

Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church
Please join us for fellowship and refreshments at “Coffee Hour” in the
Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.
(✚ Latecomers may be seated.)

AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2009 10:30 A.M.

THE APPROACH

PRELUDE

“Ave Maris Stella”
(Hail, Star of the Ocean)

Jean Titelouze
Organ

INTROIT

“Lord, I cry unto Thee”
(Ps. 141: 1-2)

Donovan Klotzbeacher
The Chorale

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Joanne Petto

Gracious God, shake us awake, for we await you. **We wait for signs of hope.**

Shaping God, awaken the earth and come, for we await you. **We wait for signs of peace.**

Surprising God, tear open the heavens and come, for we await you. **We wait for signs of joy.**

Mysterious God, enliven our hearts as we worship you in wonder and trust. **We wait for signs of love, on this day and in this season.**

HYMN #2 (Hymnal)*

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)*

God of light, once again we approach the season of Advent unprepared. We are not alert to your coming; we are too busy with preparations of our own design. We are exhausted by trying to do everything ourselves, and cannot keep awake to watch for you. Like your people of old, we do not call upon your name, except to blame you. Yet, you are our maker, and we are all the work of your hand. Forgive us and restore us. Illumine our lives, that we may be witnesses to your faithfulness. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

HYMN #579 (Hymnal)*

“Gloria Patri”

THE PEACE* ✚

WELCOME AND RITUAL OF FELLOWSHIP (Please sign the red “friendship pads” found at the end of each pew by the center aisle. Note the names of those worshipping around you as you pass the pad back. We encourage you to greet each other after the service.)

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Toto family

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.”

CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

Leader: Christians around the world begin today to await the advent of Christ. We join with a joyous and hopeful throng in lighting the Advent candles, symbols of faith and signs of God’s love.

People: We gather as a people of hope.

Leader: Christian people around the world stand today in anticipation, as we look forward to celebrating the miracle of Christ’s birth, the good news that astounds us anew each year.

People: Our hope springs anew from God’s beautiful vision.

Leader: As we light the first Advent candle, let it stand for hope, based not on wishful thinking, but on deep conviction. We believe, we have seen, we have perceived God’s promised Son and his great gift, and therefore, in the midst of darkness and imperfection, we hope.

People: We gather expectantly, joyfully, and with deep commitment, for we have heard that the promised One will come, that God is among us, and that soon we will see a new creation on earth. We thank God for making us a people of hope.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Theodore Maurice Anderson
son of Dr. Clifford B. Anderson and Rev. Rosanna P. Anderson
born on September 11, 2009

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

QUESTIONS TO THE PARENTS

QUESTION TO THE CONGREGATION:*

Elder Jim Taylor

Our Lord Jesus Christ ordered us to teach those who are baptized. Do we, the people of this church, in the name of the whole Body of Christ, promise to tell Theodore the good news of the gospel, to help him to know all that Christ commands, and by our fellowship, to strengthen his family ties with the household of God? If so, please say, “We do.” **Congregation: We do.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH*

The Apostles’ Creed (Blue Hymnal, pg. 14)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the

Visitors! We hope that you will find a warm welcome here. We invite you to consider membership in our church family. Please speak to one of the greeters or pastors after worship for more information.

Childcare is provided during worship. Children from birth to age 2 may be taken to the infant room, and children age 3 through Kindergarten are welcome in the toddler room. Childcare providers for the infant nursery are Linda Protinick and Taylor Panconi. The toddler nursery is staffed by Bob and David Mills. Laurie Davis is the Nursery Coordinator (MusicMomNJ@comcast.net).

Our congregation is very happy to have children participate in worship with their family as part of our church family! "Worship bags" containing quiet faith activities are available in the narthex for children to enjoy during worship.

We thank those who are serving today in these ways:

The Flowers in the chancel are given in loving memory of Bob Shimer from the family.

Head Ushers are Janice Parker and Diane and Jeff Yeager.

After Service Greeter is Valerie Michaud.

Coffee Hour today is hosted by the Deacons.

PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a prayer request, or if you would like to become part of the "chain" of church members who pray daily with and for people with a particular need, please contact the church office at 395-0897.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Church members with special needs: Marge Bloom; Liz Callaway; Jim Cox; Martha Davis; Ruth Davison; Kim Hafner; Helen Myer; Betty Jane Petterson and family due to the death of her grandson, Thomas; Esta Schulte; Diane Smith; Jim Walcott and Mildred Watts.

