

**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, 2012 - 8:00 P.M.**

THE GATHERING

SILENT MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Two Noels

Louis-Claude d'Acquin
Organ

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.

CAROL #41*

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)*

Dr. Stephen Crocco

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	<i>“Angels We Have Heard on High”</i>	
SCRIPTURE	Luke 1: 26-38	Gretchen Stults Pew Bible pgs. 56-57
ANTHEM	<i>“The happy Christmas comes once more”</i>	Danish, arr. Balle-Klotzbeacher The Chorale
SCRIPTURE	Luke 2: 1-20	Pew Bible pg. 58
CAROL #60	<i>“Silent Night, Holy Night”</i>	
SERMON	<i>“Christmas Possibilities”</i>	Dr. Mitchell

THE RESPONSE

CAROL #31* *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

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:

Dr. Crocco

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 for Hurricane Sandy relief efforts.)

Offertory

"From heaven above to earth I come"

Johann Pachelbel

(Vom Himmel Hoch)

Organ

Hymn #592 (Hymnal)*

"Doxology"

Prayer of Dedication*

Dr. Crocco

CAROL #40*

"Joy to the World!"

BENEDICTION*

Dr. Mitchell

POSTLUDE*

Magnificat

Jean Francois D'andrieu

Organ

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PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CAROL #40

“Joy to the World!”

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1: 26-38

Janet Furchak
Pew Bible pgs. 56-57

ANTHEM

“Some children see him...”

Alfred Burt
Caitlin McCarville, vocalist

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2: 1-20

Pew Bible pg. 58

SERMON

“Christmas Possibilities”

Dr. Louis Mitchell

THE RESPONSE

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(Vom Himmel Hoch)

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Prayer of Dedication*

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CAROL #44*

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

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.

CAROL #25* *"Away in a Manger"*

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.

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*

Magnificat

Jean Francois D'andrieu
Organ

ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND*

Ushering for the 8:00 p.m. service are Vicki Bain, David Geijer, John and Carol Sprout, Stan Stults and Craig Vandenberg *and* for the 11:00 p.m. service are Earl and Bea Davison, Stan Dickerson and Art and Gloria-Jean (McKenrick) Ryba.

Communion Servers for the 11:00 p.m. service are Audrey and George Smith, Diane Smith and Chris Welch. Thanks to Chris, Renee, Celeste and Maggie 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 30 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, December 30, 2012

10:30 a.m. Worship Service followed by coffee hour
No Christian Education Classes, No Youth Group

Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Louis Mitchell
Interim Associate Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Stephen Crocco
Seminary Intern	Mr. Brett Butler
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: 12/24, 12/25, 12/26, 12/31 and 1/1/2013
Office Hours from 12/27 and 12/28 will be 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

Cranbury Presbyterian Nursery School: (609) 655-8663
CPNS Closed: 12/21 through 1/1/2013