

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP ON THE LORD'S DAY

January 10, 2021 at 10am

The Epiphany of the Lord

We Gather Around God's Word

Listen quietly to the Prelude and prepare for the service to begin.

WELCOME

Rev. Leigh Gillis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tina Hechevarria

Prelude *Impression on "We Three Kings" - Alfred Fedak*
Robert Grube, Jr., Organist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Karen Cassidy

Leader: Come among us, Light of the World, Jesus, our Savior.

People: Shine your Spirit of justice and truth in our hearts as the sun shines on the earth.

Leader: As the rain pours down water for the thirsty, pour down your love and compassion on those who need you.

People: Let everlasting peace rise among all humans as the moon and stars rise nightly in the sky.

Leader: May all know your grace and wisdom, and trust in your divine guidance in this new year.

People: May the Spirit of Christ illumine us so that we may be your messengers of love and grace.

All: Let us worship God!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Karen Cassidy

The psalmist reminds us, "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. God will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever." With this knowledge, we may confess our sins before God and one another with confidence. Let us pray together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Karen Cassidy

Merciful God, our Creator and Redeemer, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you with our whole hearts nor our neighbors as ourselves. We repeatedly chose darkness over your light of love. We are sorry and repent; we intend to turn from what was before. Forgive us and strengthen us to love and obey you and to show your love to others. We ask 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 *"Three Wise Kings" by Douglas E. Wagner*
Maddie and Matt

We Proclaim God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Karen Cassidy

Loving God, by your Spirit, may we recognize you in your Word for us this day. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 3:1-12

Karen Cassidy

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

Rev. Leigh Gillis

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "WISE ONES AND STARS"

Rev. Leigh Gillis

We Respond to God's Word

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Phyllis Dunlop

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Leigh Gillis

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - Excerpt from the Scot's Confession

When the fullness of time came God sent his Son, eternal wisdom, the substance of his own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, by means of the Holy Ghost. And so was born the "just seed of David," the "Angel of the great counsel of God," the very Messiah promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, true God and true human, two perfect natures united and joined in one person. So, by our Confession we condemn those who did either deny the eternity of his Godhead, or the truth of his humanity, or confounded them, or else divided them.

We acknowledge and confess that this wonderful union between the Godhead and the humanity in Christ Jesus did arise from the eternal and immutable decree of God from which all our salvation springs and depends. Thanks be to God.

WE WORSHIP WITH OUR OFFERINGS

Call For Offering

Rev. Leigh Gillis

Offertory

Maddie and Matt

**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

*“What Star is This” by Edward Mead
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 Elders - Rosemary Schultz, Tina Hechevarria, Phyllis Dunlop

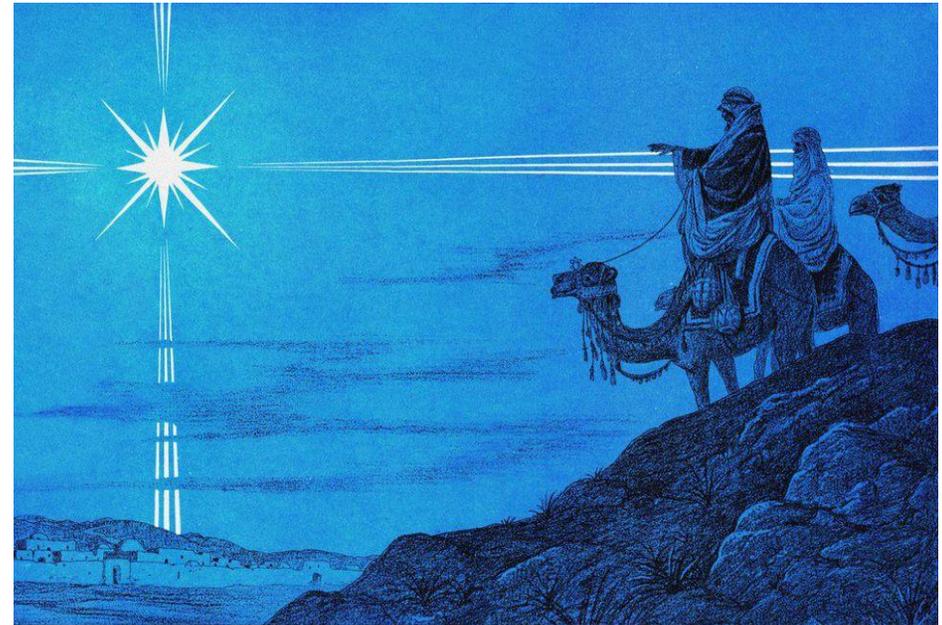
Head Usher - Larry Imboden

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CRANFORD

11 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey 07016

Phone (908) 276-8440

www.firstprescranford.org



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.*

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, Jean VanHorn, Doug Weeks, Joan Winter, Caity Woley, Scott Zigmund.

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  
family and friends of June Meyer on her passing,  
the family of Bob Powell on his passing,  
Laura Edward Field on the passing of her father  
and for all who have lost a loved one.*



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**PASTORAL CARE** – For Pastoral Care needs and concerns, contact President of Deacons, Amy Aaroe at 908-403-5321. Amy will contact the pastor for you. Pastor Leigh Gillis can be reached at 908-432-3959 [pastorleigh@firstprescranford.org](mailto:pastorleigh@firstprescranford.org).

**FLOWERS** – In loving memory of grandparents, Anna and Nils Peterson and Olga and Anker Karsberg from the Burk and Peterson families.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** – is held from 9:30am to 9:55am on Zoom. For registration and more information contact Daniel Velez at [daniel@firstprescranford.org](mailto:daniel@firstprescranford.org).

**FOOD DONATIONS** - Food donations will now be accepted each Sunday in the Narthex. Donations continue to be accepted on the porch of 214 Pawnee Road in Cranford. Mary Petty will deliver the food to local distribution sites.

**STEWARDSHIP UPDATE** – All session members have made pledges in the 2021 Stewardship campaign. Have you? All pledges are gratefully received whether it is the amount you pledged last year, increased amount or if necessary a decreased amount or a pledge to spend time in prayer for the congregation and the church. All are gratefully accepted. Contact Paul Gish, campaign chairperson at [pvgish@gmail.com](mailto:pvgish@gmail.com) or submit a pledge card to the office.

