

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

Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2009 10:30 A.M.

THE APPROACH

PRELUDE

Andante & Adagio

Felix Mendelssohn
Organ

INTROIT

“Blessed are those whose way is blameless”
(Ps. 119: 1)

Donovan Klotzbecher
The Chorale

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Joanne Petto

Sing praises to our God, who has done marvelous things!

Let God’s saving deeds be known throughout all the earth.

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O people of God!

For great is the Holy One in our midst.

HYMN #22 (Hymnal)*

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)*

Gracious God, we are told that this is supposed to be a joyful time, yet we often feel joyless. We hear the summons to rejoice, but we struggle so to respond. Absorbed in the needs of the day, we have lost sight of you. Beaten down by cares and burdens, we neglect the means of grace through which our hearts might be lifted. We pray partly and worship half-heartedly and serve grudgingly. Sin prevails and joy eludes and we drift farther away. Gather us in. Forgive us. Restore us. Bring forth a new spirit within us, that we might discover the joy for which you created us, the deep joy made known to us in Jesus Christ. 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

CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

The Guy family

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 40: 1-5

Pew Bible pg. 667

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Leader: God is making the final preparation for an amazing thing! This is the Advent of the long awaited Messiah, the bringer of hope, the prince of peace, our leader of love.

People: We wait, we prepare, we make straight the way.

Leader: We celebrate the coming of Christ with the lighting of Advent candles.

People: We are a people of hope, a people of peace, a people of love.

Leader: At first there was the frail light of a candle called hope, daring to pierce the darkness of despair and sin.

People: Then there was the candle of peace, the gentle and persistent fire, the one that calls out the violent forces and lets in God's deep and tranquil Spirit.

Leader: Today we light the candle of love. No other word so adequately captures the spirit and goal of our faith. No other word so beautifully describes what we know of God.

People: For God so loved the world.

Leader: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son. A savior was made in the form of a baby who was born so that we might know God's love.

People: We gather, then, in Christian love.

We give thanks for a love that passes understanding, and we await the dawning of God's pervasive and enduring love once more this Christmas season.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF HOPE, PEACE, and LOVE

HYMN #9 (Hymnal)

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2: 8-14

Gretchen Stults
Pew Bible pg. 58

ANTHEM

"Behold, the Lord hath proclaimed"
(Isaiah 62: 11)

Jean Berger
The Chorale

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 16: 13-17

Pew Bible pg. 18

SERMON

“Jesus Messiah”

Rev. Rosanna Anderson

THE RESPONSE

HYMN #27 (Hymnal)*

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH
THE LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Petto

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

“Behold, a rose breaks into bloom”

Johannes Brahms
Organ

Hymn #592 (Hymnal)*

“Doxology”

Prayer of Dedication*

Rev. Petto

HYMN #43 (Hymnal)*

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

BENEDICTION*

RESPONSE*

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ”

Donovan Klotzbeacher
The Chorale

POSTLUDE*

Basse et dessus de trompette

Louis Nicolas Clerambault
Organ

***ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND**

A Congregational Meeting

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

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 by Beverly and Craig Gilbert in loving memory of their daughter Cynthia. Also, in the chancel today are the beautiful Christmas poinsettias. They have been given to the glory of God, in memory, in honor or as a gift of gratitude by many wonderful people.

Head Usher is Loida Wilson.

After Service Greeters are Jane Hovland and Jean Rea.

Coffee Hour today is hosted by Dawn Michaud and family.

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; Betty Borgeson on the death of her husband Richard; 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; Flo Kremann's friend, Peter Bigler; Carolyn Lee's husband, John; 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.

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 Mentos (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!

Birthday of Distinction: 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. **Please note: we will not be meeting on December 25 and January 1.**

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. **Please note: we will not be meeting on December 27 and January 3.**

~~ 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.

DEACON NEWS

PLEASE NOTE: MEETING DATE AND TIME CHANGE

The Deacons will meet **Tuesday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall. This is a change from our regular meeting time and date. The meeting will be short.

~~ MISSION, SERVICE & GRANTS ~~

A SNIPPET FROM THE YEAR BOOK OF PRAYER: Some of you may remember Dr. Alice Winters who has brought to us a refreshing picture of ministry in Colombia, South America. Members of the Presbyterian Church of Colombia (IPC) struggle and take great risks in their human rights work and their support of Colombians who have been displaced during the forty-year war in their country. Alice has written asking for "accompaniers," people who will accompany persons who are in danger not only as protection but as evidence of support. One accompanier writes about the displaced farmers who have lost their homes and livelihoods. They are guaranteed by law to have their confiscated lands replaced, but to date farmers have been trying without success to regain land. They are accompanied by national and international Presbyterians. As of the summer of 2008, Presbyterian Peace Fellowship had trained seventy-one volunteers, forty-seven of whom have served. Eighteen volunteers have asked to serve again.

REMINDER: The Christmas Joy Offering envelopes can be conveniently found in the pews for your donations for **Sunday, December 20.** Thank you in advance for your continued generosity.

**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

December 14, December 17
 January 4, January 7, January 11, January 14

~~ STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE ~~

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 note: remember to pick-up your 2010 Pledge Envelopes in the Fellowship Hall.

Counting Teams: 12/13 (Team #4) - 12/20 (Team #1)

Stewardship Offerings Update to December 6, 2009

	Last Week	Year-to-Date
Offering	\$10,220	\$357,392
Amount needed to meet our obligations	\$7,038	\$363,862
Collection for Historical Records	\$0	\$1,100
Christmas Joy Offering	\$140	\$140

~~ 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.

Christmas Eve Services, Thursday, December 24 at:
 5:00 p.m. --- Children's Service
 11:00 p.m. --- Communion Service

~~ YOUTH MINISTRY ~~

Youth Group Activities

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 13, 2009 - December 20, 2009

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
Monday 14	8:30a-11:30a CPNS - Kitchen 10:00a Senior Exercise 7:30p Brass Choir 8:00p Al-Anon-McK Rm
Tuesday 15	8:30a-11:30a CPNS - Kitchen 9:00a Bulletin Material 11:00a CPNS Pastor Christmas Stories - Sanctuary 1:00p CPNS Pastor Christmas Stories - Sanctuary 7:30p Session Meeting - FH 7:30p AA - McKnight Room
Wednesday 16	9:30a CPNS Pastor Christmas Stories - Sanctuary 10:45a Staff Mtg.-Church Office 7:30p Congregational Life Meeting-Church Office 7:30p Bell Choir
Thursday 17	Newsletter Info Due 8:30a Senior Breakfast Club at the Cranbury Inn 9:00a Skeet's Food Pantry Packing 10:00a Senior Exercise 4:15p-4:45p Cherub Choir -Sanctuary 4:45p-5:30p Children's Choir-Sanctuary 6p-7p Cub Scout (KE) 7p-8p Cranbury Scout Band Practice 7:30p The Chorale - Choir Room
Friday 18	7:30a-8:30a Transitions Networking Group-Rm 1 8:30-11:00a Skeet's Food Pantry Distribution 9:00a Bulletin Assembly-Church Office 5:30p Jones/Olchvary Wedding Rehearsal 7:30p AA - McKnight Room
Saturday 19	10:00a Jones/Olchvary Wedding
Sunday 20	(Joy Offering) 9:15a Christian Education for all ages (Classrooms/Lib./FH/McKnight Rm) 10:10a Sunday School Caroling 10:30a Worship followed by coffee hour 6:30p-8:00p Youth Group Christmas Party-FH/Kit 7:30p-9p Cranbury Men's Bible Study at the Inn