



Merry  
*Christmas*

**The Community Church  
Harrington Park, NJ**

December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve

7 and 11 PM

**Order of Worship**

PRELUDE

*"Candlelight Carol"*  
Amy Duran, piano

John Rutter

WELCOME

Pastor Sayer

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 98

Leader: Sing to God a brand-new song. He's made a world of wonders! He rolled up His sleeves; He set things right.

**People: God made history with salvation; He showed the world what He could do.**

Leader: He remembered to love us, a bonus. To His dear family—indefatigable love. The whole earth comes to attention. Look—God's work of salvation!

**People: A tribute to God when He comes, when He comes to set the earth right, He'll straighten out the whole world; He'll put the world right and everyone in it.**

\*PROCESSIONAL CAROL

*"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"*

#259

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Loving Christ, tradition tells us that You were born in a stable because there was no room in the inn. There was no room in the inn for a couple in need, no room in the inn for an innocent baby. Forgive us. We should have learned our lesson by now, but just as others turned their backs on You, we continue to turn our backs on one another. Teach us how to make room for one another. Teach us how to make room for You. Carve out space in our hearts to love as You love, for we do not want to build hostility here. We want to build Your promised day. Guide us forward. With hope and honesty, we pray, Amen.**

HEARING OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

LIVING THANKFULLY AS FORGIVEN PEOPLE

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

7 PM – Ellen and Paul Nelson

11 PM – Lynne and Jim Lupfer

Leader: How does a weary world hold onto hope, practice peace, spread joy, or know love?

**People: How does a weary world combat cruelty?**

Leader: How does a weary world shine a light into our bleakest night?

**People: We do all these things with God's help. For tonight, a child is born in Bethlehem.**

Leader: Tonight, Christ draws near.

**People: Tonight, we light the Christ Candle.**

Leader: Tonight, we are not alone.

**People: God is near. Love has drawn close. Rejoice! For God loves this weary world. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON                      Isaiah 9:2-7    p. 638, OT

7 PM – Jeanne Serrano

11 PM – Amy Duran

A CHRISTMAS CAROL                      "What Child Is This?"    #281

SCRIPTURE LESSON                      Luke 2:1-7    p. 58 NT

7 PM – Barry Wood

11 PM – Jamie Stagg

CHANCEL CHOIR                      "Away in a Manger"    ar. Joel Raney

SCRIPTURE                                      Luke 2:8-14    p. 58 (NT)

7 PM - Robin Schwarte

11 PM - Les Cox

\*A CHRISTMAS CAROL                      "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"                      #272

SCRIPTURE                                      Luke 2:15-20    p. 58 (NT)

CHANCEL CHOIR                      "Kneel with the Shepherds"    Patti Drennan

CHILDREN'S TIME (7 PM)  
SPECIAL MUSIC (11 PM)

MEDITATION "Being Open" Pastor Sayer

OFFERTORY Amy Duran, piano

\*DOXOLOGY #815

**THE SERVICE OF LIGHTS**

(Ushers will light the candle of the worshipper in each pew nearest to the aisle. Dip only the unlit candle when lighting your candle from your neighbor's.)

**THE CANDLELIGHTING**

A CHRISTMAS CAROL (seated) "Silent Night" #253

**GENERAL PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

\*RECESSIONAL CAROL "Joy to the World" #270  
(Please extinguish your candle before leaving; there is a receptacle for your candle in the narthex.)

**\*BENEDICTION**

\*POSTLUDE "Ding Dong, Merrily on High" arr. Cindy Blevins

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*We express our thanks to all who in some way shared in our worship experience tonight. Thank you all and Merry Christmas!*

7 PM Ushers:  
Steve, Christopher, Laura and Jonathan Tillack

11 PM Ushers:  
Ray and Linda Walko; Tom and Jocelyn Brueck

*For those of you visiting with us, we have an active, growing Sunday School. It meets at 10 AM and will resume on January 7. Children, ages 3 through 12 are warmly invited.*

## **Flower Contributors**

*Dorothy Abelman  
Judy & Peter Bird  
Anita & Bob Carr  
Gretchen & Jim Ciavaglia  
Marilyn Clark  
Chris Doyle  
Carol and Harold Ewald  
Susan & Fred Fisher  
Anna Froeder  
Jean Greenlaw  
The Gumberg Family  
Marilyn Hams  
Valerie Hill  
Joan Hoerauf  
The Johnson Family  
Wini Kinkele  
Lynne & Jim Lupfer  
Nancy & John McGlade  
Mary Jane & Bill McIlveen  
Chris & Dennis Novak  
The Pearson/Schran Family*



***The Community Church in  
Harrington Park***

*The Rev. Steve Sayer, Pastor*

*One Spring Street*

*PO Box 185*

*Harrington Park, NJ 07640*

*201-768-2457*

*cchp@verizon.net*

*www.cchpchurch.org*

*Follow us on Instagram*

