

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2013 10:30 A.M.

THE APPROACH

PRELUDE

“Vom Himmel Hoch”
(From heaven above to earth I come)

Johann Pachelbel
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
The Chorale

CALL TO WORSHIP

Look! The young woman is with child.
He will be called Emmanuel, God with us.
His name will be Jesus, for he comes to save us.
Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Brett Butler

HYMN #23 (Hymnal)*

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)*

Holy God, we confess that we do not walk in your light. We choose what is evil and refuse what is good. We scorn our neighbors and laugh at others’ troubles. Forgive us; deliver us; let your face shine on us, so that we may be ready to meet our Emmanuel, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

HYMN #579 (Hymnal)*

“Gloria Patri”

THE PEACE* ✚

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Khazem Family

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-7

Pew Bible pg. 58

“In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver the child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”

Leader: Joy to the world!

People: This is the culmination of our years of waiting.

Leader: We have lit the candles of hope, of peace, and of love. In the glow of their light we feel the warmth of deep and quiet joy.

People: Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Leader: Let us our songs employ.

People: Let us sing to the glory of God!

Leader: Let us sing in the name of Christ who offers us hope in the prison of despair,

People: Peace in the chaos of life,

Leader: God’s love--graciously, silently, and vulnerably offered.

People: And heaven, and heaven and nature sing!

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF HOPE, PEACE, LOVE, AND JOY

HYMN #40 (Hymnal)

“Joy to the World!”

SCRIPTURE

John 1: 1-14

Gretchen Stults
Pew Bible pgs. 91-92

ANTHEM

“Nigh Bethlehem”
(Set III)

Alfred Burt
The Chorale

SCRIPTURE

Revelation 21: 1-4, 22-27

Pew Bible pgs. 259-260

SERMON

“Home for Christmas”

Dr. Louis Mitchell

THE RESPONSE

HYMN #28 (Hymnal)*

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Christmas Joy Offering

Becky Huselid

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Mr. 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 TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory	<i>“Salve Regina”</i>	Peter Cornet Organ
Hymn #592 (Hymnal)* Prayer of Dedication*	<i>“Doxology”</i>	Mr. Butler
HYMN #31 (Hymnal)*	<i>“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”</i>	
RESPONSE*	<i>Choral Amen</i>	Donovan Klotzbeacher The Chorale
BENEDICTION*		
POSTLUDE	<i>Pro Fine</i>	Peter Cornet Organ

***ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND**

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.

We thank those who are serving today in these ways:

Flowers in the chancel today are the beautiful Christmas poinsettias. They have been given to the Glory of God in memory, in honor and as a gift of gratitude by many wonderful people.

Coffee Hour today is hosted by the Cody family.

Greeters are Earl Davison and Bob Dyke.

Head Ushers are Ken Ellsworth and Ginny Swanagan.

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; 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; 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, Doug and Jean Lovejoy; Beatrice Mabutho's sister, Phyllis and brother-in-law Joseph, family member, Harriet George and friend, Allary Hollis Lewis; Leah Moy's friends, Irene and Marty Goldberg; Karen Moutenot's sister, Patricia Obanion; Cranbury Librarian, Jan Murphy's husband, Rian; Fran Stewart's father, Eugene Feeney; Gretchen Stults' granddaughter, Jodi Mallette and family; CPNS staff member, Theresa Vaccaro's sister, Charlene and family; and Cathy Vogen's husband, Mike.

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!

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

There will be **NO** Christian Education classes on Sunday, December 29.

CPNS

I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and a very happy, healthy New Year. We are looking forward to spending some time to relax with family and friends and will be closed for our Christmas vacation from Friday, December 20 and will return on Thursday, January 2, 2014.

Registration for the school year 2014-2015 will begin in January. Our currently enrolled students will be able to register beginning on Monday, January 13, 2014 and church members and siblings can begin to register on January 21. The general public can register any time after February 1. 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: Christmas Eve is almost here and with its arrival arrives the special day for the **Christmas Joy Offering**. As you are aware, the Christmas Joy Offering brings hope (and joy) to both the young and the old. Our racial ethnic schools and colleges play an important role in preparing leaders for their vocational service in the church and society. Some of our money goes to these schools. And those who served the

church so faithfully in the past receive needed assistance as do the new racial ethnic leaders. This Joy offering is designed to prepare and care for church leaders in every generation. It supports education and those who have served. Contributing to the Joy Offering will surely spread the Joy--the joy of giving and the joy of being helped in a time of need.

Mission Dinner Fundraiser: (Formerly Guatemala Dinner): Our mission dinner is quickly approaching. Don't miss the wonderful opportunity for church fellowship, entertainment and a delicious meal. There are a limited number of tickets being sold, so buy them today.

We will be serving dinner on Friday, January 31 and on Saturday, February 1 beginning at 7:00 p.m. with open seating beginning at 6:30 p.m. As you dine on Friday, you will be serenaded by piano music by Francine Hannay and on Saturday the Cranbury String Quartet and Piano by Don Klotzbecher.

The cost of the meal will be \$50.00 per person (remember this is a fundraiser). You may want to attend both evenings to experience the variety of entertainment being offered. We will be selling only a limited number of tickets, so plan on buying your ticket early. They are on sale now and will be available during coffee hour (see Lil or George Conley) or call the church office.

We are offering a filet mignon, grilled salmon, or stuffed chicken, as your main entrees along with all the trimmings and a delicious desert to top it off with.

Checks can be made payable to The First Presbyterian Church (tax deductible) memo: Mission dinner. Any amount above the \$50.00 fee will be greatly appreciated. Please save this date, we are counting on you for our success in this project.

George Conley
Mission Committee, (609) 395-0897

OUTREACH

Looking for a Church Home? Join Pastor Lou and members of the Session on January 12, January 19 and January 26 for the **NEW MEMBER CLASS**.

This is your opportunity to learn what it means to be a member of First Presbyterian. We are a congregation which offers members of all ages opportunities to join in fellowship and expand their faith experiences.

The class will begin at 9:15 a.m. on January 12 and January 19 in the library and will begin at 9:00 a.m. on January 26 in Fellowship Hall. Please contact the church office at 609-395-0897 to join the class or for additional information.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Counting Teams: 12/22 (Team #1) - 12/29 (Team #2)

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 22, 2013 – December 29, 2013

Sunday 22	(4th Sunday of Advent) 9:15a Sunday School (Classrooms) 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
Monday 23	CPNS Closed Church Office Hours 9 to 12:00p 7:30p Brass Choir 8:00p Al-Anon-McK Rm
Tuesday 24	(Christmas Eve/Christmas Joy Offering) CPNS/Church Office Closed 4:00p Meadow Lakes Lessons and Carols Vesper Service 5:00p Children's Service 8:00p Family Service 11:00p Candlelight Communion Service
Wednesday 25	(Christmas Day) CPNS/Church Office Closed
Thursday 26	CPNS/Church Office Closed
Friday 27	CPNS/Church Office Closed 8:00p-9:00p AA (Promises 12 Steps)McK Room
Saturday 28	3:30p – 6:30p Eagle Scout Ceremony – FH (GC)
Sunday 29	No Christian Education Classes 10:30a Worship with Baptisms followed by coffee hour 11:00a Meadow Lakes Worship Service 4p–5p Cranbury Scout Band Practice