

**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, 2011 - 8:00 P.M.**

THE GATHERING

SILENT MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Eine kleine nachtmusik

W. A. Mozart
Organ

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Peter Miller

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light!

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.

And his name is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

People of God, let us worship Christ, the light of the world.

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”

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Gretchen Stults
Pew Bible pg. 690

ANTHEM

“Celtic Noel”
(Flutist, Jenna Cody)

Arr. Sandra Tucker
Bell Choir

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 2: 1-20

Pew Bible pg. 58

CAROL #60

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

SERMON

“A Light Shining in Darkness”

The Rev. Rosanna Anderson

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:

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)

(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.

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.

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

“Casabel”

Arr. Susan Nelson

(Percussion, Jenna Cody and Alex Vogen)

Bell Choir

Hymn #592 (Hymnal)*

“Doxology”

Prayer of Dedication*

Mr. Miller

CLOSING CAROL #40*

“Joy to the World!”

BENEDICTION*

Rev. Anderson

RESPONSE*

“Silent Night”

Franz Gruber

Bell Choir

POSTLUDE*

“In peace and joy I now depart”

Dietrich Buxtehude

Organ

***ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND**

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CRANBURY, NEW JERSEY
Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2011 - 11:00 p.m.**

THE GATHERING

SILENT MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”

J. S. Bach
Guitar, Dan Trent

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Dr. Louis Mitchell

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light!

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.

And his name is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

People of God, let us worship Christ, the light of the world.

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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 #40

“Joy to the World!”

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Carol Carlson
Pew Bible pg. 690

SPECIAL MUSIC

“What child is this?”
(Greensleeves)

English, trad.
Guitar, Dan Trent

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 2: 1-20

Pew Bible pg. 58

SERMON

“A Light Shining in Darkness”

The Rev. Rosanna Anderson

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

Bouree

J. S. Bach
Guitar, Dan Trent

Hymn #592 (Hymnal)*

“Doxology”

Prayer of Dedication*

Dr. Mitchell

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 (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.

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*

"In peace and joy I now depart"

Dietrich Buxtehude
Organ

ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND*

Ushering for the 8:00 p.m. service are Helen Dickerson, Joan Fraser, David Geijer, Bob Kane, Marie Perrine and Stan Stults *and* for the 11:00 p.m. service are Dorothy Klotzbeacher, Arthur & Gloria Jean Ryba, Pat Scott and Jeff & Diane Yeager.

Communion Servers for the 11:00 p.m. service are Janet Furchak, Diane Smith and George & Audrey Smith. Thanks to Renee Welch for preparing the communion.

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 25 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!*

Sunday, January 1, 2012

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

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

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

Church Office Closed: 12/26 and 1/2
Office Hours from 12/27 to 12/30 will be 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Cranbury Presbyterian Nursery School: (609) 655-8663
CPNS Closed: 12/23 through 1/2