: A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Leader: Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

People: A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"

Leader: Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

People: See the Lord God comes with might, and His arm rules for Him. He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs in His arms and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

*HYMN

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

#244

PUPPETS

"Where's God?"
Joan Hoerauf, director

Puppet Ministry

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: God of laughter, God of open front doors and family reunions, we confess that we often doubt good news.

People: We move through this world waiting for the other shoe to drop, waiting for life to fall apart, waiting for our humanity to get the best of us.

Leader: Instead of leaning into joy, we lean into scarcity.

People: We lean into fear. We lean into isolation.

Leader: Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared.

People: Heal the wounds we have from past hurts, and teach us how to throw open our doors like Elizabeth. Show us how to find joy in connection. Amen.

HEARING OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

LIVING THANKFULLY AS FORGIVEN PEOPLE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Puppet Club

Leader: How does a weary world practice peace?

People: By listening before we speak and saying sorry when we need to.

Leader: By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor. By practicing Sabbath and forgiving seventy times seven.

People: By choosing grace over hate and opening the door for each other.

Leader: There are a million ways to practice peace.

People: So, today, we light the candle of peace as a reminder and a charge. With God's help, may we bring peace into a weary world. Amen.

CHANCEL CHOIR

"We Wait for Thee"
Sarah Carter, cello

Victor Johnson

The Word of God

GREETING EACH OTHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

*HYMN

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

insert

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Holy God, we know that You are near. We know that You're standing at the door, You're running down the driveway, You're inviting us in—into Your Word, into relationship, and deeper into joy. So, as we approach Your Word, O God, we pray: Don't let us pass You by. Don't allow distraction or doubt to get the best of us. Don't let us walk down this road without You. Instead, give us the wisdom to turn and run Your way. Give us the wisdom to hear Your wisdom, to let it sink into our bones and change us. With hope and gratitude, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:24-45

p. 56 (NT)

SERMON

"A Weary World Finds Connection"

Pastor Sayer

PRAYER FOR BLESSING ON THE WORD

Our Response to God

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

#815

JOYS, THANKS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

THE GENERAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN

"Watchman, Tell us of the Night"

insert

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"People Look East"
Amy Duran, piano

arr. Lloyd Larson

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

*Today's prayers and readings by the Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed.
The prayers and some of the sermon ideas come through
A Sanctified Art LLC (sanctifiedart.org)*

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

THE UNITY PRAYER: Lord, we pray that during this season of Advent, with its many distractions and sirens going off, that we would focus on worshipping you and take our eyes off ourselves so that we may also be a blessing to others.

THE FLOWERS are given by Wini Kinkele in loving memory of her husband, Walter, and by Sandy Bennington with thanks for our church family.

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.

THE NEW 2024 FLOWER CALENDAR IS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS. If you'd like to honor a special date or memorialize a loved one, please sign up for one slot, fill out a slip, make your check for \$25 payable to Guild for Christian Service, and place it in the offering plate, or leave on Lori's desk in the church office.

THIS WEEK

Today	11:15	Congregational Care meeting
Tuesday	7:00	Outreach Meeting
	7:30	Deborah Circle
Wednesday		Feed Our Souls
	9:00	Courier Assembly
	7:00	RWS in FH
	7:30	Search Committee Meeting
Thursday		Feed Our Souls
	7:30	Chancel Choir
Friday		COURIER DEADLINE
Saturday	8:30	Men's Group

Sunday, December 17, 2023 – 3rd Sunday in Advent

9:00 AM Chancel Choir

10:00 AM Musicale

11:15 Lunch

12:30-2:30 Live Nativity

THE ANNUAL MUSICAL will be held next Sunday, December 17, at 10 AM, featuring all of CCHP'S talented musical groups and some special guests.

THE LIVE NATIVITY IS NEXT WEEK! Lots of help is needed to set up and greet people. A light lunch will be served between worship and the Live Nativity event—please sign up for that. All children are invited to participate in the Nativity. 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)

THE RAMSEY WIND SYMPHONY will perform a free concert next Sunday, December 17 at 3 PM at Tenafly High School. This concert will feature Jay O'Brien, vibraphone soloist. All are welcome.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED After the morning worship service at 11:15 AM on December 24 to help put out the luminary buckets and candles. Also, two volunteers are needed to light the candles at 6:00 PM and several volunteers are needed to take in the luminaries after the 11:00 PM service. If you can help at any of these times, please tell Sanae or Chris.



SECOND 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*