

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

Lessons and Carols

December 11, 2011 10:30 A.M.

PRELUDE

Noel Suisse

Louis-Claude D'aquin
Organ

INTROIT

"Noel, Noel: Mountain Medley"

Cherub Choir

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Larry and Margo Wegner

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 #41/42 (Hymnal)*

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

BIDDING PRAYER

Dr. Louis Mitchell

Minister: Beloved in Christ, be it at this Christmas-tide our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God and the glorious redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

People: But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all His people; for unity and brotherhood within the Church He came to build, and especially in this our congregation. And because this would rejoice His heart, let us remember, in His name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love Him not, or who by sin have grieved His heart of love. Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in this Lord Jesus we for evermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ Himself hath taught us:

The Lord’s Prayer (Unison)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

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.)

The Annunciation

The Chorale

Luke 1:26-33

“The Angel Gabriel”

Joan Fraser, Narrator

Basque Carol, arr. Theron Kirk

The Nativity of the Lord

Bell Choir

Children’s Choir

Luke 2:1-7

“Celtic Noel”

“The Caroler’s Song”

arr. Sandra Tucker

The Angels

Brass Choir

The Chorale

Luke 2:8-14

“Angel Carols”

“Angels was a-shoutin on Christmas morn”

arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

David Lantz III

The Shepherds
Youth Ensemble
Children's Choir

Luke 2:15-20
"The First Nowell"
"Ring Merrily Bells"

English Carol

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

"Une Vierge Pucelle"
(A Virgin Pure)

Nicolas Le Begue
Organ

Hymn #592 (Hymnal)*

"Doxology"

Prayer of Dedication*

HYMN #59 (Hymnal)*

"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"

The Magi

Bell Choir
Brass Choir

Matthew 2:1-6

"Casabel"
"We Three Kings"

arr. Susan Nelson
arr. Mike Story

The Star

Youth Ensemble
The Chorale

Matthew 2:7-12

"Star of the East"
The Star Carol

Amanda Kennedy
Alfred Burt

The Light of the World

Brass and Bell Choirs
The Chorale

John 1:1-5, 14, 16

"How Great Our Joy"
"Break forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"

arr. Bill Ingram
J. S. Bach

HYMN #40 (Hymnal)*

"Joy to the World!"

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE

"The Herald Angels Sing"

Felix Mendelssohn
Brass Choir

***ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND**

Visitors! We hope 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. 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.

Hearing devices are now available for your convenience in the narthex. The ushers can assist you.

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.

Head Usher is Barbara Hannon.

Coffee Hour is hosted by the Michaud family.

After Church Greeters are Nancy Ellis and Jane Hovland.

Special Thanks to the Following:

- Barbara Santoro and Leah Moy for the beautiful Christmas displays in the Narthex glass cases.
- Mark Kelly, Debbie and Ed Konrad, Art Ryba, Linda and Rick Scott and Paul Venanzi for setting up the outdoor Crèche.
- Betty Borgeson, Cyndi Girardet, Norma Keller, Andy Moutenot, Barbara Sears and Joan & Dale Smith for decorating the Sanctuary. Ginny Swanagan for the Advent wreath.

Friends, as we prepare for worship in this festive season, please be mindful of our neighbors in the pews who are allergic to strong scents and perfumes. We want everyone to be comfortable and healthy as we worship the Lord together! Thanks very much for your thoughtfulness.

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; Joan Brown; Martha Davis; John Henzler; Helen Myer; Russ Richardson; Dorothy Swec; Anna Wahler; Lindsey Warne and Mildred Watts.

Family and Friends of Church Members for whom prayers are asked: Barbara Danser's mother, Evelyn Walton; friend of the church, Barbara Darwin's daughter, Cindy; Gail Geijer's son, Dan; Ken Gordon and family due to the death of his brother, Bob; Jane Huff's grandson, James Huff-Miller; Joanne Hughes' parents, Cornelius and Bella Tanis; Linda Ill's mother, Carol Scarpone; Carolyn Lee's husband, John; Kathy Mitchell's mother, Marjorie Stewart and friends, Logan and Leslie Wyers; CPNS teacher Sheila Morrissey's sister, Tricia; friend of the church Sharon Ramkishun's sister-in-law, Michelle and niece, Kaitlyn; Arthur and Gloria-Jean Ryba's brother-in-law, Arthur Sanford; and Dave Stewart's mother, Carolyn Stewart.

