

JOY

MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL
YOU WITH ALL JOY.



ROMANS 15:13a (CEB)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HADDON HEIGHTS

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 14, 2025

3rd Sunday of Advent

*Large-print bulletins are available at both entrances to the sanctuary.
Activity bags & bulletins for kids are available in the narthex.*

***Indicates those who are able may stand.**



All hymns today are in the **PURPLE Hymnal, *Glory to God***, unless otherwise noted.



The Poinsettias displayed on the Chancel today are given in memory and in honor of our loved ones, and to the Glory of God.



Introit: Cherub Choir “All Because Jesus Is Born” *Kim Muni, Director*

Welcome & Announcements

Minute for Mission: Christmas Joy Offering *Carole Leadbeater*

Joys & Concerns

Prelude: “On This Day Earth Shall Reign” *arr. Gustav Holst
Bruce Erwin, Joanne Erwin, Mike Rugge*

We Come Into God's Presence

Call to Worship (L—Leader / **P—People**)

L: People of God, Look! The young woman is with child, and she will call him:

P: Emmanuel, God with us.

L: The mystery of the ages is now revealed in:

P: Emmanuel, God with us.

L: A ruler will come from Bethlehem:

P: Emmanuel, God with us.

L: Christ is coming into our world:

P: For God is with us in Emmanuel.

*Gathering Hymn: “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

#136

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30AM

28 Seventh Avenue, Haddon Heights, NJ 08035
(856) 547-6139 † www.fpchaddonheights.org

Rev. Eliza C. Jaremko, Pastor

Dr. Chris Thomas, Director of Music 🎵 Mike Rugge, Organist



We Prepare to Hear God's Word

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by the lowly. We turn away the hungry. We ignore the cries for justice. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

L: People of God, God is not against us, God is *with* us.

P: **God came as Emmanuel to walk with us in this life.**

L: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.

P: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

*Gloria Patri

#807 (Red Hymnal)

*Affirmation of Faith:

John 1

P: **We believe that the Word was in the world, and the world came into being through him.**

L: Yet the world did not know him.

P: **He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.**

L: But to all who received him, who believed in his name,

P: **He gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.**

We Read and Proclaim God's Word

Time with Our Children

Chancel Choir Anthem: "African Alleluia"

by Benjamin Harlan

Dr. Chris Thomas, Director of Music

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16

(OT p.636)

*Hymn: "In the Bleak Midwinter"

#144

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 1:18-23

(NT p.1)

Hymn of Preparation: "Listen to the Word that God Has Spoken"

Listen to the Word that God has spoken;

Listen to the One who is close at hand;

Listen to the voice that began creation;

Listen even if you don't understand.

We Respond to God’s Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory: “Emmanuel, God Is With Us” *by Amy Grant*
7 & Green Band; Jenni Maienza, vocals

*Doxology: “We Three Kings of Orient Are” #151 (refrain)

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People / The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as
we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

We Go to Live God’s Word

*Closing Hymn: “Joy to the World” #134

Benediction (unison)

**May the Lord watch between me and thee, while we are absent
one from the other.**

Choral Response

L: Our worship together has ended.

P: Now our service begins.

Postlude

7 & Green Band



Thanks to our musicians performing today:

♫ Bruce Erwin	♫ Fred Heuser
♫ Joanne Erwin	♫ Jenni Maienza
♫ Jeff Moon	

THIS WEEK @ FIRST PRES...

Sunday, Dec. 14

9:00am - Calvin Choir Rehearsal
9:30am - Sunday School for All Ages
10:10am - Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:30am - Worship in Sanctuary & on FB

Wednesday, Dec. 17

11:00am - Adult Bible Study, Zoom

Thursday, Dec. 18

6:45pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal



PRAYER CONCERNS

Please keep these people in your prayers this week:

- Adin Borden
- Sally Burrough
- Nancy & Bob Celebre
- Donna & John Duca
- Joe & Marie Guerra
- Sandy Langford
- Evelyn Miraglia
- Carmen Muni
- Shirley Renshaw
- Dottie Rheinbold
- Michael Sabolcik
- Ken Sichel
- Lynn & Tom Spina
- Ed Trout
- Nancy Wilk
- Deborah Blackiston
- Lauren DeCorte, Sue Hawco's daughter
- Marlowe Muni, Kim & Carmen's grandson
- Steve, friend of Tony Logandro
- The Berkelbach family, Karen Mazak's daughter & son-in-law
- Meegan Hussain, friend of the Heusers
- Carol & Dick Boyle, sister & brother-in-law of Candace Lowden
- Rev. Daniel Park, friend of the Heusers
- Will Baberick, Polly Mitchell's son

pray without ceasing
1 Thessalonians 5:17

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Deacons</u>	<u>LiveStream</u>	<u>Counters</u>
	Jeff & Ro Hudson	Ro Hudson Kyle Jaremko Margie Kent	Korey Owens Erin Gallagher	Vicki Clarke Dan Mullan Hal Wyckoff
	<u>Nursery</u>	<u>SS: Adults</u>	<u>Faith-Walk Class</u>	
	Kam Evans & Maria Masi	Class-led Room 2	Pastor Eliza Nursery	
	<u>SS: PreK-Grade 2</u>	<u>SS: Grades 3-5</u>	<u>SS: Grades 6-8</u>	
	Polly Mitchell Room 3	Cara Blair Room 7	Rick Clark Room 6	



CHRISTMAS EVE candlelight service

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 24
at 7:00 PM

Join us for cookies & wassail punch after the service.



Scripture Verses for Today's Service

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16 (NRSV)

Isaiah Gives Ahaz the Sign of Immanuel

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 1:18-23 (NRSV)

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,”
which means, “God is with us.”

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain ♩-♪'♪

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

Fine

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
 3 Down in a low - ly man-ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

to Refrain

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.



1 In the bleak mid-winter, frost-y wind made moan;
 2 Our God, heaven can-not hold him, nor earth sus-tain;
 3 An-gels and arch-an-gels may have gath-ered there;
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?



earth stood hard as i-ron, wa-ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a-way when he comes to reign:
 cher-u-bim and ser-a-phim thronged the air;
 If I were a shep-herd, I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall-en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid-winter a sta-ble place suf-ficed
 but his moth-er on-ly, in her maid-en bliss,
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;



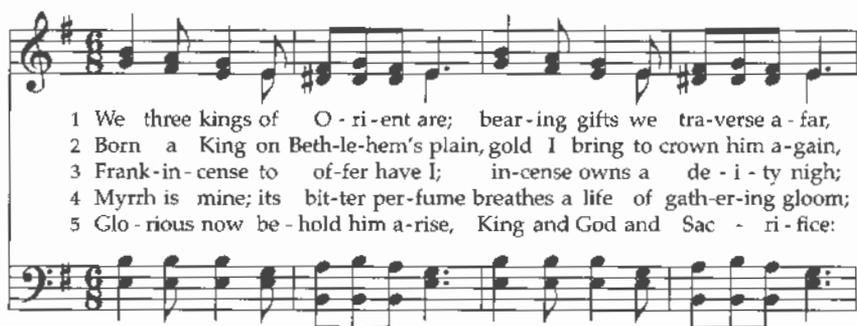
‡ in the bleak mid-winter, long a-go.
 the Lord God in-car-nate, Je-sus Christ.
 ‡ wor-shipped the be-lov-ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.



