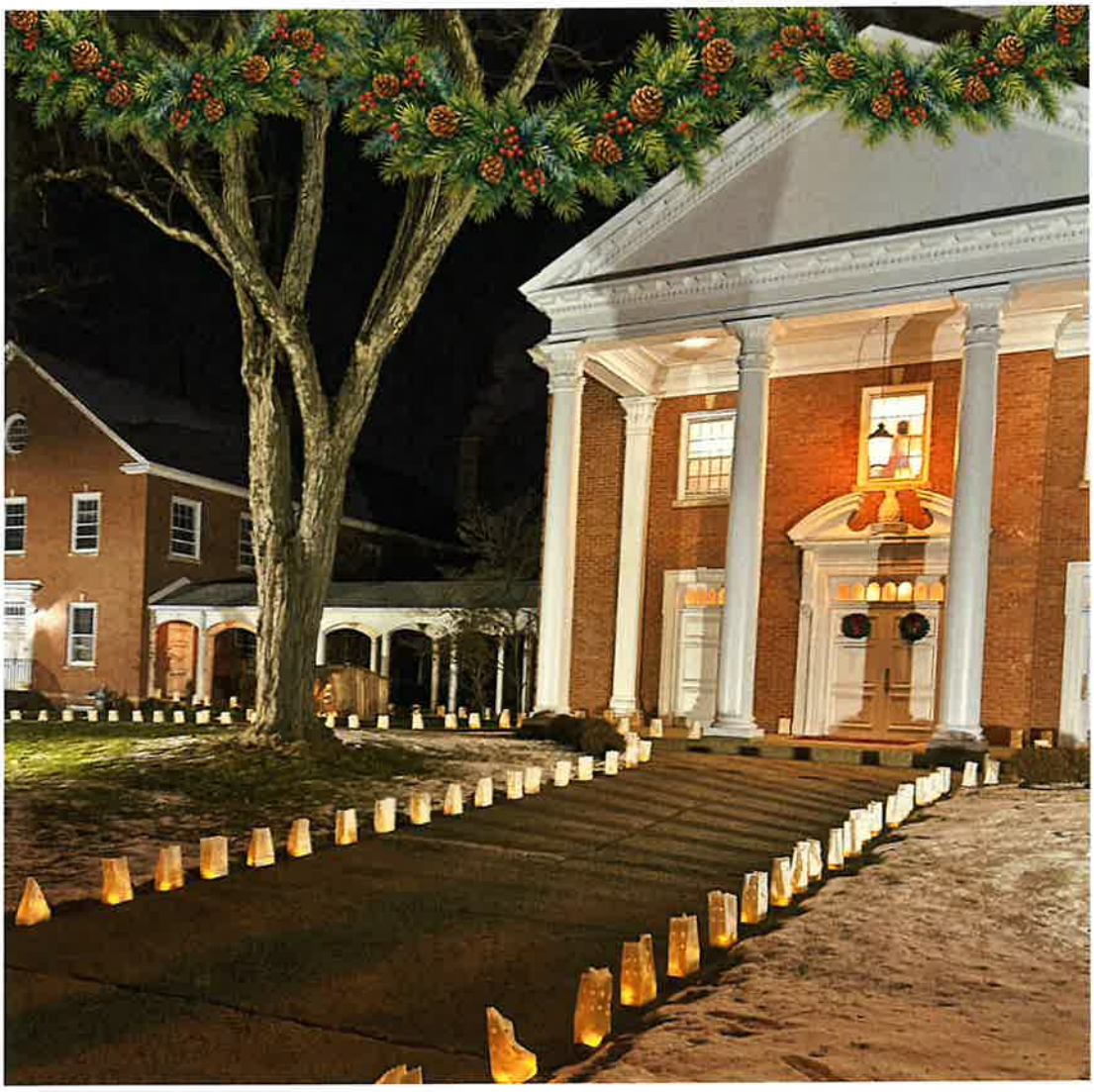
First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen



November 29, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

1st Sunday of Advent

Our vision is to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Livestreamed on our website and Facebook/FPC Metuchen

270 Woodbridge Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840 www.fpcweb.org (732) 491-2300

GATHERING

ENTRANCE OF CHRIST'S LIGHT
Candles are lit to represent the presence of Christ, offering a moment to center ourselves to worship.

