

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

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2019 10:30 A.M.

THE APPROACH

PRELUDE

Prière à Notre-Dame

Léon Boëllmann
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.)

INTROIT

“Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel”
(Ps. 80:1)

Donovan Klotzbecher
The Chorale

CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

The Wheeler family

L: A voice cries out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord.” A choir sings in the silence, “Come, Emmanuel.” Every valley shall be filled. Every heart shall be made whole, for peace is stronger than turmoil, and love is louder than hate.

L: As we light our second Advent candle,

P: we pray for the holy peace of God.

L: Come now, O Child of Mary.

P: Come now, O Prince of Peace.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF HOPE AND PEACE

SUNG RESPONSE

(tune Hymn #105 Away in a Manger)

**A candle is burning, a candle of PEACE,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease.**

**For Jesus is coming to show us the way
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Marie Branigan

Can you imagine?

The wolf lives with the lamb; the leopard rests with the goat.

Can you imagine?

Knowledge of the Lord fills the land; righteousness reigns o'er all the earth.

The Lord's light shines on a weary world—

illuminating possibility, beckoning us to hope.

All: With peace in our hearts, let us worship God!

HYMN #106 (Hymnal)*

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

CALL TO CONFESSION*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)*

Holy One, Christ is coming; your kingdom is drawing near. We cannot remain unchanged. As we prepare the way for the Prince of Peace, help us abandon wayward wanderings and return to faithful paths. We have neglected to plead the case of the poor, and ignored the needs of the afflicted. We have denied our part in systems that oppress, and turned a blind eye toward injustice. Renew our minds and transform our hearts, that our lives might bear the fruit of compassion and care. Baptize us with your Spirit, and claim us again for your holy work, until you come in glory. 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*

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Joy Offering

Anne Gordon

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Hannah

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 11:1-11

Mary Speer
Pew Bible pgs. 640-641

ANTHEM

"Long ago prophets knew"
(*Piae Cantiones*)

arr. Lloyd Larson
The Chorale and Bell Choir

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 3:1-12

Pew Bible pgs. 2-3

SERMON

"And Along Came John..."

Rev. Branigan

THE RESPONSE

HYMN #104 (Hymnal)*

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Rev. Hannah Lovaglio

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 GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

Dialogue in D major

Jean-François D'andrieu
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*

HYMN #93 (Hymnal)*

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

RESPONSE*

Choral Amen

The Chorale

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE*

Plein Jeu & Fugue

François d'Agincour
Organ

***ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND**

A Congregational Meeting

has been called by the Session immediately following the
10:30 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, December 22, 2019,
for the sole purpose of electing church officers.

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.

Coffee Hour is hosted by the Jack & Carol Fisher, Monty & Peg Hagerty and Deacon helper, Heidi Knowlton.

Head Usher is Craig Vandenberg.

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; Dennis Duran and family due to the passing of his wife, Arlene; Dina Ellsworth; Bev Gilbert and family due to the passing of her husband, Craig; Sally Giovanos; Harry Kleinkauf; Beatrice Mabutho; Charlie Patterson, Jr.; Ken Rossman; Wilma Shimer; and Elliott Wilson.