Family and Friends of Church Members for whom prayers are asked: Phyllis Dyke's sister, Joyce Lepore & brother, Lou Scirrotto; Bob Dyke's friend, Joel Morales; Joan Fraser's friend, Lisa Hodges; Paul & Janet Furchak's daughter, Christine Massaro; Gail Geijer's son, Dan; Florence Kremann's friend, Peter Bigler; Karen Moser's daughter, Dawn Winkler; Leah Moy's cousin, Dan Ogden; Eva Reyes' friend, Haley and Cathy Vogen's father-in-law, Don Vogen.

We pray for all the people who are in need in our wider community and for our family and friends in our nation's service.

Prayer Requests in the Bulletin: In order to keep the prayer request list up to date we will print the names of friends and family of church members who have prayer requests for one month. After that time you may call the church office to have a name reappear on the prayer list.

- Please be sure to sign the "**Pipeline to Session**" cards found in the pews if you have any questions/concerns for the Session. This is a great way to give "kudos" as well!

~~ CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ~~

Sunday School Hour (9:15-10:15 a.m.)

Fall Adult Sunday School: Come and join us in the library at 9:15 a.m. for friendly conversation on the Book of James.

Confirmation Class Update on Operation Christmas Child:

Many thanks to all who participated in Operation Christmas Child this year! Our church sent a record 51 boxes! The boxes will be delivered, along with the gospel message, to children in need around the world in time for Christmas! Thank you very much for bringing a smile, touching a heart, and sharing God's love in this way!

ADULT EDUCATION AT OTHER TIMES

Transitions Networking Group: Fridays, 7:30-8:30 a.m. in Room 1. This is an opportunity to connect with others going through job change and sharing information about jobs, opportunities and resources. It will feature expert speakers and guests, and provide Scripturally-based resources focused on career and life changes. Everyone is welcome to attend. The group will be facilitated by church member, Charlie Ernst and sponsored by the Outreach Committee. Coffee and donuts/fruit will be provided.

Martha Circle Women's Bible Study: First Monday of the Month, 1:30 p.m. in the Library All women are welcome to attend! Our study for the year is *Joshua: A Journey of Faith*, the new Horizons Presbyterian Women's Bible study. Join us for fellowship, Bible study and prayer, with the discussion led by Rose Eller. She can be reached at 655-9175.

Cranbury Men's Bible Study: Sundays 7-8:30 pm, The Cranbury Inn:

All men are invited to join us in this relaxed setting for our new study on *The Westminster Confession of Faith*. Weekly themes are the starting point for our conversation about confessing Christ in our contemporary context. For more information, please contact Mike Kasper at cwcollector@aol.com or Clifford Anderson at clifford.anderson@ptsem.edu. **(PLEASE NOTE, we will not be meeting tonight.**

~~ CPNS ~~



As a Christian Nursery School our goal is to guide your children in the appropriate ways to get along with others, to be self-confident and respectful individuals, to make decisions, to be creative, to solve math problems, to love reading and writing, and most of all to love to learn.

In addition to our regular classes, we also offer enrichment programs for any child whether enrolled in CPNS or not. You may have a child attending a Cranbuddies program or even a local ½-day kindergarten program that you would like to enrich their learning opportunities. We welcome everyone! To receive registration information, please contact Janice Parker at 655-8663 or e-mail her at cpnschool@comcast.net or check the CPNS portion of the church website.

~~ CONGREGATIONAL LIFE ~~

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Sunday, December 6 at 11:30 a.m.

Right after Worship Service in Fellowship Hall

Celebrate Christmas with food and song - and the fellowship of our congregation. On December 6, we'll be serving good, old-fashioned homemade chicken soup - Liz Calloway's great recipe! There will be fresh rolls, dessert, and holiday punch to complete the family style lunch.

We'll have Christmas Carols for all to take part in, and best of all, we'll be together to share in the joy of the Advent season.

If you would like to bring something for the meal you are welcome and encouraged to bring either a dessert (cookies, brownies, or other "finger food" desserts) or special bread if you have a recipe that you like to make. Just drop off your dessert items in the kitchen before our worship service so that we can have all of the preparations ready in the fellowship hall after our church service. Mark your calendar and be sure come and bring your family to our Christmas Luncheon on December 6!