We pray for all the people who are in need in our wider community and please remember 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!

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

~~ CHOIRS ~~

The Bell Choir Patricia Bohrs, Director

Carolyn Barlow, Jenni Collins, Lil Conley, Peg Hagerty, Debbie Konrad, Ann Olsson, Paddi Rodgers, Pat Scott, Mary Ellen Szczepanik, Michele Till, Robin Toplin, Cathy Vogen, Becky Young and Ina Zimmer.

The Brass Choir Patricia Bohrs, Director

Bob Briggs, Monty Hagerty, Chris LeBrun, Dave Stewart, Luke Sickie, Roger Suttmeier and Ed Szczepanik.

The Cherub Choir Laurie Davis, Director

Hannah Anuszweski, Brierly Barber, Sebastian Bollentin, Christina Franke, Ryan Franke, Danielle Franke, Shawn Kohn,

Ethan Kohn, Gretchen Kohn, Hope Meizenis, Luke Pease, Evan Pease, Gustavo Rodriguez, and Graciela Rodriguez

Children's Choir Laurie Davis, Director

Emily Ellsworth, Christina Franke, Taylor Panconi, Mia Pettway and Lillian Santoro

The Chorale Donovan Klotzbeacher, Director

Richard Craig, Martha Donovan, Jean Dunham, Jean Dvorak, Mark Hughes, Rebecca Huselid, Carol Kane, Dorothy Klotzbeacher, Beatrice Mabutho, Mary Speer, Ross Trube, Carol Vandercher, Larry White and Becky Grykien-Young.

The Youth Ensemble Patricia Bohrs, Director

Jenna Cody, Abby Gordon, Andrew Kasper, Alicia Kasper, Hunter Miller, Taylor Miller, Ian Stewart, and Alexander Vogen. Flute and Tambourine, Jenna Cody; Keyboard, Roger Suttmeier; Sleighbells, Alexander Vogen

~~ ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE ~~

Sunday, December 18, 2011 - The Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10:10 a.m. Sunday School Sing-Along

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Annual Christmas Luncheon following worship

Saturday, December 24, 2011 - Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Service of Bells for children of all ages

8:00 p.m. Family Service

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service

(No childcare available during the above services)

Sunday, December 25, 2011 - Christmas Day

No Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Christmas Worship Service (No childcare available)

Christmas Joy Offering

~~ ADULT EDUCATION ~~

This morning we began the second week in the study on Messianic Prophecy in the Bible ("Recognizing the Incarnation – Messianic Prophecy in the New Testament") led by Dr. Gretchen Hull. In this special Christmas study, we are learning about what was written in the Bible about the Messiah. Last week the topic was "Anticipating the Incarnation – Messianic Prophecy in the Old Testament".

There will be a class on December 18. Please mark your calendars – we will meet at 9:15 in Room 1. On December 18, we will study "Messianic Prophecy in the Bible - the Second Coming".

If you are dropping your kids off for Sunday School, don't drive all the way home and then come back to pick them up. Join the study in Room 1 – What an example you will be setting for your kids!

~~ CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ~~

Family Fun Day! Kids! Parents! Mark your calendars! Monday, January 16, Martin Luther King Day from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in Fellowship Hall.

~~ CPNS ~~

On Monday evening our CPNS Board members will be hosting our Annual CPNS Christmas Party for our teachers. At this time, we also celebrate significant milestones at CPNS. This year we are celebrating Debbie Petro and her 15 years with CPNS. We are so blessed with our teaching staff and the dedication and love they share with our children year after year.