PRELUDE Improvisation on Veni Emmanuel

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – HOPE The Brennan Family

Leader: With Isaiah and Jeremiah, prophets of Israel,
we await the promised salvation of the Lord,
All: and look for the coming of the one
Who will bring justice and righteousness to the earth.
Leader: We light this candle as a symbol of hope;
All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

WELCOME & TIDINGS Rev. Khayla J. Henry

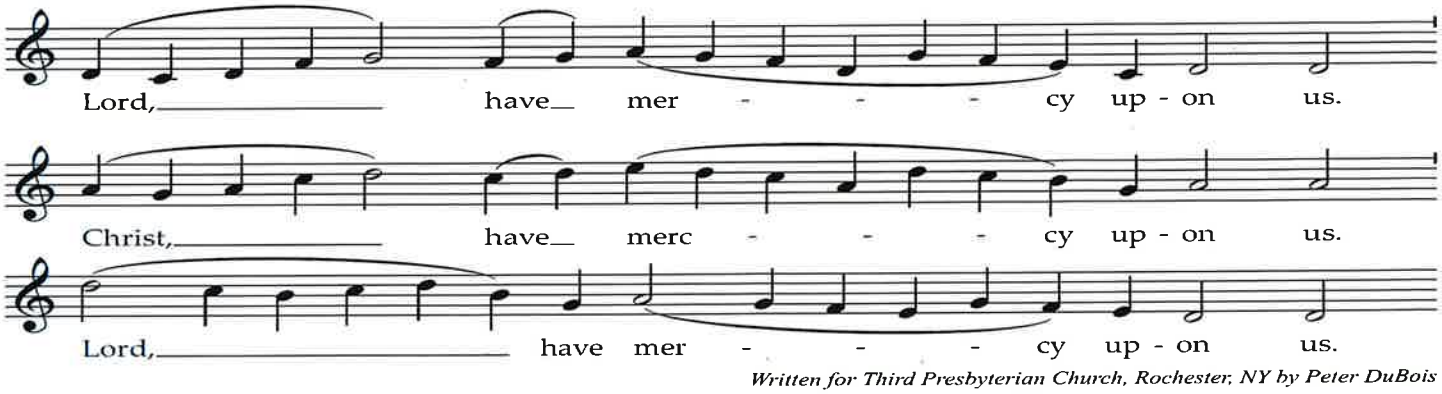
***CALL TO WORSHIP**
Leader: God of Promise, God of Mystery, awaken our hearts.
All: Prepare us to receive your coming.
Leader: In this dark time of year, God, we await your coming.
All: As darkness falls upon the world, we long for your hope.
Strengthen our hearts as we worship today!

***HYMN 88** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel VENI EMMANUEL

***OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION** Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

Lord, have mercy on us.
We are not ready for your coming.
We live in sin, as though there were no justice.
We live in fear, as though there were no grace.
Forgive us, Lord.
Show us your mercy and steadfast love.
Lead us in truth, and teach us your paths,
for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.

***KYRIE**



Written for Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY by Peter DuBois

***Please rise in body or spirit.**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God.

During the season of Advent, the Gloria is omitted, returning joyfully at Christmas with the birth of Christ.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Nursery care is available in Room 107. Children Pre-K to 2nd grade may exit to the GLOW Room to join Mrs. Palmeter for a Bible Story and Advent activity.

LISTENING

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 126 (Old Testament page 572) Wally Cook

This is the Word of the Lord . . . **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM Zion Hears the Watchmen's Voices J.S. Bach

Nadia Rego, soprano

SECOND SCRIPTURE Revelation 7:13-17 (New Testament page 250)

This is the Word of the Lord . . . **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON Advent in Plain Sight Rev. Khayla J. Henry

SETTLING OF THE WORD

RESPONDING

***HYMN 357** The Days Are Surely Coming LLANFLOFFAN

***CONFESSION OF FAITH** (*from the* Brief Statement of Faith) Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.
We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed, and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

CALL TO OFFERING Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

OFFERTORY For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits Marty Haugen

Liam Cummings, baritone

***HYMN 144** In the Bleak Midwinter (verse 4) CRANHAM

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The Peace of Christ be with you . . . **And also with you.**

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

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 let us not fall into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING

***HYMN 347** Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence PICARDY

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Nun komm der Heiden Heiland BWV 599 J.S. Bach
(Savior of the Nations, Come)

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given by the Coffill, Burr and Cackowski families in loving memory of Helen's mom, Lynne.
The flowers in the Narthex are given in loving memory and celebration of Mason Prickitt's birthday.

Our greeter this morning is Janine Haulenbeek, and the ushers are Marty Brennan, Mark Haulenbeek, and Bill Volz.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."
The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.
Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.
Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Revelation 7:13-17

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat, for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

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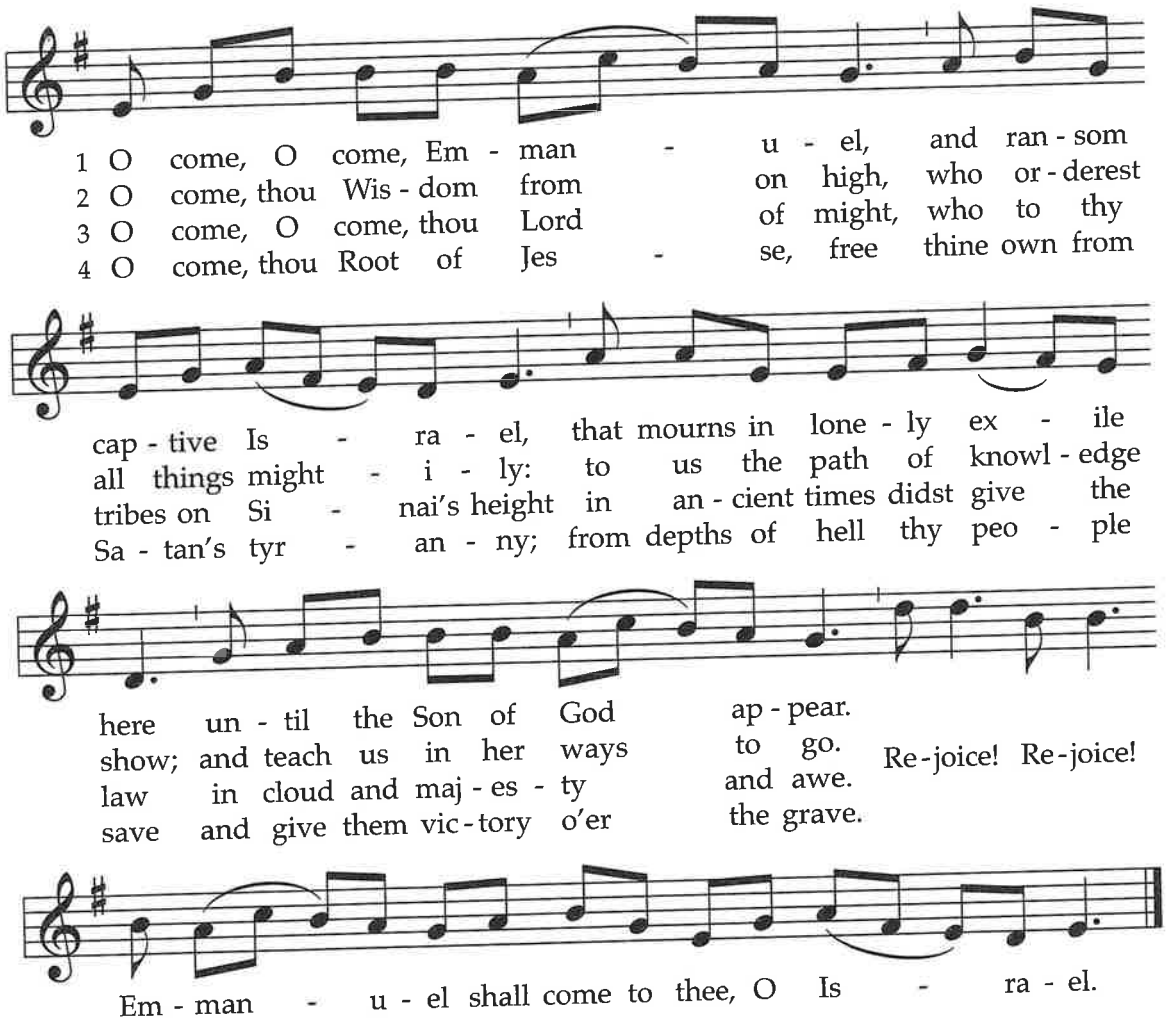
88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:

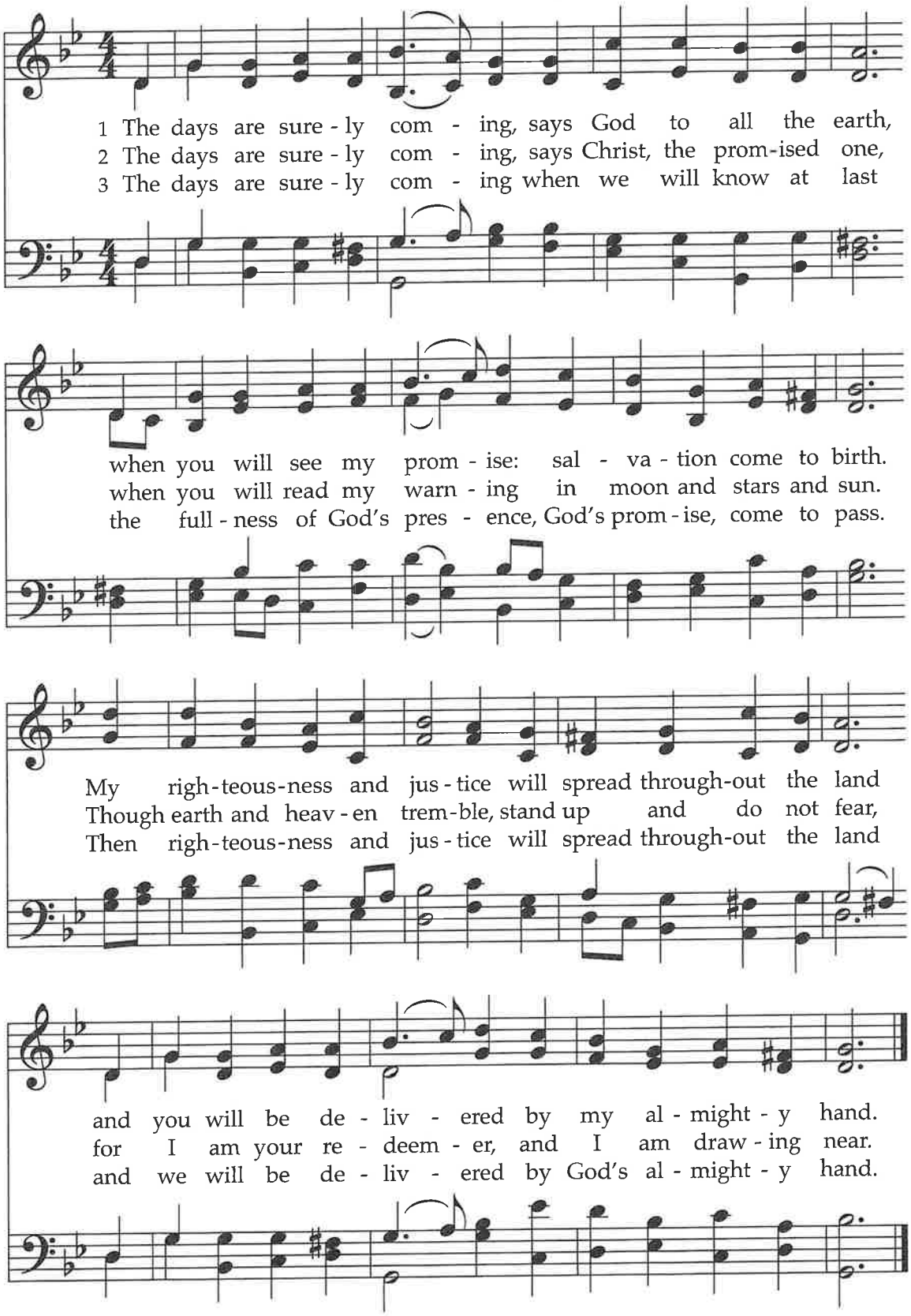
Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)
Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)
Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)
Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)
Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)
Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)
Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

TEXT: Latin prose, pre-9th cent.; trans. composite
MUSIC: Plainsong; adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1852; arr. John Weaver, 1988
Music Arr. © 1990 John Weaver

