

Welcome to Worship at The First Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve Service – December 24, 2018 – 9:00 p.m.

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

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE *Pastoral Air with Variations* Franz X. A. Murschauser
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
L: “Good news of great joy,” the angel said, “for to you a savior is born.” “Peace on earth,” the choir sang, “for God reigns in the highest.” “Follow me,” the star beckoned, “For Hope was born in Bethlehem.”

L: As we light the Christ candle,

P: we watch for the Christmas story around us.

L: Emmanuel has come and is coming.

P: Come, all ye faithful, and worship God

CAROL #133* *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)* Pastor Hannah
Lord of Light and Hope, our minutes and hours have been swallowed up in preparation for this night and for the coming day. Forgive us when we so easily get entangled in our own plans and forget to pay attention to the true event. Help us to relax and listen, instead of rush and shout. May the songs of the angels, the surprise of the shepherds, and the joy of the Holy Family become part of our lives. Remind us again of your never-changing love for us. Prepare us to serve you by serving others. This night we offer this prayer of our hearts to you, gracious God. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS*

CAROL #113 (Hymnal)* *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS*

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CAROL #122	<i>“Silent Night, Holy Night!”</i>	
SCRIPTURE	Luke 2:1-7	Joan Fraser Pew Bible pg. 58
ANTHEM	<i>“Jesu Parvule”</i>	Alfred Burt The Chorale
SCRIPTURE	Luke 2:8-20	Pew Bible pg. 58
CAROL #115	<i>“Away in a Manger”</i>	
MEDITATION	<i>“Something to Ponder”</i>	Rev. Lovaglio

THE RESPONSE

CAROL #144 *“In the Bleak Midwinter”*

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

L: In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for the life of the world, saying
O Christ, our light,

P: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray for the church. With Mary, help us to treasure and ponder the gift
that has been given to us, a gift of good news and great joy for all. O Christ,
our light,

P: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray for the world. With prophets, help us proclaim the promise of your
peace for all nations and your justice for all people. O Christ, our light,

P: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray for this community. With shepherds, help us keep watch over those
entrusted to our care and all who need protection this night. O Christ, our
light,

P: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray for loved ones. With angels, help us to offer signs of hope, comfort,
and joy for all who live in fear. O Christ, our light,

P: Hear our prayer.

L: Lord Jesus Christ, hope of the world, with all of creation we shout the good
news of great joy: chains are broken, burdens are lifted, wounds are healed.
We rejoice in your goodness as we pray together:

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 #119 *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory *"To Shepherds as they watched"* Nicholas LeBegue
Organ

Hymn #606 (Hymnal)* *"Doxology"*
Prayer of Dedication*

CAROL #134* *"Joy to the World"*

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE* *"From heaven above"* Johann Pachelbel
Organ

***ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND**

Welcome to Worship at The First Presbyterian Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service - December 24, 2018 - 11:00 pm.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE *Pastoral Air with Variations* Franz X. A. Murschauser
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. Joanne Petto

L: “Good news of great joy,” the angel said, “for to you a savior is born.” “Peace on earth,” the choir sang, “for God reigns in the highest.” “Follow me,” the star beckoned, “For Hope was born in Bethlehem.”

L: As we light the Christ candle,

P: we watch for the Christmas story around us.

L: Emmanuel has come and is coming.

P: Come, all ye faithful, and worship God

CAROL #133* *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)*

Lord of Light and Hope, our minutes and hours have been swallowed up in preparation for this night and for the coming day. Forgive us when we so easily get entangled in our own plans and forget to pay attention to the true event. Help us to relax and listen, instead of rush and shout. May the songs of the angels, the surprise of the shepherds, and the joy of the Holy Family become part of our lives. Remind us again of your never-changing love for us. Prepare us to serve you by serving others. This night we offer this prayer of our hearts to you, gracious God. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS*

CAROL #113 (Hymnal)* *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS*

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CAROL #115	<i>“Away in a Manger”</i>	
SCRIPTURE	Luke 2:1-7	Pew Bible pg. 58
ANTHEM	<i>“Jesu Parvule”</i>	Alfred Burt The Chorale
SCRIPTURE	Luke 2:8-20	Pew Bible pg. 58
SERMON	“Something to Ponder”	Rev. Hannah Lovaglio

THE RESPONSE

CAROL #144	<i>“In the Bleak Midwinter”</i>	
THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS		
Offertory	<i>“To Shepherds as they watched”</i>	Nicholas LeBegue Organ
Hymn #606 (Hymnal)*	<i>“Doxology”</i>	
Prayer of Dedication*		Rev. Petto
CAROL #134*	<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

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. Amen.

CLOSING CAROL #122* *"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 as we pass the light care is taken to avoid dripping wax.

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE*

"From heaven above"

Johann Pachelbel
Organ

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

ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND*

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

Thanks to our communion servers, George & Margie Conley, John & Brenda Kirkenir and Andy & Ruth Jost, and thanks to Sue Britton for preparing the communion. **Gluten free bread** is available at each station.

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 Ruth Jost at (609)235-9078. Any plants remaining after December 27 will be distributed as gift by the Deacons.

We pray God's warmest blessings upon you for a joyful Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year. Thank you to all those whose gifts, creativity and labor created the beautiful Christmas decorations and Nativity scene. 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!

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

Mrs. Janice Parker

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

(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 2:00 p.m.

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