~~ DEACONS ~~

Thanks to our very generous church family and community, over 90 families will have a brighter Thanksgiving! On behalf of our Deacons, we would like to thank our Congregation, Youth Group, Confirmation Class, CPNS, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cranbury School, Cranbury Inn and Mercer Street Friends!

We received an overwhelming amount of donations in the form of canned food, produce, turkeys, monetary donations, freezer space, and time that allowed us to fill a record number of Thanksgiving Food Baskets. This is a huge undertaking that is only possible with everyone's generous help!

The Deacons are thankful for the opportunity to give back to our community each year, and the Thanksgiving Basket recipients are truly touched and grateful for the show of

caring that comes from our church. What a great way to share our blessings and show God's love! Happy Thanksgiving!

~~ MISSION, SERVICE & GRANTS ~~

CHRISTMAS WREATHS! Christmas wreaths will be available for pick up sometime after December 4 at the Gordon's home, 127 North Main, Cranbury.

TASK - stands for Trenton Area Soup Kitchen. Our church serves an afternoon meal the first Thursday of every month; December 3 is the next time we go. The church van departs the parking lot at 2:30 p.m. If you would like to serve, please call Anne Gordon in the church office.

A SNIPPET FROM THE YEAR BOOK OF PRAYER: Striving to meet the needs of children of Latino immigrants, the Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church in Sandy Springs, Georgia, serves these children through a program termed Los Ninos Primero and the theme "Let's Discover." The mission is to provide quality educational experiences for children aged three to six and their families. They have opportunities to develop English language skills and prepare for academic readiness and excellence with art and music instruction as highlights of the program. Since Mount Vernon began this ministry in 2001, it has grown to serve 110 children. This program operates for three weeks in the summer, and the goal is to expand it to a year-round preschool that will assist Latino immigrant children in an even more effective way.

A CHANCE TO HELP! The Mission of the Auxiliary at Trenton Psychiatric Hospital has always been to make life more comfortable and more interesting for the residents. To that end they sponsor bingo parties and other game related activities; they also provide gifts for both men and women at Christmas time. They are looking for:

- General gifts like sweaters, gloves, socks, wallets and purses, knit caps or baseball caps (new, of course)
- Grooming gifts like shampoos, conditioners, body lotion, bath and talcum powder, cosmetic bags (No spray or glass containers)
- Recreational items like cards, puzzle books and games
- Small items for bingo prizes
- Current magazines, especially male oriented

Missions, Service and Grants has agreed to collect for this worthwhile program. There will be a box in Fellowship Hall to collect your contributions. The gifts will be delivered to the hospital early in December. We appreciate your help in reaching out to our neighbors. Thank you!

**FIFTH ANNUAL GUATEMALA
GOURMET DINNER FUNDRAISER
Friday and Saturday Night Only**

Where: First Presbyterian Church of Cranbury

Time: Seating Begins at 6:30 PM

Dinner served at 7:00 PM

Price: \$50.00 or more

Food Choices: Filet Mignon, Salmon or Chicken

Date: Friday, January 29, 2010

Entertainment: Cranbury String Serenade

Date: Saturday, January 30, 2010

Entertainment: Don Klotzbeacher, pianist

Tickets can be purchased from Lil Conley during coffee hour or call her at 395-0642 or at the church office at 395-0897

~~ SENIOR FELLOWSHIP ~~

PLEASE NOTE: Senior Fellowship exercise class has grown. We are keeping a waiting list. If you would like to be placed on it, please call the church office.

EXERCISE SCHEDULE

November 30, December 3, December 7,
December 10, December 14 and December 17

UPCOMING EVENT

Senior Fellowship will celebrate Christmas with the Annual Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, December 8 at 12(noon) in Fellowship Hall. Join us for a full luncheon, singing some of the old favorite Christmas songs and entertainment by the students of CPNS. Members of the congregation who are not people that we call each month who would like to attend the Christmas party, need to call Connie Bauder to make reservations by 11/29. If you register to attend or tell us you will attend when we call you and you find that you cannot attend, please call Connie as soon as you know that you cannot attend. If you do not drive let us know and we will arrange to pick you up and take you home.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL FROM SENIOR FELLOWSHIP. Many thanks to all the volunteers who make it possible for us to have this event.

