

Welcome to Worship at The First Presbyterian Church
Please join us for fellowship and refreshments at “Coffee Hour” in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.

AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

1st Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2019 10:30 A.M.

THE APPROACH

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Prelude & Fugue in G

Felix Mendelssohn
Organ

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.)

INTROIT

“I to the Hills Will Lift Mine Eyes” **Donovan Klotzbecher**
The Chorale

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Samuel Rajendran, Pearl Samuel and family

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 7:14

Pew Bible pg. 636

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the virgin is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.”

CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

L: The world says, “All is lost.”

God says, “All is loved.”

The darkness says, “The light is dying.”

The light says, “The fire is catching.”

Fear says, “Cover your eyes and your ears.”

Hope says, “Wait, watch, and listen.”

L: As we light our first Advent candle,

P: we pray for the holy hope of God.

L: Come now, O Child of Mary.

P: Come now, O Prince of Hope.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

SUNG RESPONSE

(tune Hymn #105 *Away in a Manger*)

***A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of HOPE in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.***

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Hannah Lovaglio

Come all who seek truth—let us go up to the Lord's house,
that we might learn holy ways and follow right paths.
Come—all nations, all peoples—stream through open gates,
that we might gather in the hallways of justice, the courts of peace.
Come—children of God—let us walk in the light of the Lord.
With hope in our hearts, let us worship God!

HYMN #88 (Hymnal)*

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

CALL TO CONFESSION*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)*

Almighty God, you set before us the way of goodness and beckon us to follow you, but we disregard your teachings and disobey your word. You call people of every land to dwell in harmony, but we sow division and harvest discord. You command us to craft tools that sustain life, but we cling to weapons that damage and destroy. Forgive us, Lord. Your creation yearns for wholeness; your people long for justice and peace. Keep us ever watchful and awaken us to your ways as we wait in hope for the light of the world. Amen.

SILENT MEDITATION*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS*

SUNG RESPONSE*

(tune Hymn #121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*)

***O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!***

THE PEACE*

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Hannah

SCRIPTURE

Romans 13:11-14

Larry White
Pew Bible pg. 162

ANTHEM

The Promise

Russel Nagy
The Chorale

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 24:36-44

Pew Bible pgs. 27-28

SERMON

"Keep Awake"

Rev. Marie Branigan

HYMN #82 (Hymnal)*

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

THE RESPONSE

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

Largo (Symphony 88)

Franz Joseph Haydn
Organ

Sung Response*

Advent Doxology

(tune Hymn #885)

*All praise to you eternal Son, whose Advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit evermore.*

Prayer of Dedication*

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

HYMN #347 (Hymnal)

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

INVITATION

Rev. Branigan

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God: We give thanks, O Lord, that the days are surely coming when all the world will see the fulfillment of your promise of salvation. You alone are our righteousness, our only hope for justice and peace. Therefore, we praise

you, joining our voices with the heavenly choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior: In Christ, the tree of life, we have seen the first fruits of your holy realm. Though heaven and earth may pass away, Christ's word stands secure. Even now, we look for the day of his coming in power and great glory. With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the death and resurrection of our Lord. Receive our sacrifice of praise.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that this meal may be a communion in the body and blood of our Lord. Teach us to pray night and day that we may see you face to face. Strengthen us in holiness, faithfulness, joy, and love, so that we may be ready at the coming of the Lord. Through the Lord Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, we bless you, God of glory, now and forever.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *"Our Father..."*
(Unison – The Chorale/Congregation)

Albert Hay Malotte,
arr. Donovan Klotzbeacher

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Rev. Lovaglio

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our hope, we give you thanks that you have given us this foretaste of the justice, righteousness, and peace of your promised new creation. Strengthen us with this heavenly food as we seek to serve your holy realm. Lead us to live in joyful expectation of the coming again in glory of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

HYMN #97 (Hymnal)* *"Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"*

RESPONSE* *Choral Amen*

The Chorale

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE*

Allegretto (Symphony 100)

Franz Joseph Haydn
Organ

***ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friends, as we prepare to worship the Lord together, please be mindful of our neighbors and choir offerings by settling down prior to the start of our Prelude. Thanks very much for your thoughtfulness.

Visitors! We hope you will find a warm welcome here. We invite you to consider membership in our church family. Please speak to our Greeter or one of our Pastors after worship for more information; or if you would like to be contacted, please provide us with your address and/or email address in the red “friendship pad”.

Children are welcome in worship! Worship materials for children are available in the Narthex and are offered with the hope that children who want to will be able to worship alongside the whole church family. Children are also invited to come forward for the children’s message, and nursery care is available throughout the service. Find the way to worship that works best for your family!

Hearing devices are available for your convenience in the Narthex.

Large print bulletins and hymnals are available in the Narthex.

Communion Servers are Pat Bohrs, Michael Lovaglio, Art and Gloria-Jean Ryba, and Kirstie Venanzi.

The Flowers today are given in memory of Reverend Wendy White Thode by her sister, Heidi and husband Cabot Knowlton, children, Annie, Betsy, Ted and wife Erica Thode and granddaughters, Turner and Marin.

Coffee Hour is hosted by the Stewardship & Finance Committee.

Head Ushers are Caren Anuszewski and Heidi Knowlton.

Greeters are Jack Britton and Heidi Knowlton.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Church members with special prayer concerns: Betty Borgeson; Bill Chermak; Margie Conley; Helen Dickerson; Jean Dunham and family due to the passing of her brother-in-law, Chuck; Arlene and Dennis Duran; Dina Ellsworth; Craig Gilbert; Sally Giovanos; Harry Kleinkauf; Beatrice Mabutho; Charlie Patterson, Jr.; Ken Rossman; Wilma Shimer; and Elliott Wilson.

Family and Friends of Church Members for whom prayers are asked: CPNS teacher, Gretchen's husband, Chip; Helen Dickerson's mother, Martha & brother, Clifford; Joan & Gordon Fraser's daughter, Fiona; Gail Geijer's son, Dan & sister, Jane; Mark Hughes' father, John; Ed Kietlinski's sister, Joanna; Dorothy Klotzbeacher's ex-husband, Rev. Maltby; Rev. Joanne Petto's friend, Steve & family; Senior Fellowship member, Ruth; Sharon Ramkishun's niece, Kaity; Art & Gloria Jean Ryba's cousin, Layla; Jane Siebert's friend, Madlyn; Joan Smith's brother, Jim; Doris Wiegartner's nephew, Gary; Loida Wilson's mother, Loli; and Agnes Winchell's sister, Aniko.

We pray for all people who are in need in our wider community and please remember family and friends in our nation's service. Members of our church family are encouraged to make prayer requests for relatives serving in our armed services, most especially those serving in harm's way.

Prayer Chain: If you have a prayer concern, please call the church office at (609)395-0897 or email Daune Arsnow at deersnow@verizon.net. If you would like to become part of the "chain" of church members, who pray daily with and for people with a particular need, please call the church office.

Prayer requests in the bulletin: In order to keep the prayer request list up to date, we will print the names of friends and family of church members who have prayer requests for one month. After that time, you may call the church office to have a name reappear on the prayer list.

Please be sure to fill out and sign the "**Pipeline to Session**" cards found in the pews if you have any questions/concerns for the Session. This is a great way to give "kudos" as well!

Birthday of Distinction: Warren S. Tantum today, December 1. **Happy Birthday!**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

Movie Night! The youth group invites all those interested to join us for “*A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*” starring Tom Hanks tonight, Sunday, December 1. To reserve your ticket to the 5:45 p.m. show at AMC Hamilton, contact Pastor Hannah. The church van will leave from the church parking lot at 4:45 p.m. and return by 8:15 p.m.

Christmas Wreaths for Sale - TODAY, December 1, the Youth Group will be selling Christmas Wreaths in the Fellowship Hall to benefit the Summer Mission Trips and the Youth Group. **The Evergreen wreaths can be purchased for \$12 without a bow or \$15 with a red bow.**

Nativity Processional! Next Sunday December 8 is a Celebration Sunday! We will celebrate advent with a Nativity Procession down Main Street! Gather at 84 North Main Street at 9:15 a.m. and don a nativity costume. The procession will start at 9:45 a.m. and continue to our church, where we will enjoy caroling with our families in the Sanctuary.

Giving Tree! There is still time to donate to make Christmas memorable at UrbanPromise Trenton. There are 31 tags left on the giving tree in the Fellowship Hall. To donate, take a tag off the tree and add your monetary donation to the UrbanPromise stocking at the tree. The Christian Ed committee will purchase the gift on the tag with your donation. We encourage friends to go in on a gift (or two!) together. Checks can be made out to the First Presbyterian Church with "UrbanPromise Giving Tree" in the memo line. Thank you for having Big Dreams for the children and youth at UrbanPromise this Christmas!

Daily Devotion 2020: All are invited to join Pastor Hannah and the Book Group in reading *The Courage to See: Daily Inspiration from Great Literature*, a daily devotional by Greg Garrett and Sabrina Fountain. This simple devotional celebrates the beauty of literature and its ability to illuminate elements of the Divine, present all around us. **Copies will be available for \$12 in the church office.**

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Annual Christmas Luncheon: Join us on Sunday, December 15 at 11:30 a.m. following our Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall for our traditional “Chicken Soup and Christmas Cheer” luncheon. Please bring a dessert to share which can be dropped off in the kitchen before Worship. We will be singing all our favorite Christmas carols.

DEACONS

Coffee Hour Host(s) Needed: Anyone who signs up for Coffee Hour will have a Deacon helper if they want a Deacon helper. There are two sign-up lists; the first is to sign-up to be a Coffee Hour Host. The second is to volunteer to bring a plate of cookies or crackers or the like to help the host. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Jost at ruthjost@comcast.net.

Thanksgiving Food Basket Update: The Deacons Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive provided Thanksgiving meals to 134 families, including 271 adults and 205 children, making a total of **476 people!** Thanks, to all of our wonderful Deacons and volunteers who helped this week! In addition, Urban Promise Trenton received 14 Thanksgiving Baskets as well! God Bless You All!

