

# *Welcome to Worship at the First Presbyterian Church*

A Christmas Eve Service of Bells for Children of All Ages

**December 24, 2017 - 5:00 P.M.**

(\*The congregation is invited to stand)

## **PRELUDE**

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pastor Lou

## **PRAYER (Unison)**

**God, give us such love and wonder, that with shepherds and wise men and travelers unknown, we may adore the Holy Child, the Promised One, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **CAROL #41\***

*“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

(1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> verses 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**

*“I Saw Three Ships”*

**Traditional English Carol**  
Children’s Choir

*“Get Ready”*

CPNS Christmas Choir

*“Christmas Day Will Soon Be Here”*

*“Bells Are Ringing”*

## **OFFERING**

## **OFFERTORY**

## **CAROL #27**

*“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”*

(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 Hannah

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

**ACT II:** Luke 2: 8-14 Angels come forward  
**CAROL #31** “*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*” (1<sup>st</sup> verse only)

**ACT III:** Luke 2: 15-19 Shepherds and sheep come forward  
**CAROL #56** “*The First Nowell*” (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> verses only)

**ACT IV:** Matthew 2: 1-11 Star and Wisemen come forward  
**CAROL #53** “*What Child Is This*” (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> verses only)

**ACT V:** Matthew 2: 12, Luke 2: 20, 40 Children return to family and ring bells!  
**CAROL #40\*** “*Joy to the World!*” (1<sup>st</sup> 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\***

*Kindly return your bells to the baskets as you exit the church and go out into the world to celebrate and share the birth of Christ!*

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**WE PRAY GOD’S WARMEST BLESSINGS UPON YOU FOR A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY, HAPPY NEW YEAR.** We are grateful to God for bringing us all together on this special night, and grateful to you for sharing in this faithful celebration of the Good News. We are a church family, and we invite you to join us all the yearlong!

**THE USHERS** tonight are the George, George, & Nicholas Arsnow, Donovan & Gavin Mavoides, and Loida Wilson.

**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 Wednesday, December 27 by contacting the church office.

**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 and Megan Pease 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.

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**Sunday, December 31, 2017**

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

11:00 a.m. Meadow Lakes Faithful Ending Worship Service

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<b>Pastor</b>	The Rev. Dr. Louis Mitchell
<b>Associate Pastor</b>	The Rev. Hannah Lovaglio
<b>Parish Associate/Meadow Lakes Minister</b>	The Rev. Suzanne Schafer-Coates
<b>Cranbury Presbyterian Nursery School, Director</b>	Ms. Janice Parker
<b>CPNS Closed: 12/25 through 1/1/2018</b>	(609) 655-8663

**The First Presbyterian Church**  
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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:** 12/25, 12/26 and 1/1/2018  
**Office Hours:** 12/27 through 12/29 will be 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.