VENI EMMANUEL
LM with refrain

The Days Are Surely Coming 357

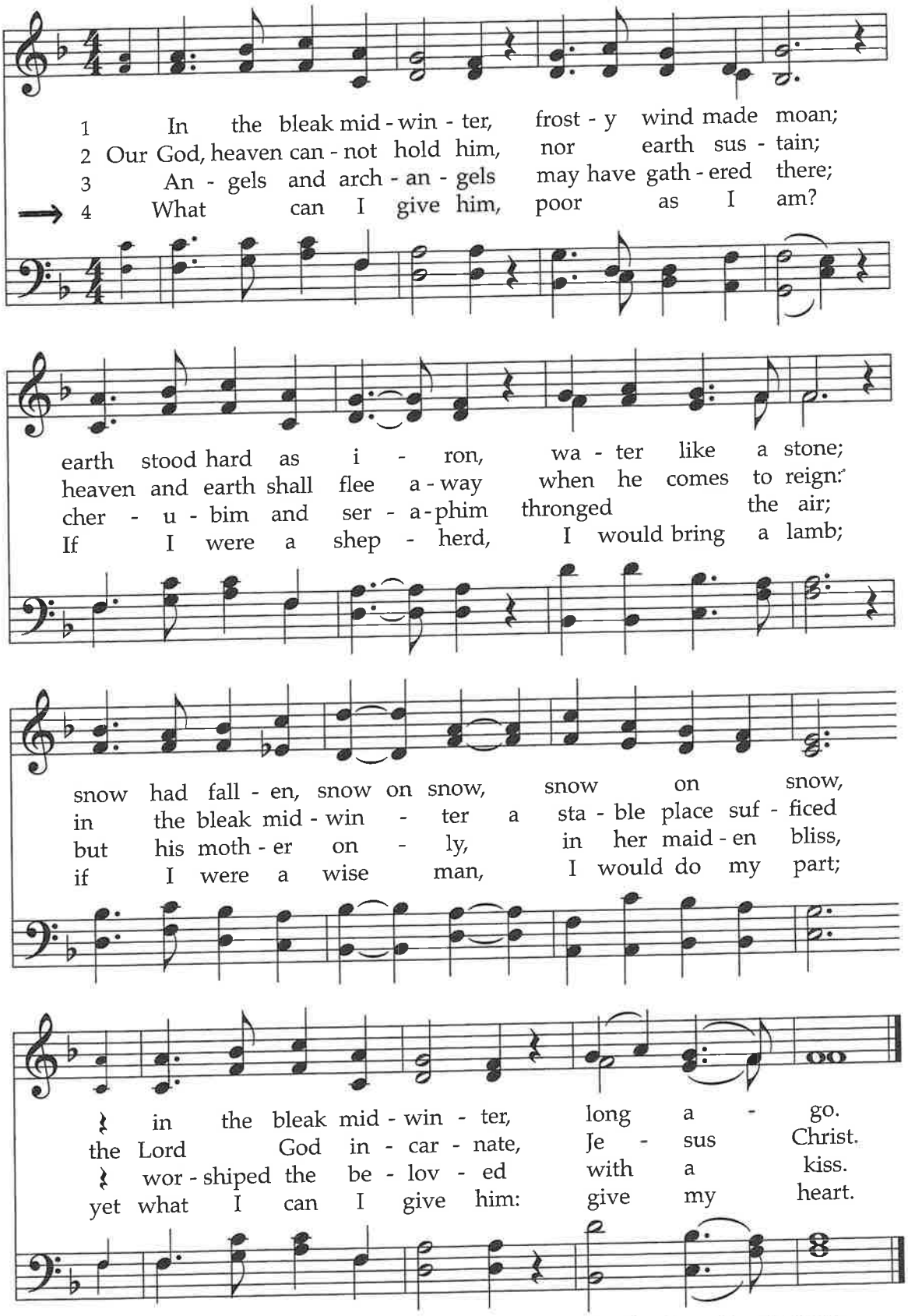


This text uses imagery from Jeremiah 33:14–16 and Matthew 24:29–36/Mark 13:24–32/Luke 21:25–36. These passages are especially associated with the beginning of Advent, a season that looks forward to Christ's second coming while also preparing us to remember his first coming.

TEXT: David Gambrell, 2009
MUSIC: Welsh folk melody; *Llwybrau Moliant*, 1872; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906
Text © 2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.)

