



# First Presbyterian Church of Branchville, New Jersey

*"We Welcome All as we Celebrate God's Love."*

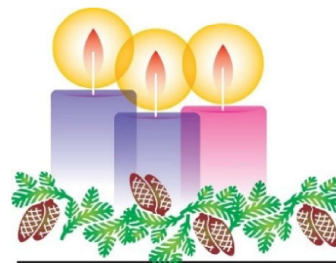


## ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 14, 2025

10:00am

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent/Children's Performance



## GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

**BOLD** means the congregation reading or singing

\* means the congregation standing in body or spirit

### WELCOME

*(Please use this time to prepare your heart and mind for worship.)*

### PRELUDE

*"Meditation on 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'"*

Paul Fey

### INTROIT

*"Prepare the Way of the Lord"*

H. Hobson

Choir/2 Bell Ringers – Ellie & Maddie

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

**Ellen Santoro**

**ONE:** Here these words from the prophet Isaiah: "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom: like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing." Advent means coming. We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. The pink color reminds us that even in our preparation, there is room for rejoicing. We are preparing for the full coming of God's kingdom. Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

### CANDLELIGHTING CAROL:

**\*GTG #85** (See pg. 7)

*Light One Candle, Wait for Messiah (Verse 3)*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**God of hope, you call us from the exile of sin with the good news of restoration; you build a highway through the wilderness; you come to us and bring us home. Comfort us with the expectation of your saving power, made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy Redeemer, We confess that we too often try to limit you. We expect you to act only in ways that we anticipate. We do not see how you move in the outcasts, in the forgotten, in the unexpected places. Help us to be more compassionate and empathetic, so that we can see you working in the world today and so that we might join in your ministries. (*Our silent prayers continue...*)**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**ONE:** As we wait expectantly for Christ's promised return, we live in the assurance of God's gracious forgiveness.

**ALL:** Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Amen.

**\*GLORIA PATRI - HYMN 581**

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.***

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**LEADER:** Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us share signs of reconciliation and peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

**PEOPLE:** And also with you.

**LEADER:** Please greet one another with the peace of Christ.

**CHILDREN'S ANTHEM**

*"Child of Christmas"*  
Sunday School

E. Collins

**TIME WITH CHILDREN: CRECHE**

**GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED**

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**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**God of Joy, We celebrate the chance to hear your Word this morning. Let it move us; let it inspire us; let it change us. All this we pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Luke 1:26-38 (*Maddie and Bryan*)

The words of Scripture, inspired by God. **Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSIVE READING:** Luke 1:47-55

"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
<sup>48</sup> **for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.**  
**Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;**  
<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup> **His mercy is for those who fear him**  
**from generation to generation.**  
<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
<sup>52</sup> **He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,**  
**and lifted up the lowly;**  
<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> **He has helped his servant Israel,**  
**in remembrance of his mercy,**  
<sup>55</sup> **according to the promise he made to our ancestors,**  
**to Abraham and to his descendants forever."**

**SERMON**

*"Teenage Mary"*

Pastor Adrienne Poissant

**\*GTG #100** (*See pg. 9-10*)

***My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout***

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD**

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**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*(Confession of Belhar)*

**We believe in the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.**

**We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.**

**We believe that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world. Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### 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.

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

#### OFFERTORY

*"Sounds of Advent"*  
Chancel Choir

L. Dengler

#### \*THE DOXOLOGY - HYMN 593

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye Heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

#### \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Lord Jesus, We offer you these gifts, knowing they could never compare to the gifts of love, joy, peace, and hope that you give to us. Guide the hands that shall receive these funds so that we can continue your ministry of healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and proclaiming the good news. Amen.

#### \*HYMN 16 (See pg. 11)

*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

## WE GO TO SERVE GOD

#### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

#### \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*(Please remain seated for the postlude and give thanks to God.)*

#### POSTLUDE

*"Fanfare on 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel'"*

Paul Fey

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#### Participating in Worship & Service Today:

Adrienne Poissant, Pastor; John Gagliardi, Organist; Dawn Latincsics, Music Director;  
Lay reader, Patrick Murphy; Advent Reader, Ellen Santoro; Demetrious Savopoulos, Video.

### Multiple Ways to Make an Offering:

1. **Text** – Just text the word “GIVE” to 973-874-1277 and follow the link that will be texted back to you. You may make a donation using your credit card, your checking account, or your savings account.
2. **Bill Pay** – Your bank probably offers this option to make donations one-time or on a recurring basis - it's free, and 100% of your gift is received!
3. **Attend worship in person and put your offering in the plate as it's passed.**
4. **Mail in your donation to: First Presbyterian Church, PO Box 1, Branchville, NJ 07826.**
5. **E-giving** – Go to our webpage at: <http://www.fpcbranchville.org> and click the link at the top of the page.



