

Welcome to Worship at The First Presbyterian Church
(The order for the 11:00 p.m. service begins on page 4 of this bulletin.)

Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2016 - 9:00 P.M.

THE GATHERING

SILENT MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

“Vom Himmel Hoch”
(From heaven above to earth I come)

Johann Pachelbel
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.)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Dr. Louis Mitchell

Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy.

To us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth, lying in a manger.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!

Let us go now to Bethlehem.

CAROL #41*

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)*

God-with-us, we confess that we have not embraced your love. Christ has come into the world, and yet we do not know him. He has called us to be his own, and yet we do not accept him. Forgive us, God of grace. Show us your mercy and truth until we know in fullness your good news of great joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

HYMN #579 (Hymnal)*

“Gloria Patri”

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS*

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CAROL #23*

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2: 1-7

Pew Bible pg. 58

ANTHEM

Carol of the Bells

Ukrainian Carol
The Chorale

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2: 8-14

Pew Bible pg. 58

CAROL #25*

“Away in a Manger”

SERMON

“Home for Christmas” Rev. Suzanne Schafer-Coates

THE RESPONSE

CAROL #60*

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS

L: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Hallelujah!

P: Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Hallelujah!

L: O Christ, splendor of God’s eternal glory, the mighty Word, sustaining the universe: renew our lives by your presence.

P: Lord, have mercy.

L: O Christ, born into the world in the fullness of time for the liberation of all creation: release all into your promised freedom.

P: Lord, have mercy.

L: O Christ, begotten of the Father before all time, born in a stable at Bethlehem: may your church be a sign of hope and joy.

P: Lord, have mercy.

L: O Christ, truly God and truly human, born to a people in fulfillment of your promises: fulfill our desires in you.

P: Lord, have mercy.

L: O Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, child of wonder and splendor, mighty God of all ages, Prince of Peace: may the whole world live in peace and justice.

P: 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 GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

Interlude on the Coventry Carol

W.S. Lloyd Webber
Organ

Hymn #592 (Hymnal)*

“Doxology”

Prayer of Dedication*

CAROL #40*

“Joy to the World!”

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE*

“In peace and joy I now depart”

Dietrich Buxtehude
Organ

***ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND**

Welcome to Worship at The First Presbyterian Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service
December 24, 2016 - 11:00 p.m.

THE GATHERING

SILENT MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *“Vom Himmel Hoch”* **Johann Pachelbel**
(From heaven above to earth I come) Organ

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LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE Dr. Louis Mitchell
Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy.
To us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.
This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth, lying in a manger.
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!
Let us go now to Bethlehem.

CAROL #41* *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)*
God-with-us, we confess that we have not embraced your love. Christ has come into the world, and yet we do not know him. He has called us to be his own, and yet we do not accept him. Forgive us, God of grace. Show us your mercy and truth until we know in fullness your good news of great joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

HYMN #579 (Hymnal)* *“Gloria Patri”*

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS*

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CAROL #25 *“Away in a Manger”*

SCRIPTURE Luke 2: 1-7 Evan Hughes
Pew Bible pg. 58

ANTHEM *“Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head”* **John Jacob Niles**
Jenni Collins, vocalist

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2: 8-20

Pew Bible pg. 58

CAROL #23*

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

SERMON

“Unto Certain Shepherds”

Rev. Hannah Lovaglio

THE RESPONSE

CAROL #31

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

“I wonder as I wander”

John Jacob Niles

Jenni Collins, vocalist

Hymn #592 (Hymnal)*

“Doxology”

Prayer of Dedication*

CAROL #40*

“Joy to the World!”

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:

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

Please come forward by the side aisles. 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 #44* *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"* (verses 1 & 4)

LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES

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 with 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. Please pass the light by placing your unlit candle in the upright flame of the candle held by the person next to you. We ask that young children share a candle with an adult and that as we pass the light, care is taken to avoid dripping wax.

BENEDICTION*

(Please return your candle to the box in the Narthex as you leave.)

POSTLUDE* *"In peace and joy I now depart"* **Dietrich Buxtehude**
Organ

ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND*

Ushering for the 9:00 p.m. service are Jack Britton, Joan Fraser, David Geijer, Pat Scott and Vicki & Cassi Waciega *and* for the 11:00 p.m. service are George & Margie Conley and John & Brenda Kirkenir.

Thanks to our communion servers, KY Huang, Carlene Reyes and Pat Scott and thanks to Chris and 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 25 after Worship.

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. We are a church family, and 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 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

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The First Presbyterian Church

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Website: www.cranburypres.org

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