

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

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2009 10:30 A.M.

THE APPROACH

PRELUDE

“Advent Tidings”

Michael E. Akers
Bell Choir

INTROIT

“Blessed be the Lord, God of Israel”
(Luke 1: 68-69)

Donovan Klotzbeacher
The Chorale

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Joanne Petto

Listen: **God invites us to prepare the way.**

Watch: **Signs appear in the wilderness.**

Prepare: **Good news is on the way.**

Rejoice: **Our hard times are over.**

Be at peace: **We rest in God’s promises, and exult in God’s coming.**

HYMN #8 (Hymnal)*

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)*

Eternal God, you promise to reveal your glory to us, but we are inconstant and distracted. You promise your peace, but we do not trust your promise, and we despair. Forgive our lack of faith, O God. Sing your songs of good tidings to us from on high. Lift our eyes, give us ears to hear, so that we may sing to the world: Here is our God! 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

SCRIPTURE

Micah 5:2-5a

Pew Bible pg. 865

“But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.”

Leader: *The season of Advent continues. Thousands of years of waiting for the Messiah are commemorated by the lighting of four candles.*

People: We join with a hopeful throng in the lighting of the Advent candles, signs of God’s love and symbols of our faith.

Leader: *We are a people of hope. Last Sunday the frail light of a single candle dared to pierce through the darkness of desolation and sin.*

People: Hope lives in us and will abide with us.

Leader: *Today we will light the candle of peace.*

People: This light, too, must brave the great darkness.

Leader: *In an age when people seldom find peace within themselves, and when all the earth knows the sorrow of war, we light a fire called peace.*

People: Peace that is not merely the absence of war and conflict, but peace that is the fullness of blessing for all - that is the peace for which we dare to hope.

Leader: *Christ comes to bring peace to those who have been separated from God and one another.*

People: In the name of that Child born so long ago, we light the candles of peace and hope.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF HOPE AND PEACE

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!

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!

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1: 18-25

Carol Kientz
Pew Bible pg. 1

ANTHEM

“Advent Meditation”

Douglas E. Wagner
Bell Choir

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1: 26-38

Pew Bible pgs. 56-57

SERMON

“Jesus the Savior”

Dr. Louis Mitchell

THE RESPONSE

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

“Every valley shall be exalted”

John Ness Beck

(Isaiah 40: 4)

The Chorale

Hymn #592 (Hymnal)*

“Doxology”

Prayer of Dedication*

Rev. Petto

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Christmas Joy Offering

The Ellsworth family

HYMN #5 (Hymnal)*

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

(see insert)

HYMN #28 (Hymnal)*

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

BENEDICTION*

RESPONSE*

Fourfold Amen

Donovan Klotzbeacher

The Chorale

POSTLUDE*

Hornpipe

Henry Purcell

Organ

***ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND**

A Congregational Meeting

has been called by the session immediately following the 10:30 worship service
on December 13, 2009 in order to elect church officers.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise. [The Minister continues.]

God is praised for the history of faithfulness shown to God's people. The congregation then joins the celestial choirs and all the faithful of every time and place to sing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The prayer continues with thanksgiving for the life and work of Jesus Christ. The Words of Institution are recalled. The elements are set apart for their sacred use, and we offer ourselves to God's service. Then, this response:

According to His commandment:

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory.

The presence of the Holy Spirit is sought, as well as God's blessing on our lives. The prayer concludes with a Trinitarian doxology.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

We will eat the bread individually when served. We will hold the cup until all have been served and then partake together. All baptized Christians, whatever your denomination or tradition, are invited to share with us in this holy sacrament.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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:

Communion Servers are Nancy Ellis, KY Huang, Brenda and John Kirkenir, Dawn Michaud, Carlene Reyes, Matt Rhodes and Margo Wegner.

The Flowers in the chancel are given in memory of Edward G. Trenkle by Jason Trenkle, Debbie Mara and Alan Danser.

Head Usher is Linda Cody.

After Service Greeters are Stan Dickerson and Walter Wright.

Coffee Hour today is the Christmas Luncheon hosted by the Congregational Life Committee.

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; 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 remember family & friends in our nation's service: Colonel John Bartolotto (US Army), Elsie & Russell Sutton's son-in-law; Lt. Nick Brunetti (USMC), Tracey Yeager Brunetti's husband and Jeff & Diane Yeager's son-in-law; Adam Frick (US Army), Cathy & Michael Vogen's cousin; Sgt. Robert Hansson (75th Ranger Regiment), Janet & Paul Furchak's son; Colonel Martha Lenhart (US Army), Jim & Barbara Cox's daughter-in-law; Greg McAvoy (US Navy), Lewis & Ruth Blackmer's grandson; Michael McSurdy (US Army Specialist), Dr. Mitchell's son-in-law; Thomas Mentes (9th Cavalry Troop), Pat & Bill Leonard's son-in-law; Major Douglas Miller (US Air Force), George & Audrey Smith's nephew and Anna Wahler's grandson; and Colonel Daniel Shanahan (US Army), Leslie Vandenberg's cousin.

- 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!

Birthdays of Distinction: Marion Sutton on December 12 and Carol Sprout on December 13. **Happy Birthday!**

~~ 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 Colossians.

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 7:30-9:00 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.

~~ CONGREGATIONAL LIFE ~~

SENIOR BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

Our Christmas program will feature our pastor, Lou Mitchell sharing "Christmas Reflections". Please join us on Thursday, December 17 at 8:30 a.m. at Cranbury Inn.

~~ 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.

~~ MISSION, SERVICE & GRANTS ~~

A SNIPPET FROM THE YEAR BOOK OF PRAYER: An interesting means of attracting young people is found in Parkwood Presbyterian Church in Florence, S.C. CycleSk8Boarding is part of Sunday night youth fellowship and Wednesday night Bible studies. Through this skateboarding team Parkwood Presbyterian is reaching many young lives. The group does skating demonstrations for other congregations and at skate parks. And at the same time team members share their faith. One team member has commented that "the most important thing in evangelizing is that we plant the seed...and then we rely on God to change hearts." He admits that skating and sharing his faith have kept him active and made him "a lot more mature with Christ".

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 Klotzbecher, 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

~~ OUTREACH ~~

Cranbury Coffee House - December is children's night and we are starting early to accommodate the children's schedule.

As you know, the coffee house is a venue to showcase local musical talent with musical genres such as Jazz, Folk, Acoustic Rock, String Quartet, Barbershop Quartet, Open Mike, Oldies & Brass Band. The coffee house has been a once a month event held on the second Friday of each month through June 10, 2010. Our upcoming event will be on Friday, December 11th from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Performing will be Jonathan Sprout. His music is educational, uplifting contemporary music, www.jonsprout.com. Opening for Jonathan Sprout will be Laurie Davis, our own Children's Choir Director. We hope you will mark your calendars and let all your friends and neighbors know about this wonderful opportunity.

Tickets for the December show are \$5.00 per person, one price for everyone. If you have children that would like to sit on the floor (there will be space in front of the stage) please bring a blanket. Child friendly refreshments, Danish and coffee for the older children (parents) will be available at an additional cost.

Through the effort of a small task force, we have been able to make the opening night happen. However, your help and support will be what will make this program a continued success. Remember that the proceeds, less expenses, benefit Skeet's Pantry & the Deacon's Benevolent Fund.

For information about the Cranbury Coffee House or how you can help, please go to www.cranburycoffeehouse.com.

~~ 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

December 7, December 10, December 14 and December 17

CRANBURY SENIOR CENTER EVENT

On Friday, December 11, please join us for luncheon at 12 noon to be followed by a our Holiday program at the Senior Community Center at Town Hall 23A N. Main Street, Cranbury, NJ. All seniors from Cranbury and surrounding areas are welcome.

YOU MUST CALL 395-0900 X244 no later than Monday, December 7. Luncheon seating is limited to the first 30 people; the program is open to all.

~~ 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: 12/6 (Team #4) - 12/13 (Team #1)

Stewardship Offerings Update to November 29, 2009

	Last Week	Year-to-Date
Offering	\$8,392	\$347,572
Amount needed to meet our obligations	\$7,038	\$356,824
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

- 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 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 ~~

December 6, 2009 - December 13, 2009

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 - (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
Monday 7	10:00a Senior Exercise 1:30p Martha's Circle - Lib. 2:00p-5:00p Senior Fellowship preparation for Christmas Party-KIT 6:30p CPNS set-up-Library 7:30p CPNS Board Meeting-Lib 7:30p Brass Choir 8:00p Al-Anon-McK Rm
Tuesday 8	9:00a Bulletin Material Due 8:00a - 4:00p Senior Fellowship Christmas Party setup - KIT/FH 11a-4p Senior Fellowship (VAN) 12 (noon) Senior Fellowship Annual Christmas Party - FH 7:30p Youth Ministry Committee Meeting-Church Office 7:30p Stewardship & Finance-Church office (downstairs) 7:30p AA - McKnight Room
Wednesday 9	10:45a Staff Mtg.-Church Office 7:00 Boy Scout District Meeting-FH 7:30p Bell Choir
Thursday 10	9:00a Session Material Due 10:00a Senior Exercise 4:15p-4:45p Cherub Choir -Sanctuary 4:45p-5:30p Children's Choir-Sanctuary 6:30p B&G Sanctuary light cleaning 7p-8p Cranbury Scout Band Practice 7:30p B&G Meeting-Lib. 7:30p The Chorale - Choir Room
Friday 11	7:30a-8:30a Transitions Networking Group-Rm 1 9:00a Bulletin Assembly-Church Office 3:00p Set-up for Coffee House-FH/Kit 7p-9:30p The Cranbury Coffee House-FH/Kit 7:30p AA - McKnight Room
Saturday 12	7:00p Cub Scouts - FH (JY)
Sunday 13	9:15a Christian Education for all ages (Classrooms/Lib./FH/McKnight Rm) 10:30a Worship w/Special Congregational Meeting followed by coffee hour 3:30p Youth Group attending Christmas Pageant and Vespers Service 3:30p Christmas Pageant 4:00p Vespers Service - Sanctuary 7:30p Boy Scout Troop Meeting-McK Rm (GC) 7:30p-9p Cranbury Men's Bible Study at the Inn

