

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
Christmas Joy Offering/2nd Sunday of Advent
December 9, 2012 10:30 A.M.

THE APPROACH

PRELUDE *Te Deum Prelude* Marc-Antoine Charpentier
Organ

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.)

INTROIT *“Give Ear, O Shepherd of Israel”* Donovan Klotzbeacher
(Ps. 80: 1) The Chorale

CALL TO WORSHIP 5th and 6th Grade Sunday School Class
Blessed is the Lord God!
The Lord has looked favorably upon us and redeemed us.
By the tender mercy of our God
the dawn from on high will break upon us.
Light will be given to those who sit in darkness,
to those who sit in the shadow of death.
The light will come to us
to guide our feet into the way of peace.

HYMN #22 (Hymnal)* *“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)* Dr. Louis Mitchell
Holy God Most High, we confess that our feet have wandered from the way of peace into aimless detours and crooked diversions. We need the cleansing and refining that you alone can graciously give if ever we are to be made pure and blameless. Forgive our foolish sins and faithless deeds. Let your tender mercies dawn upon us, that we may seek you and serve you without fear. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON*
HYMN #579 (Hymnal)* *“Gloria Patri”*
THE PEACE* ✚

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

Fritz and Mary Jane Hager

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

Isaiah 7: 10-17

Alicia Kasper
Pew Bible pg. 636

ANTHEM

*“Wake, awake, for night is flying”
(Matt. 25: 1-13)*

Philipp Nicolai, arr. D. Klotzbeacher
The Chorale

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1: 18-25

Pew Bible pg. 1

SERMON

“Angels and Hard Calls”

Dr. Stephen Crocco

THE RESPONSE

HYMN #28 (Hymnal)*

“*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*”

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Brett Butler

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 GIVING OF OUR OFFERINGS AND CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERINGS

Offertory

Cromhorne en Taille

Jean Adam Guilain

Organ

Hymn #592 (Hymnal)*

“*Doxology*”

Prayer of Dedication*

Dr. Mitchell

HYMN #49 (Hymnal)*

“*Once in Royal David’s City*”

BENEDICTION*

RESPONSE*

Fourfold Amen in G

Donovan Klotzbeacher

The Chorale

POSTLUDE

Postlude on “Picardy”

Donovan Klotzbeacher

Organ

***ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND**

**“I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”**

Thomas E. Graham

February 16, 1922 – December 4, 2012

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 or if you would like to be contacted by the Outreach Committee please provide us with your address and/or email address in the red "friendship pad".

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.

Friends, as we prepare for worship, 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.

We thank those who are serving today in these ways:

Flowers in the chancel today are given by Beverly and Craig Gilbert in loving memory of their daughter, Cynthia

Coffee Hour is hosted by the 3rd and 4th Grade Sunday School Class.

Greeters are Earl Davison and Barbara Hannon.

Head Usher is Karen Moser.

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 (609)395-0897.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Church members with special needs: Marge Bloom; Everett Campbell; the Cassidy family; Martha Davis; Marlene French; Bill Keller; Claire Maselli; Rebecca Pelto; Rev. Joanne Petto; Russ Richardson and Dorothy Swec.

Family and Friends of Church Members for whom prayers are asked: Barbara Danser's mother, Evelyn Walton; Martha Donovan and family due to the death of her mother; Arlene Duran's daughters, Catherine Lepp and Jennifer Tuffy; Gail Geijer's son, Dan; Thomas Graham's family and friends due to his death; 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; church treasurer, Art Pellichero; friend of the church Sharon Ramkishun's niece, Kaitlyn; Carlene Reyes' friend, Will; Gretchen Stults' granddaughter, Jodi Mallette and family; and Loida Wilson's friend, Colleen Cahill Brunskill.

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: Carol Sprout on December 13. **Happy Birthday!**

~ CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ~

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

The Bible and Handel's Messiah - Gaylord French will continue this class at 9:15 a.m. in the library. It will continue through the month of December. All are welcome - from those who have graduated from high school up until 100! Don't worry if you have to miss one week—join us any other Sunday—this will be a great experience for all participants.

~ CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING ~

Please give generously today to the Christmas Joy Offering. Consider doing so in honor or memory of your favorite pastor. Half of the funds go to provide assistance with housing, medical and dental needs of retired Presbyterian clergy. The other half will help deserving minority college students gain educations so they can take their place in the work force. If you forgot today, bring your coin bank or checkbook next week and it will happily be accepted! Thank you.

~ CPNS ~

This week our CPNS children will sing Christmas carols during the Senior Christmas luncheon on Tuesday, December 11. The children enjoy singing these Christmas songs and hopefully will add a little Christmas spirit to their lunch. Our 2 1/2-year-old classes will be getting ready for Christmas by making cookies with their families. What a great time everyone has, and the building is filled with the smells of delicious cookies; stop by and smell it for yourself. We will be baking on Monday and Thursday.

We hope everyone has a joyous Advent season filled with hope, love, joy and peace. Our hope is that we carry the Christmas feeling in our hearts wherever we go.

On Wednesday, December 12, we will have our 2nd Parent Discussion group of the year. We will continue our discussion on the book "Mind in the Making" by Ellen Galinsky. Our discussion will focus on Chapter 2, Perspective Taking and Chapter 3, Communicating. We will talk about both these topics in the lives of our children as well as our own lives.

We have decided to change the date of registration beginning with our 2013-2014 registration process. The new dates are as follows:

- Our existing students will register on January 14, 2013.
- Our sibling, sibling of alumni, and church members will begin registration on January 22, 2013.
- The general public registration will begin on February 1, 2013.

More information will be sent out as we get closer to the date.

As you 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 ~~

Shop for Handbags & Jewelry on December 9! There will be one more chance for everyone to shop for the holidays at our "Jewelry & Handbag Jumble" - December 9 in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour after the Sunday worship service.

Don't miss this last chance to pick up a bargain for yourself or a gift for someone on your Christmas list. The Mission, Service & Grants Committee still has a few special items from our Mission Fair, and we're giving really great deals!

And, of course, ALL proceeds go to the Good Shepherd Hospital in the Congo. So have some more shopping fun on December 9 and do a really good deed, as well.

Snippets from the Year Book of Prayer: Today is the special time for receiving the Christmas Joy Offering. Karl Barth, the theologian said that "joy is the simplest form of gratitude." And we think of the joy expressed by both Elizabeth and Mary when they met—both unexpectedly pregnant, both joyful at the prospect of giving birth to a child, each child destined to be special. Elizabeth's John was the fore-runner of Jesus, and Mary's Jesus was and is the healer, the redeemer, the savior. Today we can express our joy at these births and the blessings they brought through contributing to the Joy Offering which benefits the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and the racial ethnic schools and colleges. How grateful we are to the servants of God who have kept His word alive and allowed us to be a part of Christ's Church! Let us share our joy by sharing our material possessions.

Skeet's Pantry Receives Food Donations - Wynwood Forsgate, a Brookdale Senior Living facility in Monroe, is collecting food for Skeet's Pantry. They have donated food in the past and look forward to collecting food for Skeet's this holiday season. If you know folks at Wynwood Forsgate or live nearby, please spread the word that food donations are welcomed.

In Cranbury, there is a collection box at the Town Hall or food can be donated at Skeet's Pantry anytime. The following food items are always needed: tuna fish, peanut butter, rice, canned fruit and soups. Thank you for your support!

~~ SENIOR FELLOWSHIP ~~

Senior Exercise Schedule: December 10 and December 13 (See you in January!)

Senior Fellowship will celebrate Christmas with the **Annual Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, December 11 at 12(noon)** in Fellowship Hall.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL FROM SENIOR FELLOWSHIP. Many thanks to all the volunteers who make it possible for us to carry out this mission and especially to have this Christmas program.

~~ STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE ~~

Counting Teams: 12/9 (Team #4) and 12/16 (Team #1)

Stewardship Update: We continue to make progress on our Stewardship campaign. Currently, we have received pledges of about \$271,000, which is about 63% of what is necessary to maintain our current budget. Your support is very important to reach our goal and will help immensely in continuing to support the missions and ministries of our church in 2013. Please consider making a pledge commitment as soon as possible, if you have not done so already. Pledge cards are available in the pews in church or the Church office can mail you one.