We are having our third parent discussion group of the year on Wednesday, December 14 at 9:00. The topic will be "Parenting Challenges". Feel free to join us for this informative and valuable discussion regarding issues we deal with every day. I'm sure you have had challenges, large or small; so please come share them with us, along with any solutions and suggestions for all.

As you begin to research your options for a preschool for your child, please consider CPNS. Please call Janice Parker at 609/655-8663 or email her at CPNSchool@comcast.net for more information. Don't forget to tell your friends and neighbors about our developmentally appropriate academic Christian preschool. We don't want anyone to miss the opportunity to give their children the best and strongest foundation for their child's academic success.

~~ MISSION, SERVICE & GRANTS ~~

Snippets from the Year Book of Prayer: Since our church for many years has taken such a great interest in Guatemala, it seems appropriate to inform ourselves about the work the National Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Guatemala is doing in reaching out to the Q'eqchi' ethnic group, whose members are among the most neglected in the country. It was a sad revelation to realize how much the people lacked. Family resources were scarce, and food and clothes were needed. The children made their own toy cars using plastic soda bottles with bottle caps as tires. The children's inventiveness was not limited because of the unfair distribution of resources under which they lived. And from that inventiveness, we, too, can draw a lesson: it doesn't matter whether we have a lot or a little; God gives us the inventiveness to do many things for his glory.

JEWELRY JUMBLE - PART 2: The Mission, Service & Grants Committee is bringing back our "Jewelry Jumble" by popular demand, with a limited run of two Sundays today, December - December 11 and December 18.

We will continue selling the jewelry which had been donated to the Mission Fair, and you'll find us in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour today, December 11. We will also be in the Library selling jewelry during the December 18 Christmas Luncheon.

So if you need some last minute Christmas gifts or want to put together another "add-a-link" bracelet, check out our Jewelry Jumble Part 2! All sales will continue to go to the Good Shepherd Hospital in the Congo.

~~ OTHER NEWS~~

Gift Idea: Did you know that our Organist and Music Director, Donovan Klotzbecher, has published a book of 75 choral responses called "Time for Worship"? The cover of the book features a picture of our church steeple. It's available at amazon.com. Just search by his last name and you'll find it!

If you are acquainted with choir members or musicians from other churches, this would make an excellent Christmas gift and help promote the awareness of his music across various church denominations. Donovan has also written many anthems and several cantatas. He is thinking about publishing a book of anthems in the near future.

~~ OUTREACH~~

Dinner for 8: Beginning in January the Outreach Committee will offer a new opportunity to bring people together for fellowship and fun. Members of the church are invited to deepen and strengthen their ties with one another through conversation and through a meal. Young and old, singles and couples may sign up because the intent is to get to know people across age and interests. The host and/or hostess will invite six other people and provide the home, entrée and beverage. The other three couples will provide hors d'oeuvres, salad and dessert. Sign-ups began in Fellowship Hall on November 21 during the directory photo sessions and you can also sign-up on Sunday mornings at Coffee Hour. If you would like to host a dinner please note on the sign-up sheet. Your hostess will contact you after New Years for a dinner date in January.

~~ SENIOR BREAKFAST CLUB~~

Please join us on **Thursday, December 15 at 8:30 a.m.** at the Cranbury Inn when Pastor Lou Mitchell will present a Christmas Feature. If you wish to attend, and have not done so before, please notify the church office at 609-395-0897 so that we can contact you. We need to notify the Cranbury Inn with a head count of the guests that wish to attend.

~~ SENIOR FELLOWSHIP ~~

Senior Exercise Schedule -December 12, December 15

~~ STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE ~~

Thinking of tax efficient ways for year-end giving? Consider the following:

1. Transfer securities, in-kind, to the Church and avoid paying a capital gains tax that could arise from liquidating securities. Suitable for individual stocks, bonds or shares of mutual funds;
2. Consider directing any of your IRA distributions directly to the Church and avoid including the amount of the distribution as taxable income.

Please discuss either of these suggestions with your tax advisor to confirm eligibility to benefit from any tax savings. See Ken Gordon for broker transfer information.

