

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 7:14

Pew Bible pg. 636

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the virgin is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.”

CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

Leader: Christians around the world begin today to await the arrival of Christ. We join with a joyful and hopeful throng in lighting Advent candles, symbols of faith and signs of God’s love.

People: We gather as a people of hope.

Leader: Christian people around the world stand today in anticipation, as we look forward to celebrating the miracle of Christ’s birth, the good news that astounds us anew each year.

People: Our hope springs anew from God’s beautiful vision.

Leader: As we light the first Advent candle, let it stand for hope, based not on wishful thinking, but on deep conviction. We believe, we have seen, we have perceived God’s promised Son and his great gift. Therefore, in the midst of darkness and imperfection, we hope.

People: We gather expectantly, joyfully, and with deep commitment, for we trust that the promised One will return again. God is among us, and soon we will see a new creation on earth. We thank God for making us a people of hope.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

*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!*

SCRIPTURE

Revelation 1: 12-20

Peter Miller
Pew Bible pg. 245

ANTHEM

“Advent Tidings”

arr. Michael Akers
Bell Choir

SCRIPTURE

Revelation 5: 1-14

Pew Bible pg. 248

SERMON

“The Lion and the Lamb”

Dr. Louis Mitchell

THE RESPONSE

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

“And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed”

Geo F. Handel

(Messiah)

The Chorale

Hymn #592 (Hymnal)*

“Doxology”

Prayer of Dedication*

Mr. Butler

HYMN #20 (Hymnal)*

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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

We will eat the bread individually when served. We will hold the cup until all have been served and then partake together. All baptized Christians, whatever your denomination or tradition, are invited to share with us in this holy sacrament.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

HYMN #49 (Hymnal)* *"Once in Royal David's City"*

RESPONSE* *"Amen"* Danish
Bell Choir

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE* *Basse et Dessus de Trompette* Jean-François Dandrieu
Organ

***ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND**

A Congregational Meeting
has been called by the session immediately
following today's Worship Service for the sole purpose of electing church officers.

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.

Gluten free bread is available and will be in a small cup or area in the center of the bread trays which are passed throughout the aisles.

We thank those who are serving today in these ways:

Communion Servers are Rosellyn Cassidy, George Conley, Bea and Earl Davison, Joan Fraser, John Kirkenir, Heidi Knowlton and John Sprout

Coffee Hour is hosted by Dee and Barbara Wahlers.

Greeters are Earl Davison and Heidi Knowlton.

Head Ushers are Caren Anuszewski and Mike Kasper.

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 call the church office at (609) 395-0897.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Church members with special needs: Marge Bloom; Liz Callaway; Everett Campbell; Rose Eller; Cyndi Girardet; Bill Keller; Claire Maselli; Russ Richardson; Art Ryba; Mark Sasso; and Agnes Winchell.

Family and Friends of Church Members for whom prayers are asked: Rosellyn Cassidy's father, Jim Savasta; Barbara Danser's mother, Evelyn Walton; Martha Donovan's friend, The Rev. Dusty K. Fiedler; Judy Duke's mother, Ruth Biesecker; Jean Dunham's son, Jay and family; Arlene Duran's daughter, Catherine Lepp; Ken and Dina Ellsworth's son, Will; Gail Geijer's son, Dan; Jane Huff's grandson, James Huff-Miller; Joanne Hughes' parents, Cornelius and Bella Tanis; Mark Hughes' grandmother, Olga Zelder and great uncle, Peter Ewaskiw; Linda Ill's mother, Carol Scarpone; Carolyn Lee's husband, John; Kathy Mitchell's friends, the Tracy LaMana family, and Doug and Jean Lovejoy; Beatrice Mabutho's sister, Phyllis and brother-in-law Joseph, family member, Harriet George and friend, Allarv Hollis Lewis; Cranbury Librarian, Jan Murphy's husband, Rian; Fran Stewart's father, Eugene Feeney; Gretchen Stults' granddaughter, Jodi Mallette and family; Cathy Vogen's husband, Mike; and Doris Wiegartner's son, Brian.

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!

Come Celebrate The Birth Of Christ With Us!