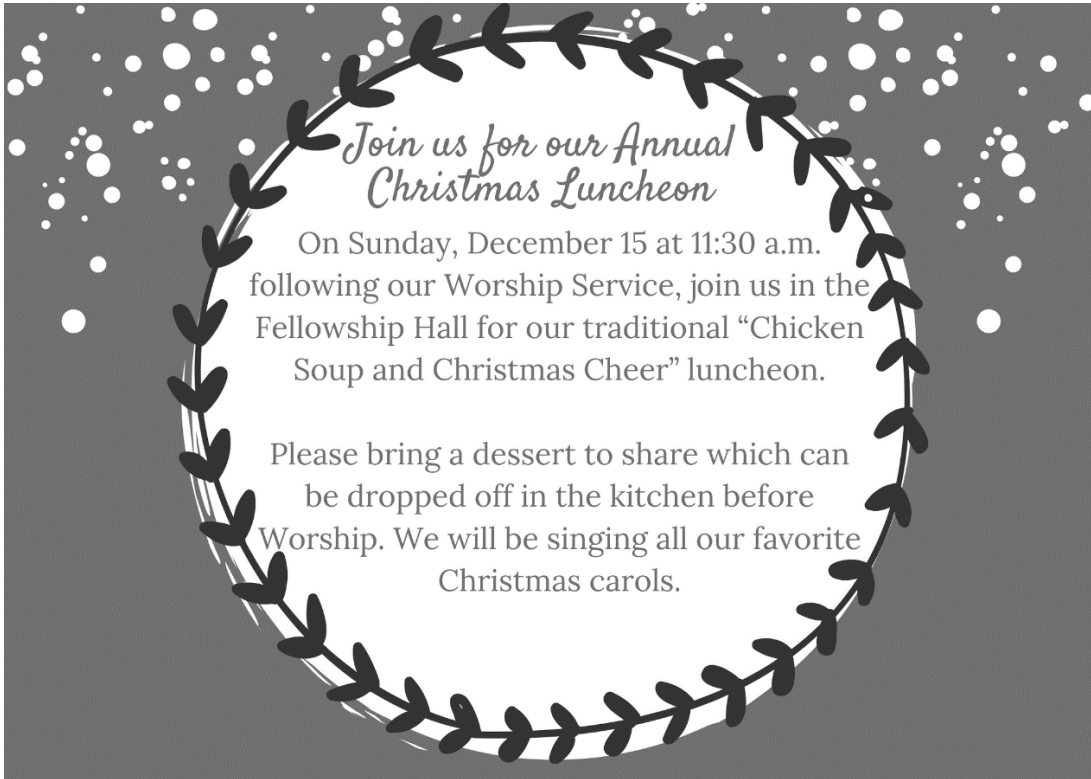
Family and Friends of Church Members for whom prayers are asked: CPNS teacher, Gretchen's husband, Chip; Helen Dickerson's mother, Martha & brother, Clifford; Joan & Gordon Fraser's daughter, Fiona; Gail Geijer's son, Dan & sister, Jane; Mark Hughes' father, John; Gay Ingegneri's husband, Tom; Ed Kietlinski's 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; Audrey & George Smith's brother-in-law, Bob; 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!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Group: There is no Youth Group this evening – see you next Sunday, December 15 for our Annual Christmas Party (5:30 – 7:30)!

Giving Tree! There is still time to donate to make Christmas memorable at UrbanPromise Trenton. There are 20 gift 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. 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.**

DEACONS

Candles for Sale! During coffee hour on December 15 and December 22, the Deacons will be selling candles for \$5 each. The proceeds from their sale will benefit the Deacons Benevolence Fund.

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.

MISSIONS, SERVICE & GRANTS

Skeet's Pantry Christmas Wishes: All of our Skeet's Pantry volunteers send very warm wishes to all our generous and kind donors. You have made it possible to brighten the tables of many families over the years, and it is deeply appreciated. Now, we need your help to put food on tables around our community for Christmas.

We especially need:

Cereal (Family Size Is Best); Peanut Butter; Jelly; Spaghetti Sauce

Please be sure that "use by" dates are current. And if you'd like to make a monetary donation, just make checks out to First Presbyterian Church of Cranbury with "Skeet's Pantry" on the memo line. May you and yours enjoy all the blessings of this wonderful Christmas Season. Thanks so much!

OTHER NEWS

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

UrbanPromise International Craft Sale TODAY after our Worship Service. Hand crafted items from Kenya, Malawi and Uganda.

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.

SENIOR BREAKFAST CLUB

Join us for Senior Breakfast on **Thursday, December 19 at 8:30 a.m.** at the Cranbury Inn. The program will be “Christmas Traditions” presented by Harry Bohrs.

