

# *Welcome to Worship at The First Presbyterian Church*

*Christmas Eve Service - December 24, 2017 - 9:00 p.m.*

(The order for the 11:00 p.m. service begins on page 4 of this bulletin.)

## THE GATHERING

SILENT MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

*“Go Tell It On the Mountain”*

Spiritual  
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.)

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)\*

Rev. Suzanne Schafer-Coates

**Great God: we confess that we have not followed the light of your word. We have not searched for signs of your love in the world, or trusted good news to be good. We have failed to receive your Son, and refused his peace on earth. Forgive our doubt, and renew our faith, so we may once more hear the glad story of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON\*

HYMN #579 (Hymnal)\*

*“Gloria Patri”*

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS\*

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CAROL #23	<i>“Angels We Have Heard on High”</i>	
SCRIPTURE	Luke 2: 1-7	Joan Fraser Pew Bible pg. 58
ANTHEM	<i>“O Holy Night”</i>	A. Adam Bell Choir
SCRIPTURE	Luke 2: 8-14	Pew Bible pg. 58
CAROL #25	<i>“Away in a Manger”</i>	
SCRIPTURE	John 3: 16-17	Pew Bible pg. 94
SERMON	“Christmas for Grownups”	Dr. Louis Mitchell

### THE RESPONSE

CAROL #60*	<i>“Silent Night, Holy Night”</i>	
LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS		Rev. Schafer-Coates
L:	All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Hallelujah!	
P:	<b>Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Hallelujah!</b>	
L:	O Christ, splendor of God’s eternal glory, the mighty Word, sustaining the universe: renew our lives by your presence.	
P:	<b>Lord, have mercy.</b>	
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:	<b>Lord, have mercy.</b>	
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:	<b>Lord, have mercy.</b>	
L:	O Christ, truly God and truly human, born to a people in fulfillment of your promises: fulfill our desires in you.	
P:	<b>Lord, have mercy.</b>	
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:	<b>Lord, have mercy.</b> (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

*"Good King Wenceslas"*

**Traditional  
Bell Choir**

Hymn #592 (Hymnal)\*

*"Doxology"*

Prayer of Dedication\*

Rev. Schafer-Coates

CAROL #40\*

*"Joy to the World!"*

BENEDICTION\*

POSTLUDE\*

*Noel: "Une Vierge Pucelle"*

**Nicholas LeBegue  
Organ**

**\*ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND**

*Welcome to Worship at The First Presbyterian Church*  
*Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service - December 24, 2017 - 11:00 p.m.*

**THE GATHERING**

SILENT MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

*“From heaven above”*

**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

Rev. Hannah Lovaglio

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)\*

**Great God: we confess that we have not followed the light of your word. We have not searched for signs of your love in the world, or trusted good news to be good. We have failed to receive your Son, and refused his peace on earth. Forgive our doubt, and renew our faith, so we may once more hear the glad story of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ the 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	<i>“O come, little children”</i>	German, arr. D. Klotzbeacher The Chorale
SCRIPTURE	Luke 2: 8-14	Pew Bible pg. 58
CAROL #25	<i>“Away in a Manger”</i>	
SCRIPTURE	John 3: 16-17	Pew Bible pg. 94
SERMON	“Christmas for Grownups”	Dr. Louis Mitchell

### THE RESPONSE

CAROL #31	<i>“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”</i>	
THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS		
Offertory	<i>“Puer nobis nacitur”</i>	Nicholas LeBegue Organ
Hymn #592 (Hymnal)*	<i>“Doxology”</i>	
Prayer of Dedication*		Rev. Lovaglio
CAROL #40*	<i>“Joy to the World!”</i>	

### 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 center aisle and return to your seat 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.

LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES

Dr. Mitchell

**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\*

Noel: "Une Vierge Pucelle"

Nicholas LeBegue  
Organ

**ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND\***

Ushering for the **9:00 p.m.** service is Joan Fraser *and* for the **11:00 p.m.** service are George & Margie Conley, John & Brenda Kirkenir and Andy & Ruth Jost.

Thanks to our communion servers, KY Huang, Pat Scott and Renee Welch, and thanks to Chris and Renee Welch for preparing the communion. **Gluten free bread** is available and it will be presented on the bread and cup trays which are served to those who do not come forward.

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

*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 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

<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>	Mrs. Janice Parker
<b>CPNS Closed: 12/25 through 1/1/2018</b>	(609) 655-8663

**The First Presbyterian Church | 22 South Main Street | Cranbury, NJ 08512**  
(609) 395-0897 | [FirstPresOffice@comcast.net](mailto:FirstPresOffice@comcast.net) | [www.cranburypres.org](http://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: 12/25, 12/26 and 1/1/2018**  
**Office Hours: 12/27 through 12/29 will be 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**