

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE FOR ORGAN

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland [BWV 659]

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

*The tune upon which this setting is based is printed in the hymnal at no. 102, Savior of the Nations, Come.
Ambrose of Milan's text, transliterated by Martin Luther and printed there, is one of the oldest Christian hymns.*

GREETING AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: May the peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PEALING OF THE BELL AND SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION

*O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

CHORAL INTROIT

Joy to the World

Thomas Haweis, c. 1792;
adapt. Samuel Webbe, Jr., 1808

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.

-Psalm 98; para. Isaac Watts, 1719

*These familiar words, sung here to a different tune, serve to point us anew to Watts's
intent that these words speak to Christ's coming again and not to his birth.*

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

The Anderau Family

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. We are preparing ourselves for the days when the Lord will give us a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel, which means God is with us.

People: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

✦ HYMN 88

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Stanzas 1, 2, 6, and 7

Veni Emmanuel

✦ PRAYER OF THE DAY

✦ *please stand as you are able*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, once again, you invite us to journey to Bethlehem. You invite us to take part in the story you continue to write in this world. Yet eager to author our own stories, we shy away from your call to us. Rushing ahead, we fail to hear the sounds of angels calling us in new directions.

Silent prayers of confession are offered.

Spirit of God, open our eyes to glory come near. Open our ears to angel song. Open our hearts, that together we may live in the light and truth of Jesus Christ, God with us. Amen.

TRISAGION (*sung by the choir*)

Armenian chant; harm.

Holy God, Holy, mighty, and immortal God:
Christ crucified for sinners, have mercy on us.

-transl. Bishop Nareg Alemezeian, 2009

The Trisagion – the “Thrice Holy” – comes from the rites of the Eastern churches.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

✦ **GLORIA PATRI**

Regent Square

The music for this setting is printed in the hymnal at no. 143, Angels from the Realms of Glory.

**Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son,
glory to the Holy Spirit, ever three and ever one;
one in might and one in glory while unending ages run.**

-Latin, 3rd/4th centuries; transl.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Children age 4 through 5th grade may now go to their Sunday School classes.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Bob Connor, *lay reader*

EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 1:1-7

(Pew Bible, page 636)

after each reading:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

(Pew Bible, New Testament, page 1)

SERMON

“WWJD – The Other J”

Rev. Love

THE RESPONSE

✦ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from A Brief Statement of Faith)*

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

✦ HYMN 160

A Stable Lamp Is Lighted

Andujar

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

One: Into our world, as into Mary's womb...

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

One: Into the forgotten places, as into the stable

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

One: Into the lives of the poor, bringing hope;

All: Into the lives of the powerful, bringing caution;

One: Into the lives of the weary, bringing rest;

All: Into the lives of the wise, bringing restlessness;

One: And into our lives and longings, whatever our estate...

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Wait for the Lord

Jacques Berthier, 1984

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart.

-Psalm 27:14; adapt.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Please visit ryepc.com/give/ to give online, detailed on the back cover. If you do not have your offering with you today, "Gift cards" are in the pews so that you may participate in this portion of worship by placing one in the offering plate.

ANTHEM FOR CHOIR

Love Came Down at Christmas

David Ashley White, 1998

Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine;
love was born at Christmas: Star and angel gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead, love incarnate, love divine;
worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine,
love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.

—Christina Rossetti, 1885

✦ DOXOLOGY (*Hymn 606*)

Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

—Thomas Ken, 1674; alt.

✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SENDING FORTH

✦ HYMN 119

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

st. 3 desc. and harm. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

✦ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE FOR ORGAN

Proclamation: Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

Aaron David Miller (b. 1972)

The tune and attendant text upon which this jubilant setting is based is printed in the hymnal at no. 349, "Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us. This hymn explores the two sides of Advent -- the initial coming of the Savior and the second coming of the Christ -- along with Christ the King (which we observed on November 23). May it send us out into this week with even more eagerness to hear again the message of the angels and go with haste to the manger on Christmas Eve.

*Following worship, all are invited to the Assembly Room for Coffee Hour.
(The Assembly Room can be found by exiting the front right doors.)*

Welcome to Rye Presbyterian Church

General Information

If you are a guest today, we welcome you and hope you are enriched and inspired by this time of worship. To learn more about the ongoing life of the church, please go to ryepc.com/im-new/ and fill out the welcome form online.

If you or a family member need to step out of the sanctuary during worship, please feel free to do so. There is live audio from the service in the narthex at the back of the sanctuary and live video in the church library.

Children and Childcare

Our team of dedicated staff and volunteers is available to care for children 3 months to 3 years old while parents attend worship services. Childcare can be found on the first floor of the Education Wing.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Anne A. Halloin at ahalloin@ryepc.com.

To help children feel welcomed and engaged during worship, Rainbow Bags – filled with crayons, books, and coloring pages – are located in boxes at each sanctuary entrance door.

Please return Rainbow Bags following worship.

Hearing Assistance

The sanctuary is equipped with an induction loop assistive listening system.

To access the system, please switch your hearing aid setting to “T” (telephone).

Grace Notes Newsletter

Pick up one of our full-color monthly church newsletters, available at every sanctuary entrance: includes photos, updates, articles, and devotions from pastors. It is also available digitally through email, along with our website’s resources page at ryepc.com/grace-notes-newsletter/.

Participants in Today’s Service

Wyche Ernest, *crucifer*

Sarah Barringer, Barbara Cummings, Lindsey Furnary, and Ashley Ginnings, *ushers*

DEDICATIONS

The chancel flowers are given

in loving memory on Jean McMath’s McKean’s birthday, from Stephanie, Lauren, Kathy and Doug McKean.

TODAY

Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 11:15 a.m., Chapel

Christmas Pageant Costuming, 3:00 p.m., Westminster Room

Christmas Pageant & Reception, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary & Assembly Room

Longest Night Service, 7:00 p.m., Chapel

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, December 23

3:30 p.m. Live Nativity Rehearsal – Sanctuary/Westminster Room

Wednesday, December 24

10:00 a.m. Chapel Yoga – Chapel

2:30 p.m. Live Nativity Costuming & Touch-Up Rehearsal – Sanctuary/Westminster Room

3:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service with Live Nativity and Candle Lighting

5:00 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons & Congregational Carols – In-Person & Livestreamed

9:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Warm-Up – Sanctuary

10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols (Prelude at 9:45 p.m.) – In-Person & Livestreamed

Thursday, December 25 and Friday, December 26

Church offices will be closed in observance of Christmas.

GENERAL NOTICES

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Sunday School for children age 4 through 5th grade is held Sunday mornings during worship. To register your child, please visit the registration page on our website, or scan the QR Code. ryepc.com/ministries/sunday-school-registration/



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & RECEPTION

Today, December 21, at 4:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception in the Assembly Room

Through carols and costumes, we will be sharing the Christmas story with our congregation.

Participants should arrive for Costuming at 3:00 p.m. in the Westminster Room.

LIVE NATIVITY

Wednesday, December 24, at 3:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary

As part of our Christmas Eve Family Service, our youth will be performing the gospel story through costumes and readings. Our participants should keep these rehearsal dates in mind:

Rehearsal – Tuesday, December 23, 3:30–5:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary

Costuming & Touch-Up Rehearsal – Wednesday, December 24, 2:30 p.m., Sanctuary/Westminster Room

CHRISTMAS EVE

FAMILY SERVICE WITH LIVE NATIVITY AND CANDLE LIGHTING

3:30 p.m. – In-Person only

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS & CONGREGATIONAL CAROLS

5:00 p.m. – In-Person & Livestreamed, with Rev. Pattison Preaching

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

WITH STRING QUARTET AND CHOIR

9:45 p.m. – Prelude, 10:00 p.m. – In-Person & Livestreamed, with Rev. Pattison Preaching

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Through today, Sunday, December 21



The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. To learn more about the Christmas Joy Offering and how you can donate, please visit ryepc.com/article/christmas-joy-offering/

END-OF-YEAR GIVING

Due by Wednesday, December 31, at 12:00 p.m.



Your Charitable Deduction

As 2025 comes to an end, please keep in mind the church financial records will close on Wednesday, December 31, at noon. All checks must be received by December 31 to qualify for a charitable deduction in the 2025 tax year. As you make your year-end gifts to the church, please note the purpose in the memo line or on the envelope—Annual Giving or Christmas Joy Offering. Separate checks for gifts are appreciated.

Pledge Balance

If you would like to check your annual giving balance online through Access ACS, visit our website: ryepc.com/about-rpc/member-login/

Donating Stock

If you're interested in donating stock to RPC, please visit our giving page: ryepc.com/give/

COMING HOME 2026

Coming Home is an expression of our long-standing Prison Ministry at Rye Presbyterian Church. We seek to empower those who are returning to the community following incarceration.

Congregants can serve as dinner cooks and hosts, volunteer as mentors, or join in our weekly Thursday night dinners in the Westminster Room - making a real difference in the lives of formerly incarcerated persons. If you're interested in serving in any of these roles, or finding out more information, stay tuned for our forthcoming orientation session in January (date TBD). Our program begins in earnest on Thursday evening, February 12, and will conclude with graduation on Sunday, June 7.

For more information, or to better understand the philosophy of this ministry, please contact our RPC Coming Home Liaison and Dinner Coordinator Douglas Carey, or Pastor Cari Pattison, Minister Liaison to Mission and Outreach. You may reach out to Doug via email at poningoeearthcare@gmail.com, or by phone at 914-565-6748. Cari may be reached at cpattison@ryepc.com or 914-967-0842 x14.

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

CRAWFORD CHAPEL ✦ WINTER

RPC's Crawford Chapel is adjacent to the Sanctuary



DECEMBER 21, 2025, AT 7:00 P.M.
Hope and Healing on the Longest Night of the Year



JANUARY 11, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M.
Evening Prayer and Baptism Renewal

These monthly services, each approximately 40 minutes in duration, provide an opportunity to worship at the close of the day.

The intimacy of the chapel, coupled with its warm acoustics and decorative flexibility, enables clarity and resonance in the sung and spoken word.

Activities will be available for children
up through 3rd Grade in the Library

CHAPEL YOGA

Wednesdays, December 24, from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m., in the Chapel. No class on December 31.

Cari Pattison is a certified yoga instructor (RYT 200), and is offering a Level 1 Vinyasa flow class on Wednesday mornings. Weaving a bit of scripture into the basic class structure, the class gives us an opportunity to stretch and strengthen our bodies, breathe into a posture of prayer, and deepen our relationship with God. Bring a mat if you have one; mats are also available to borrow, along with other props. All are welcome, including beginners! To RSVP, or to learn more, email cpattison@ryepc.com.



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Holy God

Text transl. Bishop Nareg Alemezian

Text transl. © 2009 Bishop Nareg Alemezian of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church.

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A Stable Lamp Is Lighted (Andujar)

Text: Richard Wilbur Music: David Hurd

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Music © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Wait for the Lord

Music: Jacques Berthier

Text and Music © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.).

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Love Came Down at Christmas

Music: David Ashley White

Music © 2001 E. C. Schirmer Music Company (a division of ECS Publishing).

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Mendelssohn [Hark! the Herald Angels Sing]

Music harm. (st. 3): David Willcocks

Music harm. © 1961 Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Proclamation: Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

Music: Aaron David Miller

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COLOR IN THE WORDS

IMMANUEL

GOOD

With US!

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Isaiah 7: 10-16, Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19 and Matthew 1: 18-25.





CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Daniel Love, *Co-Pastor*

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The Rev. Cari Pattison, *Co-Pastor*

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Alonso Osorio, *Sunday Sexton*

Haniel Neves, *Knock Intern in Sacred Music*



*We are a Stephen Ministry church that offers a one-on-one caring ministry to those in need.
If you need assistance from your pastors, deacons, or a Stephen Minister, please call at (914) 967-0842.*

*If you are experiencing an acute crisis, you can call or text 988
and you'll connect with a mental health professional through the National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.*



GIVING AT RPC

Online donation options are available on our giving page,

ryepc.com/give/, and through the QR code.

Contact Maida Robinson at mrobinson@ryepc.com with any questions.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of the church.

