

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP CELEBRATING THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 24, 2018 at 4:00 pm

Christmas Eve

We Gather Around God's Word

Prelude

*"Carol Rhapsody" by Purvis
Robert Grube, Jr., Organist*

Welcome

Rev. Chris Kile

***Call to Worship/Lighting of Advent Candles**

Hechevarria Family

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!

***Opening Hymns #41 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (verses 1 and 3)**

Prayer of Adoration and Confession (unison)

Mary Petty

Gracious God, you keep surprising us. While we focus on greatness, you come to us in a small new baby. In the busyness and noise of this season, the angel songs suddenly ring out and we must listen again. We have tried to ignore you, to deny your presence, to make it through life on our own. We accept hatred and have made a mess of your good creation. We seek a better way this night of hope and joy. Hear us, holy God. Give us the peace of your presence so that we may join the company of the redeemed in songs of praise and the sharing of good news.

Words of Grace

Rev. Chris Kile

Leader: God has heard our cries.

People: The Lord has come, and is coming again.

Leader: Let the peace of God keep guard over your hearts and your thoughts.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Gloria Hymn #23 "Angels We Have Heard on High" (verse 1)

We Proclaim God's Word

Prayer For Illumination

Mary Petty

O holy Child of Bethlehem, come to us we pray. Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born to us this day. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell. O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-7 (pg. 71 of N.T.)

Rev. Chris Kile

"Christmas Special Delivery"

*Caroler Choir (1st -3rd grades) and Crusader Choir (4th -6th grades)
Ann Weeks, Accompanist
Music Director of Jubilee Bell and Children's Choirs, Elsa G. Hahn*

Christmas Is the Season!

What's the Trouble With Christmas?

(It's the) Simple Gifts

Celebrate the Good News

With God's Gift

Jesus is Born!

Angels We Have Heard On High

Christmas Is the Season

Children's Message

Rev. Chris Kile

We Respond To God's Word

We Worship With Our Offerings

Call For Offering

Offertory Selection

*"In dulci jubilo" by Wood
Robert Grube, Jr., Organist*

Mary Petty

***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, Prayers of the People and **Lord's Prayer**

Rev. Chris Kile

***Closing Hymn #40 "Joy To the World"**

*Benediction

*Postlude

Christmas Special Delivery

Cast of Characters

Mr. Wilson	Megan Bendert
Mr. Grubble	Connor Wyrick
Mrs. Davis	Sanaa Wright
Mr. & Mrs. Porter	Petra McTiernan, Grace Owens
Mrs. Green	Amanda Simone
Melissa Green	Riley Fitzgerald
Mr. Wilbert	Sophia Bossolina
Teri White	Geovanna Ayala
Tiffany White	Amelia Semler
Mrs. White	Evie Filipowski
Billy Dooley, Shepherd	Vanessa Hechevarria
Mrs. Smithers	Estela Suarez-Ojedis
Sally Smithers	Grace Curtin
Zeke Montgomery	Lizzie Ryan
Molly Maguire	Evelynn Keat
Joy Jones	Seraphine Brooks-Tham
Emily Melton	Melody Jennings
Jeff Harris	Tony Bossolina
Christine Cooper	Caroline Giblin
Ralph Jones, Joseph	Max Ayala
Elsa Magillacuddy, Shepherd	Juliette Bracke
Martha Minnich, Mary	Maisie Douglas
Nancy O'Connell, King	Natalia Suarez-Ojedas
Eleanor Edwards	Elana Bongiovanni

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey 07016

Phone (908) 276-8440

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www.firstprescranford.org



A heartfelt thanks to Ann Weeks for all the help, support and love she shares with me and with the children. Thanks too for all the practicing and rehearsing she's done in preparation for this magical production. Thanks to the sound technicians, the stage hands, the parents and to the children.

Have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Love,

Elsa



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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!

Christmas Flowers 2018

Donations have been made

