



FOURTH 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*



Order of Worship

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

December 24, 2023 4th Sunday in Advent 10:00 A.M.

PRELUDE “Angels’ Carol” John Rutter
Amy Duran, piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Approach to God

CHORAL INTROIT

SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP “In You, O Lord, I Am Found” Kimbrough
Nate Giordano, guitar

*HYMN “Hark, What a Sound” insert

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, more days than not, hope feels like the rain. We try to hold onto it with cupped hands, but eventually, it slips right on through. Forgive us for holding hope so loosely. Forgive us for allowing the realities of today to define tomorrow. We know that this world needs people of hope, so today we pray: turn us into those people. Teach us how to sing Mary’s song of hope for the world.

With open hearts we pray, Amen.

HEARING OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

LIVING THANKFULLY AS FORGIVEN PEOPLE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Curtis Stock

Leader: How does a weary world practice love?

People: By sending cards and picking up the phone.

Leader: By practicing empathy and assuming the best in others. By learning people’s stories and finding common ground.

People: By advocating for justice and saving a place at the table.

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

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

CHANCEL CHOIR “Long, Long Ago” Julie Knowles

The Word of God

GREETING EACH OTHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

*HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem” #250

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Loving God, the grass withers and the flowers fade, but Your Word stands forever. So today we pray— help us to truly hear it. Allow Your words to sink deep into the marrow of our bones. Allow Your words to lift our hearts in hope, that we might feel one day closer to Your promised day. With hopeful and grateful hearts, we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE Luke 1:46-55, 67-80 p. 56 (NT)

SERMON “Time for Singing” 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 “Lo! How a Rose E’er Blooming” #255

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “For unto Us a Child Is Born” arr. Jeff Bennett
Amy Duran, piano

***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: God, we pray that as we ponder the birth of Christ, may You renew in our hearts the wonder and awe of the miracle of the gift of Christmas, the birth of our Savior.

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 Luminary Set-Up
 6:00 Luminary Lighting
7:00 & 11:00 Candlelight Services

Sunday, December 31, 2023

10:00 AM Worship

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED After this service at 11:15 AM 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.

THE NEXT Women's Breakfast Ministry event will be on Saturday, January 6th in Founders' Hall. The time is 9:30. We will begin with a delicious breakfast, followed by a speaker who will share her journey of faith with us. We hope you can join us! And we invite you to bring your friends, co-workers, and neighbors with you!

SMALL GROUPS BEGIN in January! We will be using a 5-week video curriculum from Max Lucado called, "Anxious for Nothing." It will be held in person on Sunday mornings at 11:15 and via Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7:15, beginning Sunday, January 7 and Wednesday, January 10.

ATTENTION COFFEE LOVERS! (AND OTHERS) We are always looking for volunteers to make coffee and provide snacks for coffee hour after church. This is a time to meet new people and fellowship with each other and of course enjoy delicious coffee (or tea)! When I first started attending CCHP I was a bit shy but wanted to volunteer for something. I was not sure how the coffee hour even worked, which is what stopped me from volunteering for the first time! It is actually super easy and fun! If you volunteer, I will be happy to walk you through it! The sign-up sheet is in Founders' Hall, but feel free to reach out to me as well! Jocelynbrueck@gmail.

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