Sunday, December 8, 2013 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

9:15 a.m. Christian Education for all ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service followed by the Annual Christmas Luncheon

11:00 a.m. Meadow Lakes Worship Service

Sunday, December 15, 2013 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

9:15 a.m. Christian Education for all ages

10:30 a.m. Lessons and Carols Worship Service

11:00 a.m. Meadow Lakes Worship Service

Sunday, December 22, 2013 – 4th 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

11:00 a.m. Meadow Lakes Worship Service

Tuesday, December 24, 2013 - Christmas Eve

Christmas Joy Offering

4:00 p.m. Meadow Lakes Lessons & Carols Vesper Service

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 29, 2013

No Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

11:00 a.m. Meadow Lakes Worship Service

~ CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ~

Adult Education: On December 8, Dr. Gaylord French will once again start our Christmas Season with a class on "Nativity Songs from the Gospel of Luke." Listen to the Word and learn more about the music that we all associate with the celebration of coming of the birth of Christ. Join us in the library at 9:15 a.m. next Sunday.

~ CPNS ~

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and had time to spend with friends and family. This week, we will begin collecting for our Pennies for Presents. This year, the funds will purchase gifts for St. Peter's Children's Foundation. We want to thank the Malouf family from CPNS for coordinating the program and for bringing the gifts to the hospital on Christmas Eve.

You may also see more smiles than usual if you are in our building on Wednesday and Thursday, it's picture day!

Registration for the school year 2014-2015 will begin in January. Please let your friends and neighbors know about our school and encourage them to contact us. It's never too late to join our CPNS family. If you are not currently a CPNS student or are attending kindergarten for a half day program you are also welcome to participate in any of the enrichment classes that fit into your schedule. Many of our CPNS students are already registered, but if you haven't registered your child or want to add more enrichment classes, we still have openings, it's not too late. We also have a few openings in our regular classes as well. Details can be found on our website, www.cranburypres.org or please call Janice at 609 655-8663.

~~ DEACONS ~~

Thanksgiving Baskets: 115 families received their baskets on Saturday, November 23. Each basket was full of canned goods, pastas and soups along with a large bag of fruits and vegetables. As they passed the kitchen, everyone got fresh bread, bagels and eggs. On the way out they received their turkey.

Many many thanks and appreciation to all those who have worked so hard on getting the Thanksgiving baskets together. Special thanks to Jean Dunham for her clerical work and to Stan and Helen Dickerson for all their running around!

Thanksgiving Chairs: Andy and Flo Kremann and Jean Dunham

~~ MISSION, SERVICE & GRANTS ~~

On **Sunday, December 8** following worship there will be a retiring offering to support **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance enables congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic events. This collection will be equally split between helping the people in the Philippines who were devastated by typhoon Haiyan and the people who lost so much during the recent tornadoes in the Midwest. This is a wonderful opportunity for you and your family to support the efforts of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance here at home and abroad. Cash and checks made out to the First Presbyterian Church will be greatly appreciated.

Snippets from The Year Book of Prayer: The first Sunday of Advent and also World AIDS Day--seemingly poles apart and yet tied together by the season itself and actions that have sprung from the season. For instance, the Presbyterian Community of Congo (CPC) is addressing the needs of children orphaned by HIV and AIDS in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. UNICEF estimates that as of 2009 more than 16 million children under 18 have lost one or both of their parents to AIDS, Ninety three percent of these orphans live in sub-Saharan Africa. Despite these overwhelming statistics, significant progress is being made. Trained volunteers from the Action Presbyterienne Contre la SIDA, the AIDS program of the CPC, work to address the needs of these orphans. Many of the local communities have charity committees responsible for visitation. They visit families who are caring for the orphans--sometimes family, sometimes not-- and encourage them and assess their physical and emotional well-being. Practical help is also given as food, clothing, money for school support are provided. The APCS has found that the most effective way of caring for an orphan is to encourage and support the whole family. When the family is healthy all the members thrive.

Skeet's Food Pantry is looking for small new gifts (for all ages) to be given out on December 13 with their monthly food distribution. Thank you.

~~ OTHER NEWS ~~

Thank you friends and congregation members, for all of the wonderful Get Well Cards and the very beautiful floral arrangements. Also, for the gluten-free chicken dinner. I am recovering as well as can be expected after my surgery on November 13 and my return home on November 16. My Love to all of you in God's Holy Name....Agnes Winchell

~~ SENIOR FELLOWSHIP ~~

Upcoming Event

Senior Fellowship will celebrate Christmas with the Annual Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, December 10 at 12(noon) in Fellowship Hall. Join us for a full luncheon, singing some of the old favorite Christmas songs and entertainment by the students of CPNS.

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.

HELP NEEDED: Senior Fellowship needs help to put away 7 round tables after our Christmas luncheon on Tuesday, December 10. This can be done any time after 3:30 p.m. Please contact the church office at 609-395-0897 if you can help us out with our clean up. We certainly would appreciate your help with these tables. Connie Bauder, Coordinator of Senior Fellowship

~~ STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE ~~

Counting Teams: 12/1 (Team #2) - 12/8 (Team #3)

Please note: If you haven't returned your 2014 pledge card and/or your time and talent sheets it isn't too late! Just drop them off in the church office or in the offering plate.

~~ WORSHIP ~~

Would you like to help usher one of the 3 beautiful services for this year's holiday season?

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES, DECEMBER 24, 2013

5:00 p.m. – Children's Service

8:00 p.m. – Family Service

11:00 p.m. – Communion Candlelight Service

The sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex or contact Caren Anuszewski, Ushers Guild Coordinator, at (609)587-8883 or ccrabbe91@optimum.net.

January is Open for Flowers: Flowers are needed for Sunday, January 5, 12, 19 and 26. Please contact Diane Smith at 609-890-0822 or email her at D1Stargazer@verizon.net.

Lay Readers Wanted: We are asking anyone who would like to be a Lay Reader to sign the schedule for January through June 2014, which is on the notice board in Fellowship Hall.

~~ CALENDAR ~~

December 1, 2013 – December 8, 2013

Sunday 1	(1st Sunday of Advent) 9:15a Celebration Sunday (Advent) 9:15a Christian Education for all ages 10:30a Worship with Communion followed by the Congregational Meeting to Elect Church Officers 11:00a Meadow Lakes Worship Service 4p-5p Cranbury Scout Band Practice 5:00p-7:30p Boy Scouts (GC) FH/KIT 7:30p-9p Cranbury Men's Bible Study
Monday 2	10:00a Senior Exercise 1:30p Martha's Circle – Lib. 7:30p Brass Choir 8:00p Al-Anon-McK Rm
Tuesday 3	9:00a Bulletin Material Due 9:30a Staff Mtg.-Church Office 1p Outreach Committee Meeting- Library 7:30p Christian Ed. Meeting-Lib. 7:30p MS&G Meeting-FH 7:30p AA – McKnight Room
Wed. 4	All Day CPNS Picture Day-McK Room 11:00a-4:00p Woman's Club Mtg.-FH 6:00p-8:00p Sr. High Youth Group-McK Rm 6:30p-7:30p Girl Scout Troop Mtg-Rm #10 7:30p Bell Choir
Thursday 5	All Day CPNS Picture Day-McK Room 10:00a Senior Exercise 2:30p-5:30p TASK (VAN) 4:15p-4:45p Cherub Choir -Sanctuary 4:45p-5:30p Children's Worship Choir-Sanctuary 7:00p Worship Meeting—Lib. 7:30p B&G Meeting-Lib. 7:30p The Chorale - Sanctuary
Friday 6	9:00a Bulletin Assembly-Church Office 10:00a Hanging of the Greens Prep - FH 5p Jr. High Retreat @ Johnsonburg (VAN) 8:00p-9:00p AA (Promises 12 Steps)McK Room
Saturday 7	9:30a Congregational Life set-up for Christmas Luncheon - FH Jr. High Retreat @ Johnsonburg – (VAN) Hanging of the greens - Sanctuary
Sunday 8	(2nd Sunday of Advent) 9:15a Christian Education for all ages 10:30a Worship followed by the Annual Christmas Luncheon 11:00a Meadow Lakes Worship Service 1p Jr. High Retreat returns from Camp Johnsonburg (VAN) 4p-5p Cranbury Scout Band Practice 6:00p-7:30p Jr. High Youth Group-McK Rm 6:15p Boys Scouts (GC)-FH/KIT 7:30p-9p Cranbury Men's Bible Study