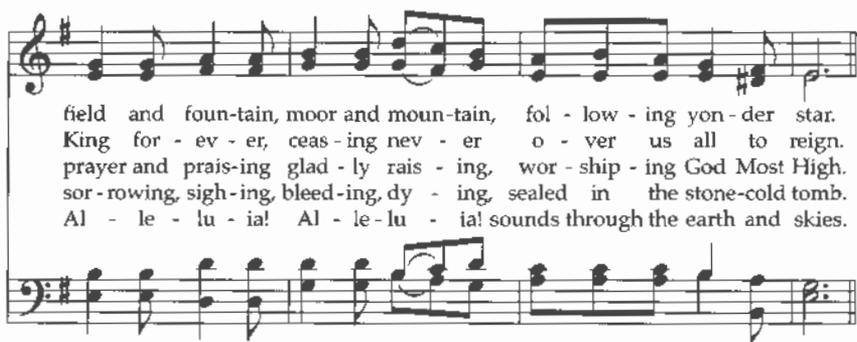
Though this text describes winter weather in England rather than in Palestine, the poet is using familiar surroundings as a means of making the Nativity more immediate and personal. The tune name honors a Gloucestershire village near the composer's birthplace in Cheltenham.

Doxology, Refrain Only

151 We Three Kings of Orient Are

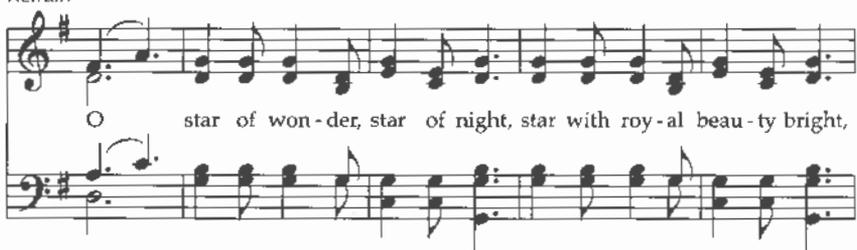


1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty night;
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:

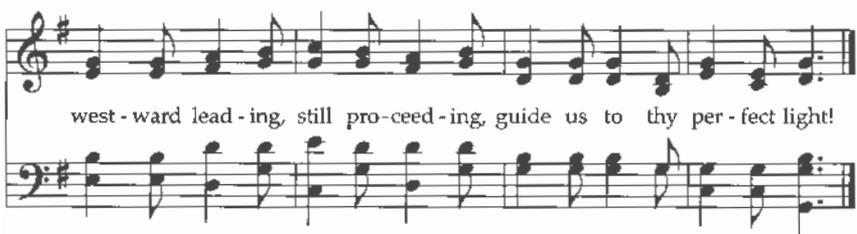


field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain



O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries (Matthew 2:1-12) as "kings," perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more accurate to think of them as magi or astrologers, the scholars of their day.

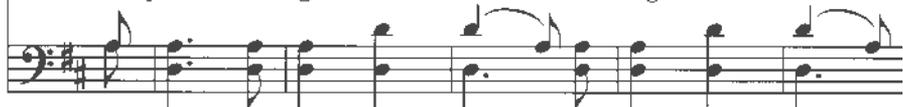
Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -



her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness



and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,



and
 sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.



heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Church Announcements

THIS
WEEK
Dec 14

We're Climbing the "Pledge" Stairway to Heaven

Even if you don't catch that reference to a famous Led Zeppelin song, it still has meaning. Many blessings have come from our pledge angels so far but we haven't quite made it to the pearly gates, aka pledge goal, yet. As of this week, **we are at 85% of our goal, with \$42,882 still needed** in pledged dollars to meet the budget. *If you have not already pledged, you are requested to prayerfully consider your commitment*



for 2026 and let us know as soon as possible. Be part of the final 15% and get us to the top of the stairway! Pledges can be submitted online by scanning the QR code here (or using the link in your e-News, or by filling out a **pledge card** in the narthex.

STEWARDSHIP 2026

Thank you from Your Stewardship Committee

PLEASE NOTE!

Any contributions made **via PayPal** after **11:59 PM on Friday, December 26**, will be attributed to the 2026 calendar year on your giving statements. Thanks!



