

Offertory

“Away in a Manger” by Hebble  
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 and **The Lord’s Prayer**

Christ comes! Our hearts are full, our joy is boundless.  
May this offering be a living message of peace, love, spirit, joy and hope  
to this church, to this community, to this nation and world.  
Let us say together the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray... Amen.

**Closing Hymn #40 - Joy to the World Vs 1, 2, 4**

Benediction

Leader: A Child is born to us! A Son is given!  
He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace!  
Christ is born! Merry Christmas to all!  
People: Christ is born! Merry Christmas to all!

# A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS CELEBRATING THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 30, 2018 at 10am

First Sunday After Christmas

## *We Gather Around God’s Word*

Prelude

*Improvisation on "The First Nowell" by Burton  
Robert Grube, Jr., Organist*

Welcome

*Introit: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” - Inspire Band-Maddie Simone, soloist*

### **Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Candles:**

Reader 1: We relight four candles representing the four weeks of Advent. Long have we awaited the blessed hope of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Reader 2: These candles symbolize gifts of Jesus Christ to us: peace; love; hope; joy.

**All: Today we relight the Christ Candle which represents the light of the world made real in the Son of God come to earth at Christmas. In Christ, the grace of God has appeared bringing the Good News of salvation for all.**

*\* Hymn of Gathering “There’s a Song in the Air” Insert*

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

**Come just as you are. Come to meet Jesus. As Mary and Joseph welcomed strangers and a host of heavenly guests to the stable,so God welcomes us with open arms. In these silent moments, give yourself over to the counsel of God as you confess your failings and shortcomings. God loves you. God is listening... (Moments of Silent Prayer)**

*Prayer Response – “Hear our prayer O Lord”*

Assurance of Reconciliation and **Passing of the Peace**

Leader: God is faithful and just. God judges all people with equity. In the glow of God’s grace, you are forgiven! Let this revelation brighten your soul! Forgiven and forgiving, carry the light of Christ’s love Out into the world!  
The peace of Christ be with you

**People: And also with you.**

*Glory be to the Father  
And to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end, Amen, Amen.*

## **A Celebration of Lessons and Carols**

### **Reading 1 - Luke 1:26-38**

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a young woman named Mary in Nazareth, a town of Galilee. She was to be married to a man named Joseph of the family of David. When he came to her the angel said: "Hail, highly honored one! God is with you!" She was startled by his words and wondered what such a greeting might mean. But the angel said to her, "Fear not, Mary, for you have found favor with God. You will have a son and will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High."

Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, for I am not yet married." The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will cover you; therefore your child will be called holy, the Son of God." Mary said: "I am God's servant. May it be with me as you say." Then the angel left her.

### **Hymn - #16 - "The Angel Gabriel"**

### **Reading 2 – Luke 2:1-7**

In those days the Emperor Augustus commanded that everyone should be registered. So all went to be registered, each to his own town. Joseph, because he was of the family of David, went to be registered with Mary, his wife, from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem in Judea where David was born. While they were there Mary's first son was born. And she wrapped him in swaddling-clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

### **Hymn #44 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

### **Reading 3 – Luke 2:8-12**

In that country there were shepherds living in the fields and keeping watch over their flocks by night. And an angel from God stood by them and a heavenly light shone around them, and they were frightened. But the angel said to them: "Fear not, for behold I bring you good news Of great joy which shall be for all the people. For to you is born this day in the town of David A Savior who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to guide you: You will find a baby in swaddling-clothes lying in a manger."

## **Hymn #25 "Away in A Manger"**

### **Reading 4 - Luke 2: 13-20**

Then suddenly there was with the angel a great number of the heavenly ones singing praise to God and saying: "Glory to God on high, And on earth peace, goodwill among men."

When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem to see this which God has made known to us." So they went quickly and found Mary and Joseph; and the baby was lying in a manger. When they had seen him, they made known what had been told them about this child. All who heard the words of the shepherds wondered, but Mary kept these things to herself and often thought about them. And the shepherds returned, thanking and praising God for what they had heard and seen, as it had been foretold.

### **Hymn #31 "Hark The Herald Angels Sing"**

### **Reading 5 - Matthew 2: 1-3, 7-11**

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the time when Herod was king. Soon afterward, some men who studied the stars came from the East to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the east, and we have come to worship him."

When Herod heard of this, he was very upset and afraid. So Herod called the visitors from the East to a secret meeting and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem with these instructions: "Go and make a careful search for the child; and when you find him, let me know, so that I too may go and worship him."

And so they left, and on their way they saw the same star they had seen in the East. When they saw it, how happy they were, what joy was theirs! It went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They went into the house, and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshiped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and presented them to him.

### **Hymn #66 "We Three Kings"**

### ***We Respond to God's Word***

Call For Offering:

Leader: What can I offer, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise one, I would do my part... What can I offer: all my heart.

As we open our purses and our pockets, may the gifts we bring be in proportion to the gratitude of our hearts at Christ's birth.

*Christmas Flowers 2018*

*Donations have been made.*



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**LESSONS  
& CAROLS**

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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

## THIS WEEK AT FPCC

### Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>

10:00 am Worship – Lessons and Carols

11:00 am Fellowship

### Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

Church Offices close at noon

10:30 pm Labyrinth

### Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> – New Year's Day

Church Offices Closed

6:00 pm Operation Warm Heart

### Wednesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>

6:30 am Men's Prayer Breakfast

### Thursday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>

9:15 am Mom's Bible Study

3:30 pm Caroler Choir

4:30 pm Crusader Choir

6:30 pm Jubilee Bells

7:30 pm Chancel Choir

### Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup>

8:00 am Women's Breakfast Bible Study and Prayer

9:00 am Building and Grounds Day

9:00 am Helen K. Baldwin Nursery School Open House

### Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>

8:30 am Bible Explorers Advent Study

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Fellowship

1:00 pm Labyrinth

Sanctuary

Thomson Youth Center

Thomson Youth Center

Bates Hall

Rustic Mill Diner

Mettam Lounge

Choir Room

Choir Room

Choir Room

Choir Room

Board Room

Thomson Youth Center

Board Room

Sanctuary

Thomson Youth Center

Bates Hall

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### Helen K. Baldwin Nursery School Registration

Early Registration for FPCC members will end on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Contact Laura Gardner to register at 908-276-1166.

### Prayers of the Church Family

Pray for those in the FPCC Family facing health challenges and the loss of family members.

Pray for loved ones and friends of the FPCC Family.

We pray for people all over the world who are seeking asylum or a better life for themselves and their families. We pray that as a nation, we respond to all people in need in a way that Christ would affirm. We specifically pray for children and parents separated at the border and for their quick reunification.

We pray for the youth of FPCC and the adults who are in their lives. Prayers for peace, understanding and love for all.

Please ask for God's daily blessing for all in need, for those serving in the military, for married couples facing turmoil, first responders, those in leadership of our nation, and for peace in our country and the world.

***Emergency and immediate prayer support is available! Join over 200 people on the First Presbyterian Church Prayer Chain by receiving emails and adding people to your prayer list. To add someone, contact Linda Thorn at [lindathorn427@gmail.com](mailto:lindathorn427@gmail.com), at 908 358 8127, fill out the Prayer Request in the pew or call the office at 908-276-8440.***