## Announcements

December 14, 2025

**WELCOME!** We give you warm greetings on this Second Sunday of the month. We hope you feel welcome here and have been inspired by our worship. Please stay for fellowship and refreshments following worship.



**GIVING TREE STOCKING STUFFERS** - The Fellowship Committee would like to thank everyone who took a Christmas stocking to fill for the food pantry. Please remember to return the filled stocking to the Fellowship Hall TODAY Sunday, December 14th. See Sandra Carlisle if you have any questions.

**ADVENT BIBLE STUDY** - We are very excited to announce Pastor Adrienne's first Advent Bible study where we will be learning about the Prophets. It began on Thursday 12/4 and will conclude on 12/19 at 5:30. Please bring your own snack, if you would like.



**THE FOOD PANTRY** is in need of mayo, coffee & tuna. Please consider donating to this continuous need in our community. The Pantry will be open every Wednesday from 10am – 12pm.

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2025** - Any offerings that you wish to be posted for 2025 must be received by December 31, 2025



**FOURTH QUARTER LOCAL MISSION** - Since 1997 Family Promise of Sussex County has provided services to assist families and single men and women as they work towards housing stability and self-sufficiency. Family Promise of Sussex County works to eradicate homelessness in Sussex County and provides resources to strengthen children and families. They provide emergency shelter, meals, counseling, and intensive case management services. Your contributions to the 4th Quarter Mission (October–December) will go to this very worthy program to help our Sussex County neighbors who are in dire need. You may mail a check made out to “First Presbyterian Church of Branchville” with "Family Promise" in the memo. Your contributions to special mission projects make a big difference!!

**JOIN US FOR WALK N' TALK** — Winter 9am-10am, Monday thru Saturday: On Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday we walk around the circle by Selective Insurance, (the old fairgrounds), or through town. We park and meet by the tennis courts. Tuesday at Frankford Park, we park and meet by the basketball court. Thursday at Woodbourne Park, we park and meet by the first parking lot. Any questions – please direct to Beverly Keur: bevkeur@gmail.com. Hope to see you there. Please invite a friend to join us.



**SUNDAY SCHOOL** — A signup sheet is in Fellowship Hall for our second half of the year for volunteers as teachers, assistants and subs. This is an ongoing process and we appreciate all who have stepped in to keep us going! Anyone who volunteers with our children, will have to complete a background check through Ministry Safe, whether you have recently had one from another source or not. To make our volunteers aware, I will be in touch with you before I submit your name to start the process.

**PER CAPITA REMINDER** — Just a friendly reminder for those who have not yet paid their Per Capita this year. It is \$42.50/person and helps our church a great deal when we don't have to take such a large sum from our already tight budget. Thank you for your anticipated generosity!



**ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE** - The deadline to submit your 2025 Annual report is Friday, January 2nd. Please email it to the church office at: [presbsec@ptd.net](mailto:presbsec@ptd.net) or drop it off. Thank you!

#### **CHURCH WEEKLY CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND MINISTRIES**

<b><u>DAY</u></b>	<b><u>TIME</u></b>	<b><u>ACTIVITY</u></b>
Today	10:00am	Worship – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent/Children's Song
	11:30am	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday	7:00pm	Deacons Meeting
Wednesday	10am-12pm	Food Pantry
Thursday	5:30pm	Bible Study
	7:00pm	Chancel Choir
Next Sunday	10:00am	Worship – 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

#### **2025 CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**December 18th**

Bible Study at 5:30pm – 7:00pm

**December 21<sup>st</sup>**

4th Sunday of Advent - Worship Service at 10am

**Christmas Eve – December 24<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Carol Sing-7:15pm

Christmas Eve Service -7:30pm

(includes choirs, carols, and candle lighting)

**December 28th**

1st Sunday of Christmas & Hymn Sing Worship Service at 10am



# Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

85



1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the  
2 Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the  
3 Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the  
4 Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the



light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall bring sal -  
light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall feed the  
light ban - ish dark - ness. Lift your heads and  
light ban - ish dark - ness. He is com - ing;



va - tion to Is - rael, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.  
tell the glad ti - dings. Let your lights be shin - ing.



## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL LM with refrain

Latin, c. 12th century

Stanzas 1-2 trans. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1854

Stanza 3 trans. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916

Adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1854

Accomp. John Weaver, 1988

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
 2. O come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer Our spir - its  
 3. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
 by Thine ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
 in one heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife, and dis - cord

here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
 cease; Fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.

Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!



# Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a  
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

*\* Refrain next page (Page 10)*

\*Hymn      "My Soul Cries Out" – refrain      GTG #100

*Refrain*

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the

fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the

dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

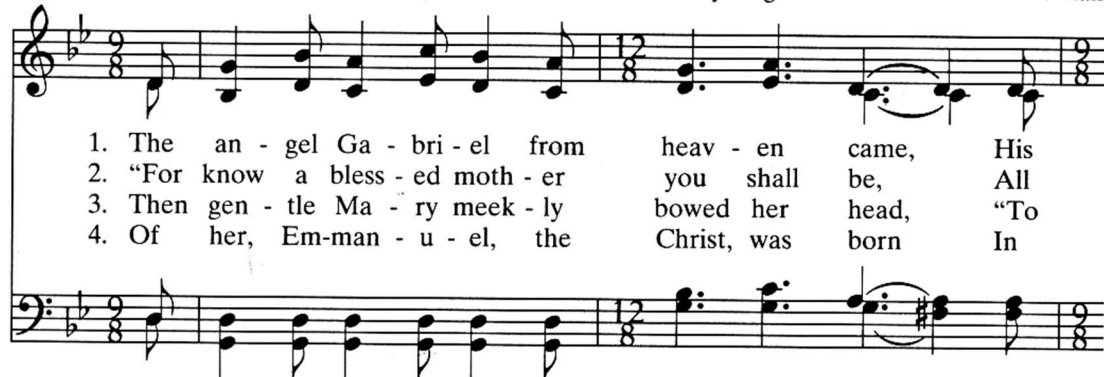
# The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came 16

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE 10.10.12.10

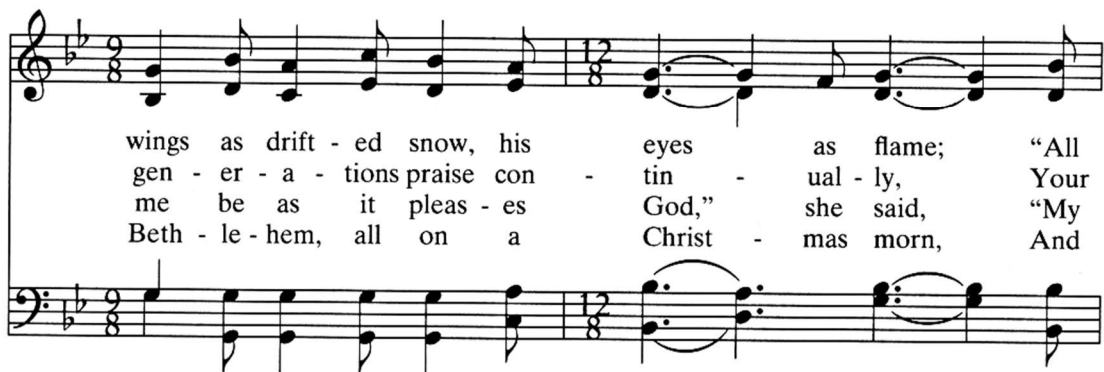
Basque carol

Para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

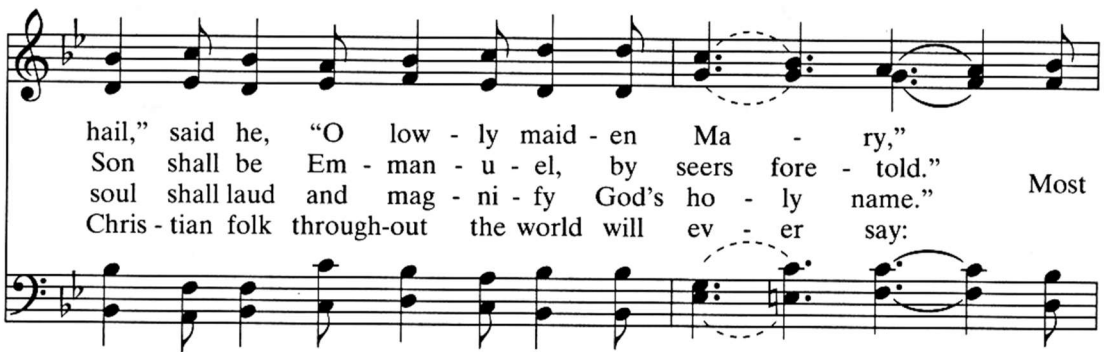
Arr. by Edgar Pettman and John Wickham



1. The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, His  
 2. "For know a bless - ed moth - er you shall be, All  
 3. Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head, "To  
 4. Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born In



wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame; "All  
 gen - er - a - tions praise con - tin - ual - ly, Your  
 me be as it pleas - es God," she said, "My  
 Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn, And



hail," said he, "O low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,"  
 Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told." Most  
 soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
 Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!