~~ STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE ~~

As referenced in the letter that had accompanied the Stewardship packet, God has blessed our church with a long and productive history, but the support of the missions and ministries requires significant financial resources. Session has begun the process of developing a realistic budget for 2010 that we believe responds to God's call to our Church. Pledge support we receive during this Stewardship season is critical to these discussions to enable Session develop a balanced budget. If you have already turned in your pledge, thank you. If you are procrastinating (Commitment Sunday was November 15), please turn in your pledge forms as soon as possible. Thank you

Please remember to pick-up your third quarter pledge statements in the Narthex.

Counting Teams: 11/29 (Team #2) - 12/6 (Team #3)

Stewardship Offerings Update to November 22, 2009

	Last Week	Year-to-Date
Offering	\$7,157	\$339,180
Amount needed to meet our obligations	\$7,038	\$349,786
Collection for Historical Records	\$0	\$1,100
Peacemaking	\$0	\$1,403

~~ WORSHIP ~~

The Worship Committee would like to invite you to take advantage of our nursery if you have children age 5 and under. If you prefer to deep your young child with you during worship, we remind you that you can hear the sermon from the narthex if your child becomes restless.

USHERS GUILD: If you are interested in joining the Ushers Guild, please contact Caren Anuszewski at (609)587-8883 or ccrab91@optonline.net. **Ushers please remember to pick up your ushering packets in the Narthex.**

PLEASE HELP: As the holiday season is quickly approaching, the Ushers Guild once again is looking for volunteers to help with the extra December services. All persons are eligible, and you do not need to be a member of the Ushers Guild. If you are interested in ushering for the below services, the sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex or contact Caren Anuszewski at 609-587-8883 or ccrab91@optonline.net.

Vesper's Service, Sunday, December 13 at 4:00

Christmas Eve Services, Thursday, December 24 at:

5:00 p.m. --- Children's Service

8:00 p.m. --- Family Service

11:00 p.m. --- Communion Service

~~ YOUTH MINISTRY ~~

Youth Group Activities

Today No evening activity due to the Thanksgiving holiday

12/4-6 **(Friday departing at 4:00p)** Middle School Retreat at Camp Johnsonburg **(Sunday returning at 12:30p)**

12/6 6:30p-8:00p Youth Group making gingerbread cookies

12/13 3:30p Youth Group participating with the Vespers Service and Christmas Pageant

12/20 6:30p-8:00p Youth Group Christmas Party! Bring a wrapped gift (\$10.00 value)

12/27 No Youth Group scheduled due to Christmas vacation

~~ CALENDAR ~~

November 29, 2009 - December 6, 2009

Sunday 29	9:15a Celebration Sunday - FH 9:15a Christian Education for all ages (Classrooms/Lib./FH/McKnight Rm) 10:30a Worship w/Baptism followed by coffee hour 7:30p Boy Scout Troop Meeting-McK Rm (GC) NO Youth Group NO Cranbury Men's Bible Study
Monday 30	10:00a Senior Exercise 6:45p-9:00p Boy Scout Review Board - Library 7:30p Brass Choir 8:00p Al-Anon-McK Rm
Tuesday 1	9:00a Bulletin Material Due 7:00p Outreach Committee Meeting- Room 1 7:15p Christian Ed. Meeting-Church Office(upstairs) 7:30p P&A Meeting- Lib. 7:30p AA - McKnight Room
Wednesday 2	10:45a Staff Mtg.-Church Office 7:00p MS&G Meeting-Lib. 7:30p Bell Choir
Thursday 3	10:00a Senior Exercise 2:30p - 6:15p TASK (VAN) (Office Closed 2:30p-4:00p) 4:15p-4:45p Cherub Choir -Sanctuary 4:45p-5:30p Children's Choir-Sanctuary 7:00p Worship Meeting - Lib. 7p-8p Cranbury Scout Band Practice 7:30p The Chorale - Choir Room
Friday 4	7:30a-8:30a Transitions Networking Group-Rm 1 9:00a Bulletin Assembly-Church Office 4:00p Junior High Retreat - Johnsonburg (VAN) 7:30p AA - McKnight Room
Saturday 5	All Day Junior High Retreat - Johnsonburg (VAN)
Sunday 6	9:15a Christian Education for all ages (Classrooms/Lib./FH/McKnight Rm) 10:30a Worship w/communion followed by the Christmas Luncheon 11:45 Library Committee - Library 12:30p Junior High Retreat returns from Johnsonburg (VAN) 5:30p-6:30p Mentor dinner with Confirmands - FH 6:30p-8:00p Youth Group-FH/Kit 7:30p-9p Cranbury Men's Bible Study at the Inn