



We live in a world where we keep so busy, yet we wonder if we're getting anything done – if there's meaning in any of it.

Christ pours meaning into our lives by showing us who we are created to be.

We live in a world with such a frenetic pace, where we are anxious and uncertain.

Jesus brings us peace by showing us how deeply we're loved.

We live in a world where we're surrounded by people and yet we often feel alone.

Christ calls us into a loving community.

Here, in this church, we are in the process of discovering the meaning, peace, and life-giving love of Jesus Christ.

We invite you into that journey with us.



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

December 31, 2023

10:00 A.M.

PRELUDE

"Coventry Carol"
Amy Duran, piano

arr. Mark Kellnor

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Approach to God

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Hallelujah! Praise God from heaven, praise Him from the mountaintops;

People: Praise Him, all you His angels, praise him, all you His warriors.

Leader: Let them praise the name of God - it's the only Name worth praising. His radiance exceeds anything in earth and sky;

People: He's built a monument - His very own people! Praise from all who love God, intimate friends of God. Hallelujah!

*HYMN

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

#251

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of rhythms, we confess: our faith would not be what it is without rituals. We have to return to this space again and again to hear old, familiar stories. For if we stopped, we know it would not take long before we lost our way. Yet, stop we do. Lose our way we do. We undervalue the rhythms of our faith. Forgive us for our fragility, and thank you for giving us ordinary rituals and rhythms to hold onto. With grateful and humble hearts we pray. Amen.

HEARING OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

LIVING THANKFULLY AS FORGIVEN PEOPLE

The Word of God

GREETING EACH OTHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

*HYMN

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

#279

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Gracious God, When our world turns upside down or when the road ahead is unclear, we return to ritual. We come to the sanctuary. We break bread at table. We pour water. We greet one another as family. And we listen to Your Word. Today we pray—meet us in this moment. Meet us in these rituals that anchor us and speak a word of hope. We are listening. We are drawing near. We are seeking You. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:21-38 p. 57 (NT)

SERMON "Rejoicing in Ritual" Pastor Sayer

PRAYER FOR BLESSING ON THE WORD

Our Response to God

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY #815

INSTALLATION OF DEACON Steve Baumann AND ELDER Chris Doyle

Presentation

Installation

JOYS, THANKS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

THE GENERAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN "Away in a Manger" #262

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Mary had a Baby" arr. Craig Curry
Amy Duran, piano Traditional Spiritual

***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, although we may have our plans for the New Year, God, we know Your plans are best. May the Holy Spirit give us the will and strength to seek out Your plan and to act upon it.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday 7:30 PM Consistory
Wednesday 7:30 PM Ramsey Wind Symphony Rehearsal
Thursday 5:00 PM Board of Education Meeting
7:30 PM Chancel Choir
Friday Courier Deadline
Send articles to cchp@verizon.net or thomserr@aol.com
Saturday 9:30 AM Women's Breakfast Ministry

Sunday, January 7, 2024

10:00 AM Worship with Communion
Puppets & Sunday School
11:15 AM Alleluia Choir

THE NEXT Women's Breakfast Ministry event will be on Saturday, January 6th in Founders' Hall. The time is 9:30 AM. 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 – A new small group was scheduled to begin next week. When our small group task force got together this week, we realized we had a bit more work to do on this, and want to postpone it a bit. Look for more news in the very near future.

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.com.

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.

Welcome!

The Community Church in Harrington Park was established in 1908 as part of the Reformed Church in America, the oldest denomination in the United States of America (www.rca.org).

Welcome to the Community Church in Harrington Park!

We are glad you are here today. Here are a few things that might be helpful to you.

Nursery care is available for children, infant through 3 years of age. **Sunday school classes** are for children ages 4 through high school. The children are dismissed to their classes during the Passing of the Peace.

At the end of our worship hour, **refreshments** are served in Founders' Hall at the other end of the building. We hope you will stay so we can get to know you.

Large print hymnals are available as well as **hearing assistive devices**. Please speak to an usher.

Restrooms are just outside the sanctuary in the main hallway opposite the office.

It would be a big help to us if you would either fill out one of the white pew cards in front of you and place it in the offering plate or sign the guest book on your way out.

The Community Church in Harrington Park

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The Rev. Steve Sayer, Pastor

The Rev. Charles P. Johnson, Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. George V. Kaden, Pastor Emeritus