

# The First Presbyterian Church Cranbury, New Jersey

The order for the 11:00 p.m. service begins on page 4 of this bulletin.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE  
December 24, 2010 - 8:00 P.M.

## THE GATHERING

SILENT MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

*Two Noels*

Louis-Claude d'Aquin  
Organ

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Rev. Rosanna Anderson

This is the season of hopeful waiting.

**On this night we hear the angel say, "Do not be afraid."**

On this night we sing with the angels, "Glory to God in the highest!"

On this night the light of God fills the heavens and illumines the earth.

Come let us walk in the light of God!

CAROL #41\*

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In 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. 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. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON\*

HYMN #579 (Hymnal)\*

*"Gloria Patri"*

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS\*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (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

CAROL #23

*“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2: 1-8

Peter Miller  
Pew Bible pg. 58

ANTHEM

*“In the bleak midwinter”*

Gustav Holst, arr. J. Bertalot  
The Chorale

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2: 9-20

Pew Bible pg. 58

CAROL #60

*“Silent Night, Holy Night”*

SERMON

“Christmas Treasures”

Dr. Louis Mitchell

## THE RESPONSE

CAROL #25\*

*“Away in a Manger”*

LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS

All the ends of the earth have seen the  
salvation of our God. Hallelujah!  
Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Hallelujah!  
O Christ, splendor of God’s eternal glory,  
the mighty Word, sustaining the universe:  
renew our lives by your presence.  
Lord, have mercy.  
O Christ, born into the world in the fullness of  
time for the liberation of all creation:  
release all into your promised freedom.  
Lord, have mercy.  
O Christ, begotten of the Father before all  
time, born in a stable at Bethlehem:

(Unison Prayer)

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into the world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Teach us to proclaim the birth of your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Rev. Anderson

may your church be a sign of hope and joy.  
Lord, have mercy.  
O Christ, truly God and truly human, born to a  
people in fulfillment of your promises:  
fulfill our desires in you.  
Lord, have mercy.  
O Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, child of  
wonder and splendor, mighty God of all ages,  
Prince of Peace:  
may the whole world live in peace and justice.  
Lord, have mercy. (Silent Prayer)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CAROL #44

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*The offering this evening will be used to support the ongoing mission and ministry of the First Presbyterian Church.*

Offertory

*The Holy Boy*

John Ireland  
Organ

Hymn #592 (Hymnal)\*

*"Doxology"*

Prayer of Dedication\*

Rev. Anderson

CLOSING CAROL #40\*

*"Joy to the World!"*

BENEDICTION\*

Dr. Mitchell

POSTLUDE\*

*"Once He Came in Blessing"*

J. S. Bach  
Organ

\*ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND

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PRELUDE

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Louis-Claude d'Aquin  
Organ

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Rev. Joanne Petto

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## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CAROL #40

*"Joy to the World!"*

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 2: 1-8 Janet Furchak  
Pew Bible pg. 58

ANTHEM “*O Holy Night*” Adolfe Adam  
Virginia Donovan, vocalist

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 2: 9-20 Pew Bible pg. 58

SERMON “Christmas Treasures” Dr. Louis Mitchell

THE RESPONSE

CAROL #25 “*Away in a Manger*”

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*The offering this evening will be used to support the ongoing mission and ministry of the First Presbyterian Church.*

Offertory *The Holy Boy* John Ireland  
Organ

Hymn #592 (Hymnal)\* “*Doxology*”  
Prayer of Dedication\* Rev. Petto

CAROL #23\* “*Angels We Have Heard on High*”

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

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

Please come forward by a side aisle. At the front, take a piece of bread and dip the bread in the cup before eating. Those unable to come forward will be served in their seats.

## LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES\*

Dr. Mitchell

Great God, as you came at night when all was still, so enter our lives this night. Illumine our **paths with the light of Christ's presence, that we may clearly see the way before us, the truth to speak, and the life to live for him, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

## CLOSING CAROL #60\*

*"Silent Night, Holy Night"*

*All join in singing "Silent Night." As the lights are turned down, the candles are lit signifying the birth of the Light of the World, our Savior Jesus Christ. PRE-SCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN SHOULD SHARE A CANDLE WITH AN ADULT. PLEASE PASS THE LIGHT BY PLACING YOUR UNLIT CANDLE IN THE FLAME OF THE CANDLE HELD VERTICALLY BY THE PERSON NEXT TO YOU. PLEASE BE VERY CAREFUL NOT TO DRIP WAX ON THE CARPETING AND PEW CUSHIONS. By passing the light in this manner, we avoid dripping wax!*

BENEDICTION\* *(Please return your candle to the box in the Narthex as you leave.)*

## POSTLUDE\*

*"Once He Came in Blessing"*

J. S. Bach  
Organ

ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND\*

Ushering for the 8:00 p.m. service are Joan Fraser, Bob and Carol Kane, and Rick, Nancy and Mike Norland *and* for the 11:00 p.m. service are Vicki Bain, Stan Dickerson, Robert Pomeroy, Art and Gloria-Jean Ryba and Walter Wright.

Communion Servers for the 11:00 p.m. service are Monty & Peg Hagerty and Art and Gloria-Jean Ryba. Thanks to Renee Welch for preparing the communion and to George Conley for helping with the lighting.

The Flowers in the chancel tonight 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. (Copies of the list are in the Narthex). Please note: Poinsettias may be picked up tonight after the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service or on Sunday, December 26 in Fellowship Hall.

We pray God's warmest blessings upon you for a joyful Christmas  
and a healthy, happy New Year.

Our church provides many opportunities for spiritual growth and Christian service  
in our community and the world. This is a wonderful congregation. We invite you  
to join us!

Thank you to all those whose gifts, creativity and labor created the beautiful  
Christmas decorations and Nativity scene!

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**Sunday, December 26, 2010**

10:30 a.m.      Worship Service followed by Coffee Hour  
No Christian Education Classes, No Youth Group, No Men's Bible Study

<b>Pastor</b>	<b>The Rev. Dr. Louis Mitchell</b>
<b>Associate Pastor</b>	<b>The Rev. Rosanna Anderson</b>
<b>Parish Associate</b>	<b>The Rev. Joanne Petto</b>
<b>Seminary Intern</b>	<b>Kurt Heineman</b>
<b>Cranbury Presbyterian Nursery School, Director</b>	<b>Mrs. Janice Parker</b>

**Church Office:** (609) 395-0897  
Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Email: [FirstPresOffice@comcast.net](mailto:FirstPresOffice@comcast.net)  
Website: [www.cranburypres.org](http://www.cranburypres.org)

**Church Office Closed:** 12/24, 12/27, and 1/3  
**Office Hours** from 12/28 to 12/30 will be 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and on 12/31 will 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

**Cranbury Presbyterian Nursery School:** (609) 655-8663  
**CPNS Closed:** 12/23 through 12/31