



The Protestant Community Church

"Cathedral of the Woods"

100 Stokes Road, Medford Lakes, New Jersey 08055

Phone: (609) 654-4220 Website: www.protestantcommunitychurch.org

An inclusive, ecumenical faith community purposefully seeking to be caring, faithful disciples of Jesus Christ through worship, study, prayer, and Christian service.

10:00 - December 14, 2025 - Third Sunday of Advent †

Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Members, friends, and visitors are invited to sign the pew pad found at the end of the pew. We also invite you to share any joys or concerns, noting them on the prayer cards which will be collected during the offering.

Prelude "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming" Innes

Introit "Joy to the World" I. Watts & G. Handel
Piano - Charlotte Teall

"How Great Our Joy!" Traditional

Call to Worship

Sing to Yahweh a brand new song!

All: Earth and everyone in it, sing!

Sing to Yahweh—worship Yahweh!

All: Shout the news of his victory from sea to sea,

Take news of his glory to the lost,

All: Share news of his wonders with one and all!

For Yahweh is great

All: God is worth a thousand Hallelujahs!

Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #107

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Prayer of confession

Gracious God, who through Jesus Christ has called us "friends," hear our embarrassed prayers through him. You ask us wait patiently, but we grab and grasp like there is no tomorrow. You call us to build bridges toward friendship, but we build dividing walls of hostility. Thank you, Lord, for allowing us to return again and again with our confessions. Forgive us. Grant us the courage to be patient and peaceful. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance

***Gloria Patri**

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.

***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.

Children's Message

Sunday School Dismissal

Parents are to pick up their children following the worship service, upstairs in the Todd Building, and are welcome to join the children in the closing time of meditation.

First Reading

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Anthem

"All on a Starry Night"

J. Graham

Second Reading

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John:

“What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

***Hymn** “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”

Sermon Already And Not Yet Rev Keith Reed

Offertory “Mary, Did You Know?” Lowry & Greene
Soloist - Manny Estacio

***Presentation of Gifts and Doxology #706**

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.

Pastoral Prayer

***Hymn** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” #127

***Benediction**

***Response** “Our Christmas Prayer for You” D. Krueger

Postlude “Angels We Have Heard on High” Page

*The congregation may stand

[Music by: Organist - Sandy Ritter; Cathedral Choir Director - Katie Teall]

† PRAYERS OF CONCERN †

Those placed on the prayer list will remain on the list for one month unless specified otherwise. If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please secure permission prior to calling the church office or emailing in to kayla@protestantcommunitychurch.org

Adam	Lydia Gibson	Peyton
Lorrie Breslin	Bonnie Hammer	Rese Ritter
Casey	Evelyn Herzog	Kyleigh Robey
Luca Ceretti	Marianne Karns	Mercedes Stewart
Carole Cutry	Klausner family	Susan
Claire DeKrafft	Shirley Kling	Rick Taylor
Don Dudek	Ron Koontz	Ed Tucker
Bethany Dull	Floss Mikle	Paul Vahlstrom
Andria Gross & family	Nilda Neil	Vinnie

Please remember in your prayers those serving in our military services and their families. Please pray for the families separated, recovering from disasters, or faced with life altering decisions, and pray for peace, hope, and healing in the world. ♥

VOLUNTEERS FOR THIS SUNDAY

Ushers: Lynda Miller & Lee Bealuk **Reader:** Gwen Atwell
Fellowship Hour Host: Reynolds & Jeffries families

Altar flowers are needed for February 8, 2026; please contact Nicole Gerber at 609-472-5010 if interested!

❁ ALTAR FLOWERS ❁

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of David Remalia, husband, father, and grandfather; given by Judy and family.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE - 12/7/25

8:00 Worship Service - 20
10:00 Worship Service - 121
Online - 21

ELECTRONIC GIVING OPTION

Please use the link below or the QR code if you would like to send an offering electronically:



www.zeffy.com/donation-form/protestant-community-church