Sunday School Update

Don't forget ... there's NO Sunday School on Dec. 28 or Jan. 4. (Come to the Pancake Breakfast on the Jan. 4 instead!) We hope to see everyone on Jan. 11 for a great winter session! **You are needed!** Find smiles,



warmth, laughter and fun teaching a Sunday School class! We have three classes of children waiting for your leadership & care: PreK-Gr.2;



Grades 3-5; & Grades 6-8. Give yourself the gift of service and love. A great New Year resolution would be to share your talents by teaching a class, or 2, or 3! You can sign up on the board in the Parlor, by scanning the QR code here, or clicking the link in your weekly e-News.

2025 Pledge Reminder!

Just a kind reminder that we're nearing the end of the 2025 pledge period. As we continue our ministry this season, we're inviting everyone to **catch up on their 2025 pledges before the end of the year**. If you have any questions regarding your contributions or your pledge status, please don't hesitate to reach out to Karen Reeves. Thank you for being such a meaningful part of our church family.



Staff Gifts for Christmas

We're blessed to have an outstanding staff who work diligently all year long to make our worship experience meaningful & enjoyable. Please remember to show your appreciation for all they do by contributing to a holiday staff gift for them! There's a basket in the parlor to collect your donation, or you can mail a check to FPC (write "Staff Holiday Gift" in the memo). The total will be divided among all our staff members. Thank you for continuing our church tradition of generosity to make their holidays brighter.



2026 Offering Envelopes Available for Pick-Up

The 2026 offering envelopes have arrived and are available for you to pick up. Families, including our new members, can pick them up on the table in the parlor. Contact the office if you need your box delivered to you, or if you would like envelopes and were not assigned any.



Christmas Eve Offering

This year the Christmas Eve Donation will be donated to the IHOC (Interfaith Homeless Outreach Council) Serenity House, located at 8th & Station Avenues in Haddon Heights. There will be a total of nine men along with a House Manager living in this wonderfully restored transitional living facility. Our donation will help with their operating expenses such as transportation, insurance, & utility bills—and we get a chance to support their journey to independence. Thank you for your continued generosity!



Our Hat & Mitten Tree Is Blooming!

The Mission Committee's hat & mitten tree is in *full bloom* in our parlor — but, even though there was no room at the inn (*Luke 2:7*), there's *always* room on our tree for more hats, mittens, gloves, & scarves! Help us provide abundantly for those in need during these cold winter months by bringing in an item or two this month.



Volunteer Opportunities at Cathedral Kitchen

Pre-pandemic, a group of six people from our church volunteered monthly at Cathedral Kitchen. Much has changed since then, including a recent drastic increase in the number of visitors for their dinner service. In 2026, the Mission Committee has decided to volunteer at/for Cathedral Kitchen in 2 ways:

Friday, January 9, 1:00 to 2:30pm:

- 4 volunteers needed to help with the Pre-Dinner Service (**Contact Marci Spiegle if you're interested in helping on this date!**)

February (date is TBD):

- several volunteers needed to assemble the much-needed utensil packets one day during the week.



Christmas Wishes for Our Homebound Congregants

The Care Committee has labeled Christmas cards (available in the pews) which can be mailed to our members & friends that are not able to worship in person with us. We encourage you to take one (or many!) to wish those who are homebound a Merry Christmas and to remind them of how much they're missed.



Blue Christmas

worship service

SUNDAY / DEC. 21 | 2PM

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW LOCATION!

Logan Memorial Presbyterian Church
18 West Merchant St. | Audubon

Join churches in our community for a shared service as we lay down the grief we carry through this season & seek reassurance from Christ through lament, prayer, scripture & music.

A silhouette illustration of a church sanctuary with people standing and sitting, set against a bright light source.

"They Shall Dream Dreams"

Advent Sermon Series 2025

- November 30**
Dreams of Dreams
The Prophets
- December 7**
Dreams of Angels
Zechariah & Mary
- December 14**
Dreams of Change
Joseph
- December 21**
Dreams of Warnings
The Magi

A collection of colorful illustrations depicting biblical scenes: prophets, angels, Joseph, and the Magi, all set against a dark blue background with white clouds and stars.