

# A SERVICE OF WORSHIP CELEBRATING THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 24, 2018 at 8:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve

## *We Gather Around God's Word*

*Prelude* "Greensleeves" by Purvis  
Robert Grube, Jr., Organist

Welcome Rev. Chris Kile

*Introit* Chancel Choir, Alison Ruth Nead, Directing

**\*Call to Worship** from Isaiah 9 Rev. Kile and Janice Grevious

Reader: We light the Christ candle. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.

**People: You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.**

Reader: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**All: In Christ, let us worship God!**

*\*Hymn #40 "Joy to the World!" (Verses 1, 2 and 3)*

**Prayer of Adoration and Confession (unison)** Janice Grevious

**Almighty God, who sent a star to guide people to the Holy Child Jesus: We confess that we have not followed the light of your Word. We have not searched for signs of your love in the world, or trusted good news to be good. We have failed to praise your son's birth and refused his peace on earth. Forgive our doubting ways, and renew in us all godly desires, so that we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord, in whose name we pray and offer our silent confession...**

Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness Rev. Chris Kile

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*\*We Give Glory to God #40 "Joy to the World!" (verse 4)*  
*He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love  
And wonders, wonders of His love.*

## *We Proclaim God's Word*

**Prayer for Illumination (unison)** Janice Grevious

**Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light, we may see light; in your truth find freedom; and in your will, discover your peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

First Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-7 (Page 71, N.T.) Janice Grevious

*Anthem* "O Holy Night"  
Lynn Pinto, Soloist

Second Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-20 (Page 71, N.T.) Rev. Chris Kile

Christmas Message: "The Light Has Come" Rev. Chris Kile

## *We Respond to God's Word*

*\*Hymn of Response #38 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*

Prayers of the People and **the Lord's Prayer** Rev. Chris Kile

*Anthem* "For Unto Us A Child Is Born"  
Chancel Choir, Alison Ruth Nead, Directing

We Worship With Our Offerings

Call For Offering Janice Grevious

*Offertory* "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" by Chapman  
Robert Grube, Jr., Organist

*\*Doxology*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, Ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen*

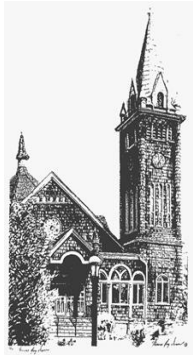
Prayer of Dedication

Third Scripture Reading John 1:1-5 (Page 111, N.T.) Rev. Chris Kile

*\*Hymn #60 "Silent Night"*

*\*Benediction*

*Postlude*



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey 07016

Phone (908)276-8440

E-mail [Office@firstprescranford.org](mailto:Office@firstprescranford.org)

[www.firstprescranford.org](http://www.firstprescranford.org)

The Ministers of the First Presbyterian Church, Cranford, NJ:

The Entire Congregation of FPCC

Pastor and Head of Staff – Rev. John Christian Kile

Music Director – Alison R. Nead

Assistant Music Director– Elsa G. Hahn

Organist – Robert Grube, Jr.

Administrative Coordinator – Carol Thee

Sunday School Coordinator – Beth Marshall

### Our Church

#### Mission Statement

“As the body of Christ inspired by the Holy Spirit, we seek to be faithful disciples, living our lives as a testimony of Christ's love for all. We welcome diversity, and we respect and care for all of God's creation. We seek to spread God's Word and invite others to live Jesus' command to love one another as the Lord first loved us.”

We offer regularly scheduled Membership Exploration classes. These discussion groups meet at various times throughout the year and provide a forum for asking question, building relationships and learning about membership at First Presbyterian Church. Other programs include Adult Education, Sunday School and Youth Fellowship which provide disciples with loving guidance, a sense of identity as children of God and tools they can use as they live their Christian faith with integrity. Music programs include children's choirs, a bell choir and an adult choir that all enrich our worship throughout the year. Community Outreach programs include a monthly labyrinth walk, an on-going grief recovery program, service at a Soup Kitchen and a hospitality network serving the homeless. For more information, go to our website listed above.

### Our Worship Life

*Worship is held at 10am in the Sanctuary. Sunday School and childcare are available.*

The proclamation of God's Word, inspiring music and prayer are the foundations of our worship. We welcome visitors of all backgrounds and ages to share our faith in Jesus Christ as we face the challenges and joy of living in today's world.

All children begin each Sunday in the Sanctuary. After participating in a special children's message, they move on to their Sunday School classrooms.

**Come! Worship with us at 10am on Sunday mornings!**

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OF

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