LLANGLOFFAN
7.6.7.6.D

In the Bleak Midwinter 144

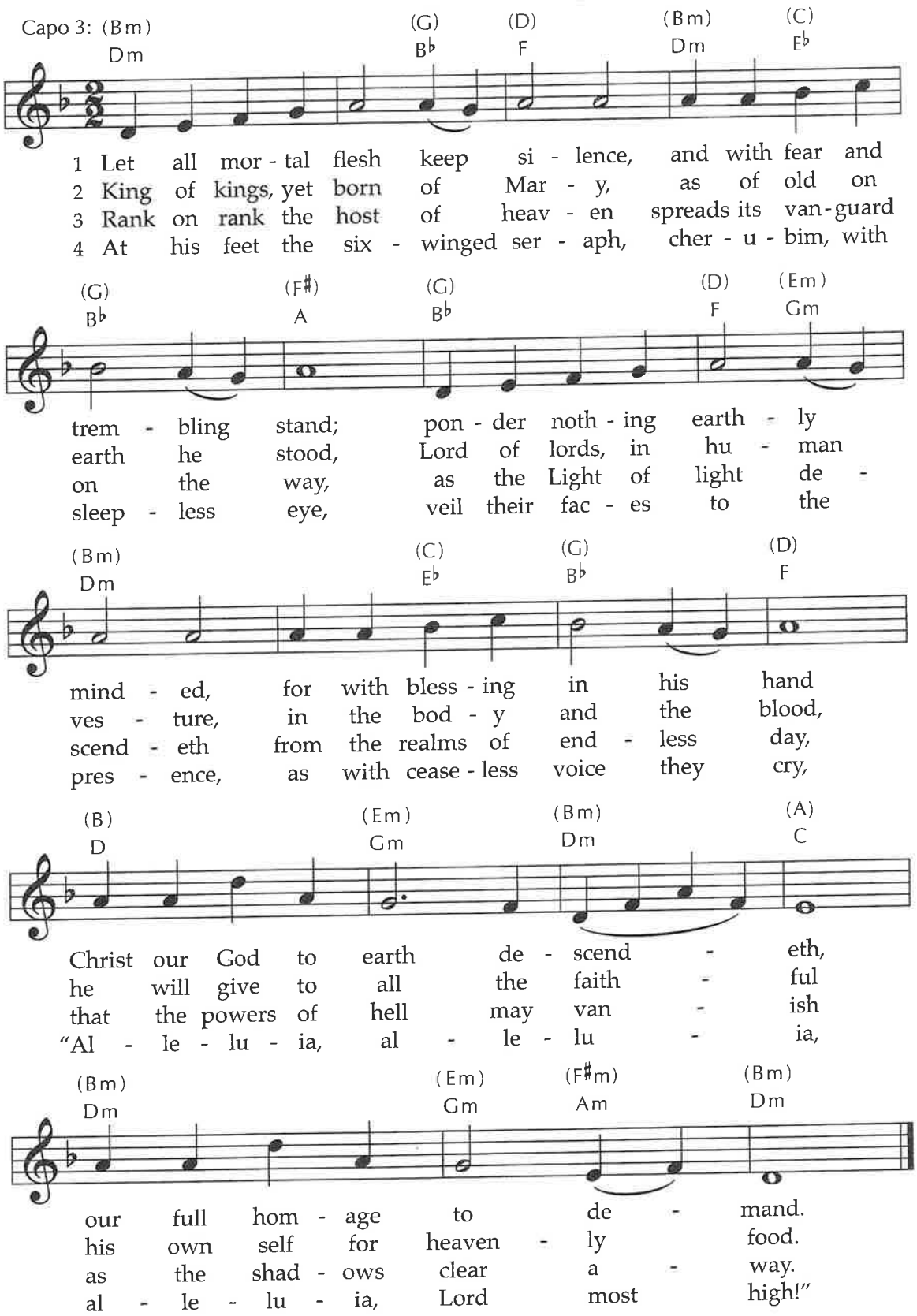


Though this text describes winter weather in England rather than in Palestine, the poet is using familiar surroundings as a means of making the Nativity more immediate and personal. The tune name honors a Gloucestershire village near the composer's birthplace in Cheltenham.

TEXT: Christina Rossetti, c. 1872, alt.
MUSIC: Gustav Holst, 1906

CRANHAM
Irregular

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence 347



The flowering of English hymnody in the 19th century included the rediscovery, translation, and versification of ancient Christian hymns, such as this text from one of the earliest existing Christian liturgies. It is set here to an adaptation of a 17th-century French melody.

TEXT: From Liturgy of St. James, 4th cent.; trans. Gerard Moultrie, 1864, alt.
MUSIC: French melody; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

PICARDY
8.7.8.7.8.7
(alternate harmonization, 274)

OUR WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

To be added in the weekly Prayer List, individuals must give permission for their names to be included. CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE – 732-491-2300 to add a person to the prayer list. Persons requested to be on the prayer list will remain for one month, unless requested to keep for a longer period.

Jackson Alcantara *(grandson of Lori Nielsen)*
*Lynne Angley
Christine Whalen Bender *(friend of Allison Brennan)*
John Bertelsen and family *(Brother of Amy Bertelsen-Robles)*
Linda Burr *(June Young's sister)*
Pat Byrne *(Sue Harmon's brother-in-law)*
Dorothy Canary *(aunt of Sue Harmon)*
Luis Canton *(Laurie Toth's father)*
Diane Cassidy *(Susan Kozo's cousin)*
Sophie Culton *(friend of the Reed family)*
*Mary Kay Dangremond
George Doerbecker *(friend of Kristina Scoglio)*
Hank Frank, Jr. *(Deb Teall's partner)*
Timothy Freeman *(Marie Freeman's son)*
George Frommer *(friend of Laura & Mike Draper)*
*Judy Fuller
*Doris Gulotta
*Joey Hale *(Son of Matt and Laura Hale)*
*Margaret Hathaway
*Noah Haulenbeek
Teresa Prete-Kaltenbach *(friend of the Hajjar family)*
Ed Kopetz *(Betty Kopetz's brother)*
Jetty Mailangkay *(wife of Rev. Herby Moningka)*
Dennis Maiuro (*Colleen Walker's brother-in-law)*
*Jan Margolis
Elliot Miller *(Larrie Servino's brother)*
Jean Miller *(Allison Brennan's aunt)*
Joseph Neupauer *(Marie Hoffsommer's brother)*
Alvin Newton *(Virginia Shaw's brother)*
Virginia Newton *(Virginia Shaw's mother)*
Joan Niederer *(friend of the Gunsser's)*
Jeff Rubin *(friend of June Keehbler)*
*Dave Ryder
Angela Sampoli *(friend of Dawn Adam)*
*Lorraine Sheaffer
Katie Strittmatter *(friend of Kozo-Mollison family)*
Art Wegg
Bud Wilson *(friend of Niall Corbalis)*
Janice Wojcik *(sister of Karen Keithler)*
David Wong
*Lynn Hendricks Wong

Names highlighted in boldface were recently added
*Members of the church

PASTORAL CARE: If you or a family member is in the hospital, please contact Dr. Rev. Fred Garry at (315) 771-3590 or Rev. Khayla J. Henry at (843) 312-7288. **Hospitals no longer contact clergy when a parishioner is admitted.** We are more than ready and glad to visit. Please contact us even if it is to pray for you. You can also call the church office (732) 491-2300 during office hours.

FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY:
Jeremy B., US Air Force, Stationed in Arkansas *(Son of Andrene Pennix's co-worker)*
PFC Daniel Eide, stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona *(grandson of Mary Ann Eide)*
David Garry, Coast Guard Cutter Bear, Philadelphia, PA *(Son of Fred & Kathy Garry)*
MSgt. David Hansen, USAF *(Son of Elaine Hansen)*
MC1 Kevin Leitner, U.S. Navy, On deployment from 6 to 9 months *(Sue Harmon's cousin)*
Lt. Cmdr. Krista Marquard, U.S. Public Health Service, Chicago, IL *(Bill & Susan Marquard's daughter-in-law)*
Lt. Col. Matthew McQueeney, USAF, Commander, Kadena AFB, Okinawa *(Son/Stepson of Amy & Pete Bellisano)*
LT John Alexander Petr, U. S. Navy, San Diego, CA *(Pennix Family friend)*
Mark Robinson, 82nd Airborne Division, deployed *(son of Steve and Moggie Davis's friend)*
*CPT Bradley Shaver, U. S. Army , Ft. Carson, CO *(Brother/Son of Greg and Julie Walton Shaver)*
CPT Julia Harris Switzer, MD USAF *(Granddaughter of Grace Hammesfahr)*
Petty Officer 1st Class Mason Weingarten, Coast Guard *(Bill & Susan Marquard's grandnephew)*

THIS WEEK

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
Monday to Thursday, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
And by appointment for other times

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29
Worship Service - Sanctuary and Virtual . . . . . 9:30 a.m.
After Worship Refreshments – Chapel . . . . . .10:30 a.m.
Indonesian Worship Service – Sanctuary . . . . . .Noon
Candlelight Concert – Sanctuary . . . . . 7:00 p.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30
CARE Team – Office Conference Room . . . . . 3:00 p.m.
DBSA Support Group – Chapel . . . . . 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1
Carol Choir – Choir Room . . . . . .4:00 - 4:30 p.m.
1st Tuesday – GLOW Room . . . . . 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Deacons Meeting – Dining Room . . . . . 7:30 p.m.
Support Group – Chapel. . . . . 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2
Pastoral Bible Study – PW Lounge . . . . . 10:30 a.m.
Westminster Choir – Choir Room . . . . . 6:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Trinity Ringers – Bell Loft . . . . . 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Youth Group – Room 201 . . . . . 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3
Local Mission Meeting – Food Pantry . . . . Noon – 1:00 p.m.
Junior Choir – Choir Room . . . . . .4:15 - 5:00 p.m.
Joy Ringers – Bell Loft . . . . . .5:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Junior Club – GLOW Room . . . . . 5:30 – 6:15 p.m.
Support Group – Chapel . . . . . .6:30 -8:30 p.m.
Covenant Ringers – Bell Loft . . . . . 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Mission Commission – PW Lounge . . . . . .7:00 p.m.
Senior Choir – Choir Room . . . . . 8:00 – 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4
Women's AA Support Grp – Chapel . . . . . 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5
Holly Fair – Social Center . . . . . 9:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

FULL CHURCH CALENDAR ONLINE:
Scan the QR code or visit our website
https://bit.ly/4emWby6

CHURCH STAFF:

Senior Pastor/Head of Staff Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry
Associate Pastor Rev. Khayla J. Henry
Pastor Emeritus Rev. Robert A. Beringer
Parish Associate Rev. Dr. Glory J. Thomas
Indonesian Pastoral Supply Rev. Leksmana Leonard
Director of Music Ministries Jordan Klotz
Minister of Music Emeritus Brenda Arnold Day
Director for Christian Education Nancy Leardi