Senior Breakfast Club is open to all who wish to hear these events at our Thursday, once-a-month breakfast at the Cranbury Inn. If you wish to attend, and have not done so before, please notify the church office at (609)395-0897 so that we can contact you. We need to let the Cranbury Inn know the number of guests that will attend. The cost of breakfast is \$8 payable at the Inn. Please contact Fritz Hager at (609)655-2787 for more information.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Senior Exercise Schedule: December 9 and December 12 – See you in January!

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: Our Prayer Shawl Group has been busy knitting shawls and praying that each will bring comfort to its recipient. The original prayer shawl pattern calls for 555 yards of sport weight yarn or 2 skeins 11-16 ounces. We generally use No. 10 or 11 needles. If you wish to donate the yarn for a shawl, needles, or if you are cleaning out the cupboards and have extra yarn (we can make stripes or borders with more than one color), please consider giving it to our group.

Most importantly - Why don't you consider joining us in Room 1 on **December 12**. Experienced knitters – beginning knitters – never knitted before – all welcome. We'll see you then.

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: 12/8(Team #4)–12/15(Team #1)–12/22(Team #2)–12/29(Team #3)

We are nearing the home stretch. There are only a few more weeks left in the year and soon Session will be making decisions regarding next year's budget. As we near year-end, we urge you to keep our church "top-of-mind" for year-end gifts. In addition, please remember to turn in your pledge for next year. If you cannot locate your pledge card that was mailed in October, you will find one in the pew.

P.S. - Thinking about a year-end offering to help our budget? Try a gift of appreciated stock (or shares of a mutual fund). Gifting securities that have appreciated in value has tax benefits. By doing so, you may avoid paying taxes on the capital gains that have accumulated and the market value of the securities when received will be reported as part of your annual offering. Instructions to make a transfer of securities can be downloaded from our church website, or you can contact Ken Gordon at stewardshipandfinance@cranburypres.org.

WORSHIP

Blue Christmas Service: Join us **Saturday, December 21 at 5:00 p.m.** for a Worship Service of comfort and hope. With words, carols, candle-lighting and prayer, we will acknowledge our losses and our heartaches even as we give thanks to God for the gifts of hope, grace, and love.

We need Ushers for the 9:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Services! 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 also is 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 8 (2nd Sunday of Advent)

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

10:30a Worship followed by coffee hour & *UrbanPromise* International Craft Sale (Room 1)

December 9

10:00a Senior Exercise

12:00p Staff Christmas Luncheon

2:00p-4:00p Sr. Fellowship Christmas Program Prep (FH/Kit)

7:30p Congregational Life Mtg (Lib.)

7:30p Transition Team Mtg

7:30p Brass Choir

8:00p Al-Anon (McK Rm)

December 10

9:00a Bulletin Material Due

9:30a Staff Meeting

9:00a-4:00p Sr. Fellowship (FH/Kit/VAN)

12:00p Sr. Fellowship Christmas Luncheon (FH/Kit)

4:30p P&A Mtg (Lib)

3:45p Children's Choir
6:00p B&G Meeting (Lib)
7:30p AA (McK Rm)
7:30p CPNS Board Meeting (Upstairs Church Office)
7:30p Stewardship & Finance Cmte Meeting (Church Office)

December 11

9:00a Session Material Due
11:30a-12:30p CPNS Teachers Mtg (Lib)
6:30p-9p Mercer Area Scout District Mtg (FH/Kit/JK)
7:00p Bell Choir

December 12

10:00a Senior Exercise
11:00a Prayer Shawl Group (Rm 1)
7:30p The Chorale

December 13

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

December 14

9:00a Congregational Life prep for Christmas Luncheon
6:30p-9p Scout Holiday Concert (FH/JY)

December 15 (3rd Sunday of Advent)

9:15a Sunday School (all areas)
10:30a Lessons & Carols Worship Service
11:30a Annual Christmas Luncheon
11:45a Library Committee (Lib.)
3:30p-5p Boy Scouts (FH)
5:30p-7:30p Youth Group Christmas Party(FH)