

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 15, 2013 10:30 A.M.

The Prelude

Brass Choir

Christmas Fantasy

arr. Paul Clark

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 Prophecy

Bell Choir

Bethlehem Journey

arr. Linda Lamb

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Pease Family

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 (Hymnal)*

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

BIDDING PRAYER

Dr. Louis Mitchell

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.

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.

The Annunciation

The Chorale & Bell Choir

Luke 1: 26-33

"There is no rose of such virtue"
(A Ceremony of Carols)

Joan Fraser, Narrator

Benjamin Britten
arr. George Andrews

The Nativity of the Lord

Cherub Choir

Brass Choir

Luke 2: 1-7

“A little child”

“Away in a Manger”

arr. Laurie Davis

arr. Paul Clark

The Angels

Brass Choir

Luke 2: 8-14

“And the angels sing”

arr. Paul Clark

The Shepherds

The Chorale

Bell Choir

Luke 2: 15-20

Song of the Shepherds

“Come all ye shepherds”

Lloyd Larson

arr. Robert Wood

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

Children’s Worship Choir

Hymn #592 (Hymnal)*

Prayer of Dedication*

“Christmas Time”

“Doxology”

Bryan Adams

HYMN #53 (Hymnal)*

“What Child Is This”

The Magi

The Chorale

Matthew 2: 1-6

“Three kings famous throughout Arabia”

arr. Laurence Davies

The Star

Bell Choir

Children’s Worship Choir

Matthew 2: 7-12

“Star of the East”

“God gave us a family”

arr. Amanda Kennedy

Laurie Davis

The Light of the World

Brass and Bell Choirs

John 1: 1-5, 14, 16

Christmas Trilogy

Linker & McFadden

HYMN #40 (Hymnal)*

“Joy to the World!”

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE

Organ

“In dulci jubilo”

J. S. Bach

***ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND**

CPNS

We are all still busy getting ready for Christmas. This week, we will share the first Christmas story with the children in the sanctuary with the beautiful crèche that Harriet Perrine donated to the church many years ago. It's such a special story to share with the children and they are always so excited to hear it. We will also be having our Christmas Sing-A-Long in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, December 18 at 10:45 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. and on Thursday, December 19 at 10:45 a.m. Please feel free to join us in singing those old favorite Christmas songs and a few you may not know.

Are friends and relatives asking you for ideas of what to buy your child for Christmas? Are you still looking for that special gift for them yourself? There are some great gifts such as open ended toys that provide many hours of developmentally appropriate activities. Books are always wonderful as well. If you want to give them a gift that will last a lifetime, you might want to consider one of our CPNS enrichment classes. Registration forms can be found on our website. After you decided on one, and you need something to wrap up for under the tree, see me for an idea or two. I hope you will consider one of these programs, please let me know if you need help deciding, or if you have questions at any time.

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.

MISSION, SERVICE & GRANTS

Snippets from The Year Book of Prayer: All of us are, I trust, aware that our church has a primary mission interest in the Congo. In the Congo, much knowledge is learned orally. So, whenever anything important is said children will often punctuate the information with "Kupa moyo to!" (don't forget). In the Congo, as in most of the world, seeds from the harvest are saved to plant the next season. The children are taught by a visiting Presbyterian Hunger Program coordinator the imperatives of saving seeds. First, store the seeds where the animals won't get them – "don't forget". Second, if you have to leave in a hurry, grab the seeds – "don't forget!" The last instruction is heart wrenching. No child in this world of overproduction and overconsumption should have to go hungry in order to eat next season. During World Food Day which was October 16, but could be considered to be every day, we should all remember to "kupa moyo to" – "don't forget" - children throughout the world, including the United States, who do not have enough to eat. What are we doing to ensure that the vulnerable among us do not go hungry!

CHRISTMAS WREATHS ARE HERE! If you ordered a Christmas wreath, you can now stop by the Gordon's house **before 5:00p.m.** at 127 North Main Street (driveway off Barclay Street) and pick up your beautiful wreath. Please cross off your name from the list. Thank you for your support!

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Counting Teams: 12/15 (Team #4) - 12/22 (Team #1)

The Stewardship Committee wishes to thank everyone for their participation in the 2014 Stewardship Campaign. **Your 2014 Pledge Envelopes may be picked up in Fellowship Hall.**

Donating shares of stock is an easy and tax effective way to make gifts to the Church. The process involves providing a simple set of instructions to your broker so shares of stock are electronically transferred to our brokerage account. In-kind gifts avoid the costs and other consequences of selling stock with unrealized gains. The Church will benefit from the full value of the in-kind gift at the time of receipt. Please consult your tax advisor for additional information on this common tax management and gifting technique.

Download the Stock Transfer instructions from our Church website to learn how to take advantage of this way of gifting. If you have any questions, please contact Ken Gordon.

WORSHIP

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.

CALENDAR

December 15, 2013 – December 22, 2013

Sunday 15	(3rd Sunday of Advent) 9:15a Christian Education for all ages 10:30a Lessons and Carols followed by coffee hour 11:00a Meadow Lakes Worship Service 11:45a Library Committee Mtg-Library 2:30p Youth Caroling at the Elms 3:00p-7:30p Prep/Practice Singing (RT) McKnight Room 4p-5p Cranbury Scout Band Practice 7:30p-9p Cranbury Men's Bible Study at the Inn
Monday 16	9:00a All Bulletin Material Due from 12/22 through 12/29 7:30p Brass Choir 7:30p CPNS Board Meeting – Library 8:00p Al-Anon-McK Rm
Tuesday 17	9:30a Staff Mtg.-Church Office 7:30p Session Meeting - FH 7:30p AA – McKnight Room
Wednesday 18	9:00a CPNS set-up – FH/Kitchen 10:45a CPNS Christmas Program – FH/Kitchen/Library 2:15a CPNS Christmas Program – FH/Kitchen/Library 6:00p-8:00p Sr. High Youth Group-McK Rm 6:30p-7:30p Girl Scout Troop Meeting – Room #10 7:30p Bell Choir
Thursday 19	8:30a Senior Breakfast at the Cranbury Inn 10:45a CPNS Christmas Program – FH/Kitchen/Library 2:15a CPNS Christmas Program – FH/Kitchen/Library 4:15p-4:45p Cherub Choir -Sanctuary 4:45p-5:30p Children's Worship Choir-Sanctuary 6:00p-7:00p Cub Scouts-McK Rm (KE) 7:30p The Chorale - Sanctuary
Friday 20	CPNS Closed 9:00a Bulletin Assembly-Church Office 8:00p-9:00p AA (Promises 12 Steps)McK Room
Saturday 21	
Sunday 22	(4th Sunday of Advent) 9:15a Christian Education for all ages 10:10a Sunday School Caroling 10:30a Worship followed by coffee hour 11:00a Meadow Lakes Worship Service 4p-5p Cranbury Scout Band Practice 6p-7:30p Youth Group - FH