

# Welcome to Worship at the First Presbyterian Church

A Christmas Eve Service of Bells for Children of All Ages

**December 24, 2018 - 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 travelers unknown, we may adore the Holy Child, the Promised One, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## CAROL #133\*

*“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

*(1st & 3rd verses only)*

## BELL RINGING!

What joy it is to make music! All are invited to participate in this Worship Service by ringing bells during the carols. With our bells we proclaim the magnificence of Jesus' birth.

## CHRISTMAS ANTHEMS

*“Dona Nobis Pacem / I Heard the Bells On Christmas Day”* Children's Choir  
Traditional Round, Lyrics by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow  
Music by John Baptiste Calkin

*“Get Ready”*

CPNS Children's Choir

*“Christmas Day Will Soon Be Here”*

*“Bells Are Ringing”*

## OFFERING

## CAROL #146

*“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”*

(remain seated)

(All children who want to participate 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 #115** “*Away in a Manger*” (1<sup>st</sup> verse only)

**ACT II:** Luke 2: 8-14 Angels come forward  
**CAROL #119** “*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*” (1<sup>st</sup> verse only)

**ACT III:** Luke 2: 15-19 Shepherds and sheep come forward  
**CAROL #147** “*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 #145** “*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 #134\*** “*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 Will and Austin Applegate, George Sr., George and Nicholas Arsnow, Evan and Luke Pease 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 by Thursday, December 27 by contacting Ruth Jost at (609)235-9078. Any plants remaining after December 27 will be distributed as gifts by the Deacons.

**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 Becky Franke 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 30, 2018**

10:30 a.m.

Worship Service

No Sunday School and No Youth Group

**Associate Pastor**

The Rev. Hannah Lovaglio

**Cranbury Presbyterian Nursery School, Director**

Ms. Janice Parker

**CPNS Closed: 12/21 through 1/1/2019**

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

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

**Church Office Closed: 12/24 through 1/1/2019**