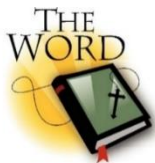


WHAT'S

Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God. Romans 15:7



at *Calvary Presbyterian Church*
December 31, 2023 ~ 1st Sunday after Christmas



Our gratitude goes out to elders, deacons, staff, all church and Thrift Shop volunteers, worship leaders, musicians, financial supporters, and to everyone who reads these words. With your support, and God's help, this year just about to end has been a blessing, and the future is bright for the year to come. Thank you!



THRIFT SHOP NEWS

Starting in January, the Thrift Shop will be open on the first and second Saturdays of each month until summer break.



The Mission team hopes that you will support us in the donation of a pair of goats to a needy family through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. Goats help supply milk, cheese, yogurt (and meat, but not our goats - other goats) to a family in need. You will find a jar in the narthex for donations, or place a clearly marked

envelope in the collection plate. A check with "goats" on the memo line is also great! We will end this collection on December 31.

The Monday ladies' study group will meet Monday January 8th at 1:00 at the home of Jana Cox. Contact Lyn Wargny or Sheila McMenammin for more info.

JANUARY 9: SESSION MEETING ~ DEACONS MEETING

We will have a **Soup Sale** starting January 7. Anyone who would like to make a pot of soup may sign up in the narthex. The sale will end Feb. 11, Super Bowl Sunday. We hope to have a choice of two soups each Sunday, packaged in pints (\$5) and quarts \$10)



PLAY PALS will be meeting on Saturday, January 13 from 4pm to 8pm in the Assembly Room, and are expecting to continue to meet each month on the 2nd Saturday. Our evenings will include snacks and easy take-out dinners.

If you would like to dedicate chancel flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one, available dates include:
January 14 - January 28 - February 12
There is no set charge for this; donations for the flower dedications are voluntary, and all money collected goes to support our mission partners.





Our annual Congregation/Corporation Meetings will take place on February 18, 2024, moderated by Rev. Dr. Patricia Epprecht. The 2023 Annual Report will be available to all members prior to these meetings.



CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 Fourth Street • Riverton, NJ 08077

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

office phone: 856-829-0783

email: churchoffice@calvaryriverton.org • website: www.calvaryriverton.org

The Welcoming Church

December 31, 2023

1st Sunday after Christmas

10:00am

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

The Truth was far too great and vast for human minds to see and so God made it simple, something small enough to be held within woman's arms, a tiny helpless mite, cradled in a little manger on a winter's night...

If life's meaning you would seek, it's here for you to find, in the Holy Child of Christmas, Savior of mankind.

"The Christmas Child" by Patience Strong

PRELUDE

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

T. Matthews, arr. M. Hayes

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Christ Is Born! Glory to God!

J. Edwards

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Glory to you, Almighty God,

for you sent your only-begotten Son, that we might have new life.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ,

for you became flesh and dwelt among us that we might become your people.

Glory to you, O Holy Spirit,

for your direct and rule our lives. Glory to you, Almighty God, and to your Son, Jesus Christ and to your Holy Spirit, now and forever.

*GATHERING HYMN

#174 Angels from the Realms of Glory

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. (Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven

*CONFESSION RESPONSE

#807 Gloria Patri

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Alleluia! Song of Gladness

Plain Chant, arr. R. Powell

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

#809 Doxology

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN	#166 <i>While by the Sheep We Watched</i>	
*SAYING WHAT WE BELIEVE		Philippians 2:5-11
SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS		
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER		
CHORAL ANTHEM	<i>A Christmas Blessing</i>	Irish, music by J. Purifoy
SCRIPTURE READINGS	Isaiah 63:7-9	
	This is the Word of the Lord	
	Thanks be to God	
SERMON	"The Christmas Story"	Rev. Dr. Patricia Epprecht
CLOSING HYMN	#157 <i>Good Christian Friends, Rejoice</i>	
*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION		
*CHORAL RESPONSE	<i>God Be with You</i>	W. G. Tomer
*THE PEACE	The peace of the Lord be with you.	
	And also with you.	
	<i>(As you leave the sanctuary, share greetings of Christ's peace with one another.)</i>	
*POSTLUDE	<i>Fantasia on "The First Noel"</i>	English melody, arr. Hughes

Today, we offer our thanks to:

Rev. Dr. Patricia Epprecht for leading us in worship this morning; our A/V volunteers Michael Gilbert and Jerry Blackman for sharing their time and talents; Sally Dinn & Janny McGrath for refreshments and John Cecchini and Tica Simpson for greeting and collecting the offering.

...Our prayers for:

our President and all our elected officials, all world leaders, our men and women in uniform, peace in the world, victims of natural disasters, those endangered by war and violence; Calvary's mission and ministries; all our friends and members at Calvary, and in particular: Lynn Amatrudi; Dovieanna & Anthony Falconiero; Ed Gilmore; Ed Hartmann; Nancy Hall; Pam Jones Nelson, cousin of Allison Farnen; Christie, wife of Rob Hoag; Trevor, nephew of Dave & Janny McGrath; Jesse James, nephew of Terry Pahl; Jeff Peterson, friend of Alyx & Maria; Guido Rodrigues, husband of Lauren Pahl Rodrigues; Bill Robbins, brother of Dorothy Talavera; Delanco friend Aurelio Conigliaro; Steve Harker, husband of Cindy.

...Our chancel flowers to:

the Glory of God, in loving memory of Joan Gilmore, by her husband Ed Gilmore.