

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

1st Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2014 10:30 A.M.

THE APPROACH

PRELUDE

Ave Maris Stella

Jean Titelouze
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”
(Ps. 80: 1)

Donovan Klotzbeacher
The Chorale

CALL TO WORSHIP

Brett Butler

Keep alert, for the day is coming soon.
Now the earth and heavens tremble.
Pray for the gift of hope from God:
Shine in our lives, Lord Jesus Christ.

HYMN #2 (Hymnal)*

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)*

God our Maker, we confess that we are not ready to meet you. We trust in things that pass away and forget your eternal promise. Forgive us, God of grace. Strengthen us, by your hand, so that we may be ready for that day when you come to reign in glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

HYMN #579 (Hymnal)*

“Gloria Patri”

THE PEACE* ✦

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Sullivan Family

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 21: 1-5a

Mary Speer
Pew Bible pg. 259

ANTHEM

“Come Christ of God”

Stan Pethel
The Chorale

SCRIPTURE

Revelation 22: 1-5

Pew Bible pg. 260

SERMON

“Rethinking Heaven”

Dr. Louis Mitchell

THE RESPONSE

HYMN #53 (Hymnal)*

“What Child Is This”

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>“Herzlich tut mich verlangen”</i>	Johann Gottfried Walther
	<i>(My heart is ever yearning)</i>	Organ
Hymn #592 (Hymnal)*	<i>“Doxology”</i>	
Prayer of Dedication*		Mr. Butler

HYMN #49 (Hymnal)* *“Once in Royal David’s City”*

RESPONSE* *Choral Amen*

The Chorale

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE*	<i>“Wir danken dir, Herr Jesu Christ”</i>	J. S. Bach
	<i>(We thank thee, Lord Jesus Christ)</i>	Organ

***ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND**

A Congregational Meeting
has been called by the session immediately following the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
on December 7, 2014, for the sole purpose of electing church officers.

Announcements

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. Linda Protinick is the Nursery Coordinator.

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 available for your convenience in the narthex. The ushers can assist you.

The Flowers in the chancel today are given by Audrey and George Smith in memory of their parents, Anna & Walter Wahler and Ruth & Howard Smith.

Coffee Hour is hosted by the Deacons.

Greeters are Earl Davison and Mary Jane Hager.

Head Ushers are Janice Parker and Jeff & Diane Yeager.

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; Will Ellsworth; Marlene French; Bill Keller; Scott Kerr; Claire Maselli; Karen Moser; Russ Richardson; Elsie Sutton; Doris Wiegartner and Ann Zimmerman.

Family and Friends of Church Members for whom prayers are asked: Vicki Bain’s mother, Joan Stiles; Jean Dunham’s sister, Pat; Arlene Duran’s daughter, Catherine Lepp; Gail Geijer’s son, Dan; Wayne & Cyndi Girardet’s son and Karen & Andy Moutenot’s son-in-law, Benjamin Girardet; Mark Hughes’ grandmother, Olga Zelder; Ron & Ann Riemann’s friend, Susan Seibert; Fran Stewart’s father, Eugene Feeney; and Gretchen Stults’ granddaughter, Jodi Mallette & family.

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.*

Sunday, November 30, 2014

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!

CHOIR NEWS

Does your child love to sing? If so, we’d love to invite them to our Children’s Choir rehearsals! The Children’s Choir meets on Thursday afternoon beginning at 4:30 p.m. in our sanctuary for rehearsal. They usually sing once a month during our Worship Service. The Children’s Choir Director is Jo D. (Jody) Sechler Andrews. If you have any questions, please contact Jo D. at joand23@earthlink.net.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Cranbury Men’s Bible Study (Sundays 8:00 p.m.): All men are invited to join us in a relaxed setting at the Cranbury Inn. Please contact Brett Butler at bbutler532@gmail.com for more information.

Toys for Tots: This year, we will be collecting toys for the Toys for Tots Foundation! We will be collecting toys until **December 12**. Please bring unwrapped toys that would be appropriate for boys and girls ages 3-14! You can bring them to Fellowship Hall on Sundays, and during the week, you can drop them off upstairs in the church office from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

CPNS

We had a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration with our CPNS families, and spending Thanksgiving with our family and friends at our homes as well. When we return to school on December 1, we will begin this holiday season with Advent as we prepare for Christmas. This is a time for many activities including gift buying for those individuals on our Christmas lists. We are all not as fortunate and able to purchase gifts for those we love. Because of the gifts God has given us at CPNS, we have decided to help those less fortunate with our Pennies for Presents program. This year, we will be purchasing gifts for Saint Peter’s Children Foundation.

We hope your Thanksgiving was wonderful, and your Advent season is filled with hope, peace, joy and love.

MISSION, SERVICE & GRANTS

Snippets from the Year Book of Prayer: A grant from the Synod of the Northeast (of which we are a part) allowed students from a variety of colleges to come together to participate in a mission and learning trip to Washington DC. These students learned about the work of the Office of Public Witness, engaged in intensive study of the denomination’s response to gun violence and volunteered in clothing closets, food ministries, and homeless shelters. The trip fostered among them an

enduring commitment to the compassion and justice ministries of the PC(USA).

One student remarked, "I had no idea how much our denomination was involved in domestic policy issues before this trip. It makes me proud to be a Presbyterian".

Skeet's Pantry Christmas Wish List: As always, our members and surrounding communities have been VERY generous and our Pantry shelves are looking healthier these days. There are still some gaps on the shelves, though. We'll need enough for about 100 families at our Christmas food distribution on December 12, but we have less than a dozen jars of peanut butter and jars of jelly. The shelves with cans of tuna fish and canned fruit could use some help, too. So our Christmas Wish List is short and sweet! Thanks, and Merry Christmas!

PEANUT BUTTER, JELLY, TUNA FISH, CANNED FRUIT

One other request from Skeet's: We have a good supply of brown paper bags– no more needed for now. Plastic bags are welcome but must be in good condition and without holes. Thanks!

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Special Thanks: Senior Fellowship has had a wonderful year of programs and trips. Connie Bauder, coordinator of Senior Fellowship, would like to thank the following members of the Senior Fellowship Committee who make it possible for the Senior Fellowship mission of this church to flourish. Please give your thanks to them for doing God's work, Bill Bauder, Nancy and Dennis Chonko, Joan Fraser, Jean Randazzo, Audrey Smith, Larry White and Heidi Knowlton. Please keep these people in your prayers and join with me in giving thanks for their service.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Counting Teams: 11/30 (Team #2) – 12/7 (Team #3)

Budget Update (Year-to-Date to 11/23/14)		
	Week Ended 11/23	YTD to 11/23
Offerings	\$7,987	\$406,514
Expenses	\$13,891	\$387,695
Net Income/(Loss)	(\$5,904)	\$18,819

Stewardship Update: Earlier this month, each household was sent a Stewardship packet containing our annual appeal for a commitment of time, talent and a financial pledge toward our 2015 budget needs. If you missed this, it's not too late, please consider making your pledge soon. Pledge cards are available in the church or if you contact the church office, we'd be happy to send you another copy. If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Stewardship & Finance Committee, the pastors or church staff.

WORSHIP

January is open for flowers! If you would like to place flowers in the church, please contact Diane Smith at d1stargazer@verizon.net or call 609-890-0822.

YOUTH GROUP

Christmas Wreaths: You can pick them up your wreath up today, November 30 and then they will be available on the side porch of the church office building.

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

November 30, 2014 (1st Sunday of Advent)

- 9:15a Celebration Sunday
- 9:15a Christian Ed for all ages(CRs/Lib/FH/McK Rm/Rm 1)
- 10:30a Worship followed by coffee hour
- 11:00a Meadow Lakes Worship Service
- 4p–5p Cranbury Scout Band Practice
- 6p – 7:30p Sr. High Youth Group-FH

December 1, 2014

- 10:00a Senior Exercise
- 1:30p Martha's Circle – Lib.
- 7:30p Brass Choir
- 7:30p Congregational Life Meeting-Lib.
- 8:00p Al-Anon-McK Rm

December 2, 2014

9:00a Bulletin Material Due

- 9:30a Staff Mtg.-Church Office
- 1:00p Outreach Committee Meeting- Lib.
- 6:30p Nominating Committee Meeting – Church Office
- 7:30p Christian Ed. Meeting-Lib.
- 7:30p MS&G Meeting-FH
- 7:30p AA – McK Rm

December 3, 2014

- 11:00a-4:00p Women's Club Meeting – FH
- 7:00p-8:00p Girl Scout Meeting – RM 10 (CK)
- 7:30p Bell Choir

December 4, 2014

- 10:00a Senior Exercise
- 2:30p–5:30p TASK (VAN)
- 4:30p- Children's Choir - Sanctuary
- 6:00p B&G (lighting) - Sanctuary
- 7:00p Worship Meeting–Lib.
- 7:30p B&G Meeting-Lib.
- 7:30p The Chorale – Sanctuary
- 7:30p Deacons - FH

December 5, 2014

- 5:00p Jr. High Retreat at Camp Johnsonburg - VAN
- 8:00p-9:00p AA (Promises 12 Steps)McK Room

December 6, 2014

- Jr. High Retreat at Camp Johnsonburg - VAN

December 7, 2014 (2nd Sunday of Advent)

- 9:15a Christian Ed for all ages(CRs/Lib./FH/McK Rm/Rm 1)
- 10:30a Worship w/Communion and Congregational Meeting followed by the **Annual Christmas Luncheon**
- 11:00a Meadow Lakes Worship Service with Communion
- 1:00p Jr. High Retreat returns- VAN
- 3p-5p Princeton Garden Statesmen–McK Rm
- 3p-5p Princeton Garden Statesmen–Rm 1
- 4p–5p Cranbury Scout Band Practice
- 6:15p-8p Boy Scouts – McK Rm (GC)