~~ WORSHIP ~~

The Lay Reader Schedule for January to June 2013 is now on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up if you would like to be a Lay Reader.

Flower Openings available! There are flower openings for the following Sundays: January 13, January 20 and January 27. Please contact Diane Smith at d1stargazer@verizon.net or 609-890-0822 if you are interested.

~~ YOUTH MINISTRY ~~

Upcoming Events

- Sunday, December 16** **2:00 to 5:00 pm** - Junior and Senior High caroling at the Elms. Meet at church parking lot.
- Sunday, December 23** **5:00 p.m. - 6:30p.m.** Jr. and Sr. High Youth Groups (Christmas Cookie Baking Party -FH/Kit)

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 9, 2012 - The Second Sunday of Advent

9:15 a.m. Christian Education for all ages
10:30 a.m. Worship Service (Christmas Joy Offering)

Sunday, December 16, 2012 - The Third Sunday of Advent

9:15 a.m. Christian Education for all ages
10:30 a.m. Lessons and Carols Worship Service followed by the Annual Christmas Luncheon

Sunday, December 23, 2012 - The Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:15 a.m. Christian Education for all ages
10:10 a.m. Sunday School Caroling
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Monday, December 24, 2012 - 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

Sunday, December 30, 2012

No Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service



~~ CALENDAR ~~

December 9, 2012 - December 16, 2012

Sunday 9	(2nd Sunday of Advent /Christmas Joy Offering) 9:15a Christian Education for all ages (Classrooms/Lib./FH/McKnight Rm) 10:30a Worship followed by coffee hour 11:30a Brief meeting with officers elect - Lib. 4:00p-5:00p Cranbury Scout Band Practice - upstairs classroom 7:30p-9p Cranbury Men's Bible Study at the Inn
Monday 10	9:00a - 11:00a CPNS - Kit (Mrs. K) 9:30a-11:30a Women's Bible Study - Room 10 10:00a Senior Exercise 2:00p-4:00p Sr. Fellowship - KIT 7:30p Brass Choir 7:30p Congregational Life Meeting-Library 8:00p Al-Anon-McK Rm
Tuesday 11	8:00a-4:00p Sr. Fellowship Program - FH/KIT/VAN 9:00a Bulletin Material Due 11:00a Staff Mtg.-Church Office 7:30p Youth Ministry Committee Meeting-Church Office 7:30p Stewardship & Finance-Church Office 7:30p AA - McKnight Room
Wednesday 12	9:00a Session Material Due 9:15a-11:15a CPNS Parent Discussion Group - Music/Power of Play Room 6:00p CPNS - Library 6:30p Set-up for Boy Scouts - Mercer Area District Holiday Meeting-FH/Kit 7:00p-9:30p Boy Scouts - Mercer Area District Holiday Mtg-FH/Kit 7:30p Bell Choir
Thursday 13	9:00a - 11:00a CPNS - Kit (Mrs. K) 10:00a Senior Exercise 11:00a Skeet's Food Pantry Packing-FH 4:15p-4:45p Cherub Choir -Sanctuary 4:45p-5:30p Young Worship Choir-Sanctuary 7:30p P&A Meeting-church office (upstairs) 7:30p The Chorale - Sanctuary
Friday 14	8:30-11:00a Skeet's Food Pantry Distribution 9:00a Bulletin Assembly-Church Office 8:00p-9:00p Promises - 12 Steps - McKnight Room
Saturday 15	10:00a Congregational Life set-up for Christmas Luncheon - Kitchen
Sunday 16	(3rd Sunday of Advent) 9:15a Christian Education for all ages (Classrooms/Lib./FH/McKnight Rm) 10:30a Lessons and Carols followed by the Christmas Luncheon 2:00 to 5:00 pm-Junior and Senior High caroling at the Elms-meet at church parking lot. 4:00p-5:00p Cranbury Scout Band Practice - upstairs classroom 7:30p-9p Cranbury Men's Bible Study at the Inn