Counting Teams: 12/11 (Team #4) - 12/18 (Team #1)

~~ WORSHIP ~~

Please note: There will be no childcare available on Saturday, December 24 during our Christmas Eve Services and on Sunday, December 25.

Ushers wanted! Would you like to help usher one of our Christmas Eve Services, 5:00 p.m. Children's Service, 8:00 p.m. Family Service or the 11:00 p.m. Communion Candlelight Service on December 24. If so, the sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex or you can contact Caren Anuszewski, Ushers Guild Coordinator at 609-587-8883 or email her at ccrabbe91@verizon.net.

~~ YOUTH MINISTRY ~~

Activities for Youth Group

- Dec. 11 5:30-7 p.m. Youth Group **Christmas Cookie Baking** in the Kitchen
- Dec. 18 (Christmas Joy Offering) 10:10 a.m. Carol Sing-Along in the Sanctuary, 11:30 a.m. Annual Christmas Luncheon, 2:30-4:00 p.m. Service Project: **Caroling at The Elms and on Main Street-** Meet at The Elms, then we'll walk back to church for cocoa and cookies.
- Dec. 24 (Saturday) **Christmas Eve worship services** at 5 p.m., 8 p.m. and 11 p.m.
- Dec. 25 **Merry Christmas!** Worship at 10:30 a.m., No Sunday School, No Youth Group

~~ CALENDAR ~~

December 11, 2011 - December 18, 2011

Sunday 11	(3rd Sunday of Advent) 9:15a Christian Education for all ages (Classrooms/Lib./FH/McKnight Rm) 10:30a Lessons and Carols followed by coffee hour and Jewelry Jumble 4:00p-5:00p Cranbury Scout Band Practice - upstairs classroom 5:30p-7:00p Youth Group Christmas cookie Baking - FH/Kit No Cranbury Men's Bible Study
Monday 12	8:30a-11:30a CPNS- Kit 10:00a Senior Exercise 7:30p Congregational Life Meeting-FH 7:30p CPNS Board Meeting - Library 7:30p Brass Choir 8:00p Al-Anon-McK Rm
Tuesday 13	8:30a-11:30a CPNS- Kit 9:00a Bulletin Material Due 9:30a- 12 noon Women's Bible Study-Bell Choir Rm 11:00a Staff Mtg.-Church Office 7:30p MS&G Meeting-Lib. 7:30p Youth Ministry Committee Meeting-Church Office 7:30p Stewardship & Finance-Church Office 7:30p Deacons - FH 7:30p Youth Instrumental Ensemble 7:30p AA - McKnight Room
Wednesday 14	8:30a-11:30a CPNS- Kit 9:00a Skee't's Food Pantry Packing 6:30p-9:30p Boy Scout District Holiday Mtg-FH/Kit 7:30p Bell Choir
Thursday 15	8:30a Senior Breakfast at the Cranbury Inn 8:30a-11:30a CPNS- Kit 9:00a Session Material Due 10:00a Senior Exercise 12 noon - Staff Christmas Luncheon 4:15p-4:45p Cherub Choir -Sanctuary 4:45p-5:30p Children's Choir-Sanctuary 7:00p Boy Scout Leader Meeting-McK Room (GC) 7:30p The Chorale - Choir Room
Friday 16	8:30-11:00a Skee't's Food Pantry Distribution 9:00a Bulletin Assembly-Church Office 7:30p AA - McKnight Room
Saturday 17	10:00a Poinsettia set-up - Sanctuary
Sunday 18	(4th Sunday of Advent) 9:15a Christian Education for all ages(Classrooms/Lib./FH/McKnight Rm) 9:15a Adult Education - Room 1 10:10a Sing-Along - Sanctuary 10:30a Worship followed by Annual Christmas Luncheon 11:30a Jewelry Jumble - Library 2:30p-4:00p Youth Group Caroling 4:00p Boy Scout Court of Honor(Jost)FH 4:00p-5:00p Cranbury Scout Band Practice-upstairs classroom

	7:00p Boy Scouts (GC) - FH No Cranbury Men's Bible Study
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