COMING SOON

Dec 6	Pageant Rehearsal – Sanctuary – After worship
Dec 6	Community Dinner – Social Center – 5:00 pm
Dec 7	Horizon Bible Study – PW Lounge – 6:00 pm
Dec 8	PW Coordinating Team – PW Lounge – 11:00 am
Dec 8	Unicameral Board – Dining Room/Zoom – 7:30 pm
Dec 9	Men's Breakfast – Dining Room – 7:30 am
Dec 10	Food Pantry Holiday Bazaar – Auditorium – 7:00 pm
Dec 12	Indonesian Christmas Party – Social Center – 5:30 pm
Dec 13	Pageant Rehearsal – Sanctuary – After worship
Dec 16	B & G Meeting – PW Lounge – 8:00 am
Dec 19	Mission Volunteer Saturday – Auditorium – 9:00 am

TREASURER'S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received November 22

Pledge	$ 7,473
Non-pledge	$ 260
Food Pantry	$ 150
Cash	$ 82
Other funds	$ 211
TOTAL:	**$ 8,176**

OTHER RECEIPTS $905
(Parking & Building Rental)

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER:

As we approach the last month of the year, please check and make sure you are current on your 2026 pledge. If you have any questions, please feel free to email or call: ktrolaro@fpcweb.org or (732)491-2303. Thank you for your continued support!

HERE ARE WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:

Direct Cash or check in the plate are always welcome!
Online From our website **fpcweb.org/give**, click on the ***Give Online*** button. This will redirect you to the Vanco app to set up your donation.

Thank you for your generous support!

Hope Will Not Fail

CAROLS OF THE ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SEASON

featuring choir, organ, handbells, & more!

TICKETS:

Suggested Donation:
$22/Adult $15/Senior

Sunday, November 29 | 7:00 PM

This concert directly follows the Metuchen Winter Festival Parade and tree-lighting.

CANDLELIGHT CONCERT SERIES

GIVE THE GIFT OF MUSIC THIS CHRISTMAS!

Music Ministry Gala

Treat your loved ones to an unforgettable evening of live music, wine, hors d'oeuvres, plus a silent auction & 50/50 raffle!

Scan for Tickets:

Saturday, February 27, 6:00 PM
Tickets: $50

The Advent Angel Trees are here!
Look for them in the Narthex or Social Center lobby. **Return your gift(s) no later than 9:30 am, Sunday, December 13.**



First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
Join Us for the Annual

HOLLY FAIR

DECEMBER 5
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
SOCIAL CENTER

Get into the holiday spirit and find the perfect gifts for yourself, and for gift giving!

10:30 AM — PICTURE WITH SANTA — NOON

SHOP & ENJOY
- Jewelry Galore
- Expanded & Unique Holiday Boutique
- Coffee/Tea/Chocolate Bar
- Baked Goods & Treats
- Holiday Music & Crafts

FREE ADMISSION! EVERYONE'S WELCOME!

CASH AND ZELLE ACCEPTED.

First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen
270 Woodbridge Avenue, Metuchen, NJ
(732) 491-2300

Join us at this year's Holly Fair for an enjoyable time not only to shop for yourself and others but simply to get into the holiday spirit. Take a picture with Santa, enjoy Christmas crafts, or warm up to some hot chocolate!



Calling All Bakers!
Share your treasured family recipes by donating your baked sweets for the PW Holly Fair on Saturday, December 5! Baker's boxes will be provided for FREE when you sign up during Coffee Hour. You may drop off your baked goods between December 1-3 to the Social Center kitchen marked "PW."

Questions? Contact Cindy O'Neill or Deb Teall.





A final call to sign up for the Christmas Pageant. The first rehearsal begins next week, December 6. Adult volunteers are also needed, and you can scan the QR code to sign up.



Poinsettia orders. Help us prepare the sanctuary in time for Christmas Eve with your poinsettia orders, while also honoring your loved ones. **The deadline for placing your order is December 14th.** The names of those remembered and the donors will be listed in the December 20 bulletin.

Luminary orders. Initiated by our Deacons as a fundraiser, the luminaries and votives will brighten our walkways and shine through the night on Christmas eve. Loved ones will also be honored with your orders. The names of those remembered and donors will be listed in the Christmas Eve worship bulletin on December 24, 9:30 pm service. **Luminary order form is due December 16th.**

Look for the order forms for the poinsettias and luminaries in the Narthex and outside the church office.



GOT CORKS?

Attention wine drinkers, please save and collect your used wine corks for the PW Crafty Ladies to repurpose for crafting.

Look for the collection box in the Narthex and outside the church office. Contact June Young if you have any questions.