

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

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2014 10:30 A.M.

THE APPROACH

PRELUDE

“Advent Carol”

Hal Hopson
Bell Choir

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.)

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Christmas Joy Offering

Rebecca Huselid

INTROIT

“Thee we adore, O hidden savior”

Plainsong, 13th Cent.
The Chorale

CALL TO WORSHIP

Now the word of the prophet is fulfilled.

Christ is coming! Prepare the way.

Pray for the gift of peace from God:

Shine in our lives, Lord Jesus Christ.

HYMN #22 (Hymnal)*

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)*

God our Maker, we confess that we are not ready to meet you. You call us to repent, but we turn away from you. You wait patiently for us, but we fail to watch and wait for you. Forgive us, God of grace. Embrace us with tender mercy so that we may be at one with you when all your glory is revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

HYMN #579 (Hymnal)*

“Gloria Patri”

THE PEACE* ✚

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

The Curran Family

SCRIPTURE

Micah 5:2-5a

Pew Bible pg. 865

“But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.”

Leader: The season of Advent continues. Thousands of years of waiting for the Messiah are commemorated by the lighting of four candles.

People: We join with a hopeful throng in the lighting of the Advent candles, signs of God’s love and symbols of our faith.

Leader: We are a people of hope. Last Sunday the frail light of a single candle dared to pierce through the darkness of desolation and sin.

People: Hope lives in us and will abide with us.

Leader: Today we will light the candle of peace.

People: This light, too, must brave the great darkness.

Leader: In an age when people seldom find peace within themselves, and when all the earth knows the sorrow of war, we light a fire called peace.

People: Peace that is not merely the absence of war and conflict, but peace that is the fullness of blessing for all - that is the peace for which we dare to hope.

Leader: Christ comes to bring peace to those who have been separated from God and one another.

People: In the name of that Child born so long ago, we light the candles of peace and hope.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF HOPE AND PEACE

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!

O come, Desire of Nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease.
Fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to Thee, O Israel!

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| SCRIPTURE | Revelation 21: 1-8 | Linda Cody Pew Bible pg. 259 |
| ANTHEM | <i>“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”</i> | arr. Cathy Mokelbust Bell Choir |
| SCRIPTURE | Revelation 22: 12-21 | Pew Bible pgs. 260-261 |
| SERMON | “Coming Home” | Dr. Louis Mitchell |

THE RESPONSE

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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| Offertory | <i>“Long ago prophets knew”</i> | Piae Cantiones, arr. Lloyd Larson The Chorale |
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| Hymn #592 (Hymnal)* | <i>“Doxology”</i> |
| Prayer of Dedication* | |

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| HYMN #44 (Hymnal)* | <i>“O Little Town of Bethlehem”</i> |
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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:

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

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 #27 (Hymnal)* *"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"*

RESPONSE* *Choral Amen*

The Chorale

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE* *Toccata in A Minor* **Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck**
Organ

***ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND**

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| <p style="text-align: center;">A Congregational Meeting has been called by the session immediately following our Worship Service today, for the sole purpose of electing church officers.</p> |
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Announcements

December 7, 2014

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

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES, DECEMBER 24, 2014
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 you can contact Caren Anuszewski at (609)587-8883 or ccrabbeg91@optimum.net.

Come Celebrate the Birth of Christ with Us!

Sunday, December 14, 2014 – 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 21, 2014 – 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

Wednesday, December 24, 2014 - Christmas Eve
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 28, 2014
No Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
11:00 a.m. Meadow Lakes Worship Service



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.

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

Communion Servers are Deanna Anderson, Anne and Ken Gordon, Rebecca Huselid, Carlene Reyes, Renee and Chris Welch and Janet Wheeler.

The Flowers in the chancel today are given in memory of Edward G. Trenkle by Jason Trenkle, Debbie Mara and Alan Danser.

Coffee Hour today is our Annual Christmas Luncheon hosted by the Congregational Life Committee.

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; Will Ellsworth; Marlene French; Bill Keller; Scott Kerr; Carren Klenke and family due to the death of her father; 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; Bryan Nemeth’s friend, Ellen Weiner; 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.

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!

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Some Christmas gifts last much longer than others – isn't it a great feeling to give a gift that really makes a difference and is appreciated for years? Give to the Christmas Joy Offering in honor or memory of someone you love and the funds will provide scholarships to deserving minority students at Presbyterian schools and housing or medical assistance to retired Presbyterian missionaries and ministers. Any size gift will fit perfectly!

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.

Family Fun Day Information! This year, on January 19, 2015 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day), the Christian Education Committee is planning a ski trip to Camelback Mountain in Tannersville, PA! The trip will cost between \$80 - \$90.

The registration deadline is **DECEMBER 21**. To register, email Brett Butler at bbutler532@gmail.com. Provide the following information: name, phone number, number of people that will attend and if rental equipment is needed. Thank you!

CPNS

We are "Getting Ready" for the baby! We begin this holiday season collecting "Pennies for Presents" which continues until December 12. 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. On Tuesday, the children in our CPNS classes and Creative Movement program will be singing and dancing to some of our very favorite Christmas songs for the seniors during their Christmas lunch. We will also be decorating the Christmas tree, making gifts for our families, baking, and learning what Christmas is really all about.

We hope your Advent Season is filled with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

MISSION, SERVICE & GRANTS

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!

Snippets from the Year Book of Prayer: The Union Presbyterian Church in Endicott, NY has an interesting custom. They gather in the church's fellowship hall for the annual One Great Hour of Sharing party. The congregation's theme this year was the Jersey Shore. People dressed in beachwear, brought towels and beach chairs, and enjoyed typical boardwalk food, including saltwater taffy. The event continued with a talent auction netting more than \$2,500 for One Great Hour of Sharing.

Trenton Area Soup Kitchen News Update (TASK):

The Trenton Area Soup Kitchen asked our church to adopt a family this Christmas, and without hesitation we stepped right up. This family of 8 will have plenty of wonderful gifts and gift cards to open Christmas morning, thanks to the members of the Mission a Service and Grants committee and several of our TASK volunteers. Thank you Audrey Smith for coordinating this special project! Also, special thanks to Peter and Cathy Wise for their generous support.

We will not be going to TASK in January, for the first Thursday of the month falls on New Year's Day. Anyone over the age of 13 is welcome to join us starting in February. Please call Anne Gordon if you would like to serve.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Senior Exercise Schedule: December 8 & December 11

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: 12/7 (Team #3) – 12/14 (Team #4)

| Budget Update (Year-to-Date to 11/30/14) | | |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------|
| | Week Ended 11/30 | YTD to 11/30 |
| Offerings | \$7,515 | \$414,029 |
| Expenses | \$11,775 | \$399,470 |
| Net Income/(Loss) | (\$4,260) | \$14,559 |

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.

2015 Pledge Envelopes: Pledge envelopes are available to pick up in the Fellowship Hall beginning on Monday, December 8. **Please note:** you may have a new number for 2015.

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.

Do you have an extra hour or two 4 or 6 times a year? Would you like to help the church? Would you like to be part of a great team?

The Ushers Guild is always looking for new members. Every week the ushers provide an invaluable service before, during and after the Sunday services. If you are interested in joining one of our many teams, or would like more information, please contact: Caren Anuszewski the Ushers Guild Coordinator at (609)587-8883 or email her at ccrabbe91@optimum.net.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Thank You! The Youth Group would like to thank everyone who ordered Christmas Wreaths, thanks to you we made over \$500 for our Summer Mission Trip! We hope you enjoy them! Merry Christmas!

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

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/Congregational Mtg 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 and 3p-8p - Rm 1
4p-5p Cranbury Scout Band Practice
6:15p-8p Boy Scouts - McK Rm (GC)

December 8, 2014

10:00a Senior Exercise
2:00p-4:00p Sr. Fellowship set-up-FH/Kit
7:30p Brass Choir
8:00p Al-Anon-McK Rm

December 9, 2014

9:00a Bulletin Material Due

8:30a Sr. Fellowship set-up - FH/Kit/**VAN** at 11:00 a.m.
12p-4p Sr. Fellowship Christmas Party - FH/Kit/**VAN**
9:30a Staff Mtg.-Church Office
7:30p Youth Ministry Committee Meeting-Church Office
7:30p Stewardship & Finance-Church Office
7:30p AA - McK Rm

December 10, 2014

9:00a Session Material Due

9:00a Skeet's Food Pantry Packing
9:00a-11:30a CPNS Cookie Baking - Kitchen (DK)
7:30p Bell Choir

December 11, 2014

9:00a-11:30a CPNS Cookie Baking - Kitchen (DK)
10:00a Senior Exercise
4:30p- Children's Choir - Sanctuary
7:30p P&A Meeting-church office (upstairs)
7:30p The Chorale - Sanctuary

December 12, 2014

8:00a-11:00a Skeet's Food Pantry Distribution
8:00p-9:00p AA (Promises 12 Steps)McK Room

December 13, 2014

December 14, 2014 (3rd Sunday of Advent)

9:15a Christian Ed for all ages (CRs/Lib./FH/McK Rm/Rm 1)
10:30a Lessons and Carols followed by coffee hour
11:00a Meadow Lakes Worship Service
4p-5p Cranbury Scout Band Practice
6p - 7:30p Sr. High Youth Group-McK Rm
7:00p Cub Scouts Holiday Party - FH
8:00p-9:00p Cranbury Men's Bible Study at the Inn