

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP ON THE LORD'S DAY

December 27, 2020 at 10am

First Sunday After Christmas

We Gather Around God's Word

We invite you to listen quietly during the Prelude and prepare for the service to begin.

WELCOME

Rev. Leigh Gillis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rosemary Schultz

Prelude "Carol Rhapsody" by Richard Purvis
Robert Grube, Jr., Organist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Donna Graziano

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord on this First Sunday After Christmas.

People: It is the season of fulness, of completion.

Leader: Zechariah's speechlessness was gone. Mary's child was born!

People: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high has come upon us, giving light to those in darkness and guiding our feet into the way of peace.

Leader: This is reason, indeed, to praise the Lord!

People: The Lord's name be praised!

All: Let us worship God!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Donna Graziano

Let us come in penitence and faith before the God whose boundless love took the form of our frail humanity. Let us confess our sin together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Donna Graziano

Lord God of Jesus' incarnation, we stand on the threshold of another year. You have given us many gifts and helped us through many challenges during the last year; and yet we realize that we have often failed to use those gifts as creatively and constructively as we might have. Give us the care to shape the moments of 2021 into tender, gentle expressions of your love for all. May the year be filled with health and help: wrongs corrected, friendships deepened, the disheartened encouraged. Energize us with your love, even as you became love to us. For we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Leigh Gillis

We Give Glory to God

*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.*

Anthem

"Joy To the World"
Karen Bruno and Karen Cassidy

We Proclaim God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Donna Graziano

Open our hearts and minds, O God, by your Spirit, that we may hear with refreshed hearts and renewed minds your Word prepared for us this day. Through Christ, the Living Word, we pray. Amen.

Epistle Lesson: Galatians 4:1-7

Donna Graziano

Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:21-40

Rev. Leigh Gillis

Sermon: "THE FAVOR OF GOD"

Rev. Leigh Gillis

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please see the puzzle included in the insert to remember themes of the Advent and Christmas seasons.

We Respond to God's Word

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and LORD'S PRAYER

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - The Apostles' Creed, Traditional
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

WE WORSHIP WITH OUR OFFERINGS

Call For Offering

Rev. Leigh Gillis

Offertory

*“O Come, All Ye Faithful”
Karen Bruno and Karen Cassidy*

**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

Rev. Leigh Gillis

Benediction

Rev. Leigh Gillis

Postlude

Robert Grube, Jr.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Children's Message with Daniel Velez and Teddy
Posted at 9:15am before Sunday School

The Ministers of the First Presbyterian Church, Cranford NJ:
The Entire Congregation of FPCC
Pastor – Rev. Leigh B. Gillis
Director of Children, Youth and Families - Daniel Velez-Acevedo
Music Director– Elsa G. Hahn
Organist – Robert Grube, Jr.
Office Administrator – Carol Thee

Sunday Worship Action Team

Pastor Leigh

Organist - Bob Grube

Music Director - Elsa Hahn

Videographers - Laura Simone, Kris and Colin Farley, Sarah Cassidy

Sound - Terry Schultz, Rob Berns, Janice Grevious

Worship Elder - Rosemary Schultz, Tina Hechevarria, Assistant

Head Usher - Larry Imboden

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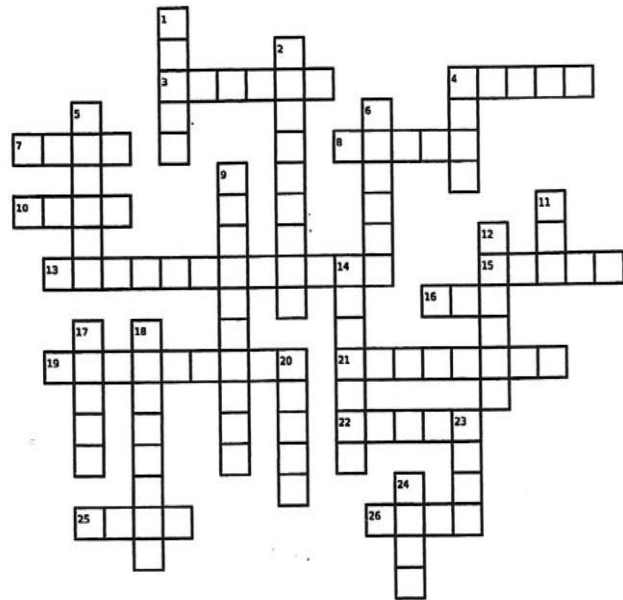


~Our Lady of Czestochowa~

Mission Statement

*As the body of Christ empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we seek to live God's Word and inspire others to
embrace Jesus' commandment to love one another
as the Lord loves us.*

Advent and Christmas 2020



Down:

- 1. heavenly messenger
- 2. City of David
- 4. common female name
- 5. holder of animal food
- 6. lighted wick
- 9. Mary's song
- 11. bliss
- 12. counting of population
- 14. quiet
- 17. tranquility
- 18. one who guard flocks
- 20. king of Judea
- 23. self-offering
- 24. precious metal

Across:

- 3. good news
- 4. bitter medicinal resin
- 7. heavenly light
- 8. approval
- 10. wise men
- 13. aromatic resin
- 15. where the holy family hid
- 16. hotel
- 19. father of John the Baptist
- 21. God with Us
- 22. Christmas song
- 25. was in the beginning
- 26. expectation

Prayers of the Church Family

Pray for those in the FPCC Family facing health challenges.

Pray for loved ones and friends of the FPCC Family.

Prayers for the people of Nicaragua, for those who feel forgotten or unloved, for those feeling overwhelmed. Prayers for healthcare and essential workers. We pray for people seeking asylum. We pray that as a nation, we respond to all people in need in a way that Christ would affirm. We pray for the youth of FPCC, the adults who are in their lives, for those serving in the military, for married couples facing turmoil, *those in leadership of our nation*, and for peace in our country and the world.

Emergency and immediate prayer support is available for friends and family of the Church! To add someone, contact Linda Thorn at lindathorn427@gmail.com, or at 908 358 8127.

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*Our Prayers of Condolence for  
 Ellie Schultz on the passing  
 of her husband, Russell,  
 and for all who have lost a loved one.*

