

Welcome to Worship at the First Presbyterian Church

A Christmas Eve Service of Bells for Children of All Ages

December 24, 2016 - 5:00 P.M.

(*The congregation is invited to stand)

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Hannah

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.

CAROL #41*

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

(1st verse only)

BELL RINGING!

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

CHRISTMAS ANTHEMS

“The Purest Rose” **sung by the Children’s Choir**

written by Jo D. Andrews,

arr. by George Andrews

“Get Ready”

CPNS Christmas Choir

“Christmas Day Will Soon Be Here”

“Bells Are Ringing”

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

CAROL #27

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

(all verses)

(remain seated)

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

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Pastor Lou

ACT I: Luke 2: 1-7 Joseph and Mary come forward
CAROL #25 “*Away in a Manger*” (all carols 1st verse only)

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!*” (1st and last verses)

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 the Arsnow family, the Vandenberg family and Carol Kientz.

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 tomorrow, December 25 after Worship.

SPECIAL THANKS to Jenni Collins who played piano for this service; Dorothy Klotzbeacher who directed the CPNS Christmas Choir; Jo D. Andrews who directed the Children's Choir; and to Cassandra Khazem, Megan Pease 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. We are a church family, and we invite you to join us!!!

Sunday, December 25, 2016

10:30 a.m. Worship Service
No Sunday School and No Youth Group

11:00 a.m. Meadow Lakes Worship Service

Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Louis Mitchell
Associate Pastor	The Rev. Hannah Lovaglio
Parish Associate	The Rev. Suzanne Schafer-Coates
Cranbury Presbyterian Nursery School, Director	Mrs. Janice Parker
CPNS Closed: 12/23 through 1/2/2017	(609) 655-8663

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

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

Church Office Closed: 12/26, 12/30 and 1/2/2017

Office Hours: 12/27 through 12/29 will be 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon