

# Welcome to Worship at the First Presbyterian Church

A Christmas Eve Service of Bells for Children of All Ages

December 24, 2015 - 5:00 P.M.

(\*The congregation is invited to stand)

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Lou

## BELL RINGING!

Join us in this ancient and joyous custom! After we have finished ringing our bells to begin the service, they should be placed quietly on the floor under your seat until we sing "Joy to the World".

## CAROL #41\*

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful"* (all carols 1<sup>st</sup> stanza only)

## PRAYER (Unison)\*

**God, give us such love and wonder, that with shepherds and wise men and pilgrims unknown, we may adore the holy Child, the promised King, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## CHRISTMAS ANTHEMS

*"The Wexford Carol"*

12<sup>th</sup> Cent. Irish  
Children's Choir

*"Get Ready"*

CPNS Christmas Choir

*"Christmas Day Will Soon Be Here"*

*"Bells Are Ringing"*

## OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

## CAROL #38

*"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*

(remain seated)

(All children who are participating in the Christmas Story should meet in the Narthex. Please use the side aisles.)

## THE CHRISTMAS STORY

**ACT I:** Luke 2: 1-7 Joseph and Mary come forward  
**Carol #25** “*Away in a Manger*”

**ACT II:** Luke 2: 8-14 Angels enter & dance up front if they wish  
**Carol #31** “*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*”

**ACT III:** Luke 2: 15-19 Shepherds and animals come forward  
**Carol #59** “*While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*”

**ACT IV:** Matthew 2: 1-11 Star and Wise men come forward  
**Carol #66** “*We Three Kings of Orient Are*”

**ACT V:** Matthew 2: 12, Luke 2: 20, 40 Children return to family and ring bells!  
**Carol #40\*** “*Joy to the World!*”

Ring your bell while you sing “*Joy to the World!*” Spread the Good News of Christ’s birth to your family, to your neighbors and to the world!

## BENEDICTION\*

**WE WELCOME YOU TO THIS SERVICE OF GREAT JOY!** If you are new to our church or community, we invite you to make this congregation your church home. Please complete one of the pew cards and leave it in the offering so that we can personally welcome you.

**THE USHERS** tonight are George & George Arsnow, Bob & Carol Kane and Chris & Ryan Vandenberg.

**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:** For those who ordered poinsettias, they may be picked up tonight after the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service or on Sunday, December 27 after Worship.

**SPECIAL THANKS** to Jenni Collins who provided music for this service; Dorothy Klotzbeacher who directed the CPNS Christmas Choir; Jo D. Andrews who directed the Children's Choir; and to Cassandra Khazem and Leslie Vandenberg for organizing *The Christmas Story*.

Thank you for helping us prepare for the next two services by picking up any leftover bulletins or debris, and making sure the hymnals are evenly redistributed in your pew.

**We pray God's warmest blessings upon you for a joyous 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!!!

**Sunday, December 27, 2015**

10:30 a.m.      Worship Service followed by Coffee Hour  
No Sunday School and No Youth Group

11:00 a.m.      Meadow Lakes Worship Service

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<b>Pastor</b>	The Rev. Dr. Louis Mitchell
<b>Parish Associate</b>	The Rev. Suzanne Schafer-Coates
<b>Associate Pastor Elect</b>	Hannah Lovaglio
<b>Cranbury Presbyterian Nursery School, Director</b>	Janice Parker
<b>CPNS Closed: 12/23 through 1/1/2016</b>	(609) 655-8663

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Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Church Office Closed: 12/25, 12/31, and 1/1/2016**

**Office Hours: 12/23, 12/28, 12/29, 12/30 will be 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon**