

**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, 2013 - 8:00 P.M.**

THE GATHERING

SILENT MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

“Star of the East”

Amanda Kennedy
Bell Choir

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Brett Butler

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)*

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	Stephen Kim Pew Bible pgs. 56-57
ANTHEM	<i>“Bethlehem Journey”</i>	arr. Linda Lamb Bell Choir
SCRIPTURE	Luke 2: 1-20	Pew Bible pg. 58
CAROL #37*	<i>“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”</i>	
SERMON	“Holy Night”	Dr. Louis Mitchell

THE RESPONSE

CAROL #60*	<i>“Silent Night, Holy Night”</i>	
LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS		Mr. Butler
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Hallelujah!	may your church be a sign of hope and joy.	
Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Hallelujah!	Lord, have mercy.	
O Christ, splendor of God’s eternal glory, the mighty Word, sustaining the universe: renew our lives by your presence.	O Christ, truly God and truly human, born to a people in fulfillment of your promises: fulfill our desires in you.	
Lord, have mercy.	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.	O Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, child of wonder and splendor, mighty God of all ages, Prince of Peace:	
Lord, have mercy.	may the whole world live in peace and justice.	
O Christ, begotten of the Father before all time, born in a stable at Bethlehem:	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 #31

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Offertory

"Come, All Ye Shepherds"

arr. Robert Ward

Bell Choir

Hymn #592 (Hymnal)*

"Doxology"

Prayer of Dedication*

Mr. Butler

CAROL #40*

"Joy to the World!"

RESPONSE*

"Amen"

Traditional

Bell Choir

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE*

Noel: "Une Vierge Pucelle"
(A Virgin Pure)

Nicolas Le Begue

Organ

***ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND**

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CRANBURY, NEW JERSEY
Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2013 - 11:00 p.m.**

THE GATHERING

SILENT MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

“In dulci jubilo”

J. G. Walther
Organ

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Brett Butler

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)*

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 #40

“Joy to the World!”

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 35

Janet Furchak
Pew Bible pg. 663

ANTHEM

“A Virgin’s Slumber Song”

Max Reger
Jenni Collins, vocalist

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2: 8-20

Pew Bible pg. 58

SERMON

“Tidings of Joy....and Comfort” Rev. Suzanne Schafer-Coates

THE RESPONSE

CAROL #23*

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Offertory

Noel en Musette

Louis Claude D’Aquin
Organ

Hymn #592 (Hymnal)*

“Doxology”

Prayer of Dedication*

Mr. Butler

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*

Mr. Butler

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.

CLOSING 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.)* Rev. Schafer-Coates

POSTLUDE*

Noel *"Une Vierge Pucelle
(A Virgin Pure)*

Nicolas Le Begue
Organ

ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND*

Ushering for the 8:00 p.m. service are Bea and Earl Davison, Joan Fraser and KY Huang *and* for the 11:00 p.m. service are Stan Dickerson, Art and Gloria-Jean Ryba and Pat Scott.

Communion Servers for the 11:00 p.m. service are John and Brenda Kirkenir, Gloria-Jean Ryba and George and Audrey Smith. Thanks to Renee 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 29 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 29, 2013

10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Baptisms followed by Coffee Hour
No Christian Education Classes, No Youth Group, No Men's Bible Study

Pastor
Director of Youth Ministry & Christian Ed
Parish Associate
Cranbury Presbyterian Nursery School, Director

The Rev. Dr. Louis Mitchell
Mr. Brett Butler
The Rev. Suzanne Schafer-Coates
Mrs. Janice Parker

Church Office: (609) 395-0897
Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Email: FirstPresOffice@comcast.net

Church Office Closed: 12/24, 12/25, 12/26, 12/27, 12/30, 12/31 and 1/1/2013 Website: www.cranburypres.org

Office Hours from 12/23 will be 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

Cranbury Presbyterian Nursery School: (609) 655-8663

CPNS Closed: 12/20 through 1/1/2013