

Welcome to Worship at the First Presbyterian Church

A Christmas Eve Service of Bells for Children of All Ages

December 24, 2019 - 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

HYMN #188

“Jesus Loves Me!”

(All children who want to participate in the Christmas Story should meet in the Narthex.)

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Pastor Hannah

Adapted from Luke 2:1-20 and Matthew 2:1-12

The Birth of Jesus

CAROL #115

Joseph and Mary come forward

“Away in a Manger”

(1st verse only)

The Angels

CAROL #119

Angels come forward

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

(1st verse only)

The Shepherds

CAROL #147

Shepherds and sheep come forward

“The First Nowell”

(1st & 2nd verses only)

The Wisemen

CAROL #145

Star and Wisemen come forward

“What Child Is This”

(1st & 3rd verses only)

Just the Beginning

CAROL #134*

Children return to family and ring bells!

“Joy to the World”

(1st 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! Merry Christmas!

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 yearlong!

THE USHERS tonight are George Sr., George & Nick Arsnow, Luke & Evan 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 the piano for this service; Dorothy Klotzbeacher who directed the CPNS Christmas Choir; Jo D. Andrews who directed the Children's Choir; and to Megan Pease and Pearl Samuel 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.

Join us Sunday, December 29, 2019 for Worship

10:30 a.m. Worship Service
No Sunday School and No Youth Group

Interim Pastor
Associate Pastor

The Rev. Marie Branigan
The Rev. Hannah Lovaglio

Cranbury Presbyterian Nursery School, Director
CPNS Closed: 12/20 through 1/2/2020

Mrs. Jessica Corriveau
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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 1/2/2020