Ruth Jost, Moderator

OTHER NEWS

Thank You: I would like to thank you all for your thoughts and sympathy in the death of my husband, Bob. Our family appreciates receiving your support and prayers as well. This kind and generous church family have provided so much, not only food, flowers and good wishes but love in this difficult time.

Blessings to all,
Pat Demers

Cross Pendant: The beautiful cross which hangs in our Sanctuary is available as a pendant. The pendant is an exact molded replica of this cross, and measures 1 1/4" long, and is available in any metal of your choosing. It is only available by custom order directly by you from the Jewelry Design Gallery, which is located inside ShopRite on Rte. 130 in Hightstown where any of the salespersons can help you with your order, or by calling them at (609)371-1800. It will take 2-3 weeks to create your piece. The price for a silver cross is \$59, plus tax, and in gold the price is \$350, plus tax. You can also customize the finish to be shiny or antiqued. When you call, just identify yourself as a member of the Cranbury Presbyterian Church, as this cross is only available to us.

If you have any questions, need help, or would like to see the pendant, see or call Joan Smith at (609)655-1905, or email at joankeenesmith@gmail.com.

OUTREACH

Do you have a church name badge? Many of you already have a name badge. If you already have one, please remember to wear it. You might consider leaving it in a place in your home where you will see it when you are getting ready for church. If you don't have a name badge and would like one, please email Audrey Smith at aud123abc@aol.com.

A grayscale illustration of a nativity scene. In the foreground, a manger is shown with a donkey on the left, Mary kneeling on the right, and the infant Jesus in a manger. Above the manger, a star is visible in the sky, with the text "Come follow the star..." written in a cursive font. Below the star, an angel with wings is depicted. In the background, three camels and three shepherds are shown, representing the journey to the manger.

Come follow the star...

Christmas Nativity Processional
December 8 at 9:45 a.m.

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Gather at 84 North Main Street to walk down Main Street alongside Mary and Joseph stopping at the "The Inn" (The Cranbury Inn) before entering the Sanctuary, where you can join in caroling before Worship.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Senior Fellowship will be having our Christmas party on Tuesday, December 10 at 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall. **If you are not on the Senior Fellowship call list and you would like to attend, please call the church office at 609-395-0897 to register by Tuesday, December 3.**

Senior Exercise Schedule: December 2, December 5, December 9 and December 12

Sr. Fellowship is open to all people age 55 and older in the towns around our church. Our goal is to allow seniors to form bonds with other local seniors and give them opportunities for social interaction, education and enjoyment. If you would like to join us on the planning committee for 2020, please contact Connie Bauder.

I encourage all the seniors in our congregation to attend our programs and share their experiences with others in our group. Some people in our group have very little interaction with others and they love to have new people to talk to. This could be your mission.

SMALL GROUPS

Prayer Shawl Group: Join us in Room 1 on **December 12** at 11:00 a.m. Knit or crochet along with us. We'd love to welcome you into our group. While we knit together, we enjoy our fellowship time together – so will you!

Book Club: Our Book Group is reading *Waking Up White*, by Debby Irving, to be discussed at book group on **January 27** (7:30 to 9 p.m.). Join us in the church library!

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Counting Teams: 12/1 (Team #3) – 12/8 (Team #4) – 12/15 (Team #1)

WORSHIP

We need volunteers to Usher! If you have questions or would like to usher, please contact Heidi Knowlton at (609)480-9176 or email her at cabotk@comcast.net. There is also a sign-up sheet on the Congregational Life bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Flowers: If anyone wishes to provide flowers for any given Sunday in memory or in honor of a loved one(s), please contact Heidi Knowlton at (609)799-1724 or email her at cabotk@comcast.net.

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

December 1 (1st Sunday of Advent)

9:15a Sunday School (all areas)

10:30a Worship with Communion followed by coffee hour

3:30p-5p Boy Scouts (FH)

4:30p-8:15p Youth Group: Movie (VAN)

December 2

10:00a Senior Exercise

1:30p Adult Bible Study (Lib.)

6:00p B&G Meeting

7:30p Brass Choir

8:00p Al-Anon (McK Rm)

December 3

9:00a Bulletin Material Due

9:30a Staff Meeting

3:45p Children's Choir

7:00p CE and Youth Meeting (Lib.)

7:30p AA (McK Rm)

7:30p MS&G Meeting (Church Office)

December 4

7:00p Bell Choir

7:30p Transition Team Mtg (Lib)

December 5

10:00a Senior Exercise

2:30p-5:30p TASK – VAN

6:45p Worship Committee Meeting (Lib.)

7:30p The Chorale

December 6

8:30a Bulletin Assembly

9:30a-10:30a God & Me Playgroup (Rm 8)

December 7

December 8 (2nd Sunday of Advent)

9:45a Christmas Nativity Processional & Tableau begins at 84 N. Main Street

10:30a Worship followed by coffee hour

11:30a Urban*Promise* International Craft Sale (Rm 1)