

# Welcome to all who gather here today.

## Located in your pew you will find:

- ✦ Index cards for submitting prayer requests during Joys and Concerns; please place your index cards in the offering plate.
- ✦ Visitor cards to be placed in the offering plate
- ✦ A pew envelope for an offering

We hope the service enables you to worship God meaningfully.

*\* = Please stand as you are able or remain upright in spirit  
PH = Presbyterian Hymnal; Congregational responses in bold type.*

## MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

*Upon arrival, hang your ornament on the sanctuary tree.*

## TOLLING THE HOUR

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETINGS

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

### PIANO PRELUDE

### Silent Night

Franz Gruber/Arr. Robert Lowden

*(Hymn of the Month—Celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its writing.)*

*Bringing forth the Advent Wreath greens.*

*Joseph and Mary begin their journey.*

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE – PROMISE (Jeremiah 33:14-16)

*Members of the Women's Bible Study Group*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

The sudden sense of a larger mystery, a flood of unexpected tears,

**some chorus faintly heard, a cherished memory brought to mind,**

a fragment of a dream, the tail end of a story,

**an awesome peace in the midst of a pressing chaos, a holy reverence on a starlit,  
moon-bright night,**

an unexplained act of kindness, an unexpected letter, a surprise visit—

**in these many and varied ways God nudges, tugs, calls, and beckons us.**

We turn and discover God already waiting for us, our longing met by God's yearning.

***Let us rejoice and sing!***

**\*HYMN**

**“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

**PH 9**

*Hanging the Chancel Wreath.*

**WE CONFESS OUR SINS  
CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of blessing and love, when the time was right You sent Your Son to the world. Teach us the art of patience, as we await Christmas Eve. Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You. In Your mercy, forgive us. Forgive us for making this holy season of anticipation a whirlwind of lists and activities, a flood of joyless obligations and heartless generosity. Forgive our rush as we forgive those who rush past us. Lead us from anxiety, and deliver us from pretense. For Your kingdom is coming with the power of love and with the glory of angelic carols, heralded in the birth of Christ. Amen.

*Silent Prayer*

**DECLARATION OF PARDON**

**SUNG RESPONSE**

**PH 9, Refrain**

**“Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!”**

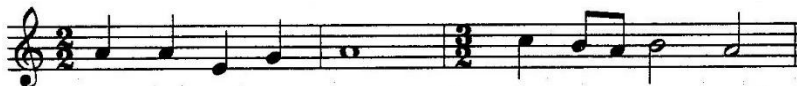
**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 2:1-5 (Pew Bible p. 631 in the Old Testament)

**Psalms 25**

**Lord, you are my strength**



Lord, you are my strength; has - ten to help me.

**SECOND READING:** 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13 (Pew Bible p. 204 in the New Testament)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Elder Donna Potts

**SERMON**

***"An Advent Attitude"***

Rev. Dr. Byron Shafer

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**\*HYMN**

***"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"***

**PH 2**

*Chrismons and holly placed in the evergreen bough.*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(The Apostles Creed)*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ, God's 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.**

**\*THE GLORIA PATRI**

**PH 579**

**THE OFFERING**

**THE OFFERING IN MUSIC**

***"What Child Is This"***

Handbell Choir

Trad/Arr. Matthew Prins

**\*THE DOXOLOGY**

**PH 592**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,  
for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

## GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME TO SERVE THE LORD

\*HYMN

**"We All Are One in Mission"**

PH 435

*Place wreaths over center candles.  
Bring forth Creché figures; place in manger.*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

PIANO POSTLUDE

**Angels from the Realms of Glory**

Henry Smart/Arr. Robert Lowden

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The Peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*Remaining ornaments may be hung on tree.*

## SERVING THIS LORD'S DAY

Guest Preacher..... Rev. Dr. Byron Shafer  
Reader..... Deb Branson  
Director of Music ..... Gwendolyn Huber  
Accompanist..... Dr. Robert Lowden  
Deacon of the Month ..... Pat Andrus – 499-1038  
Fellowship ..... Cookie Party (*Share a Recipe*)

**Next Sunday, December 9, 2018**

Worship..... Christmas Cantata  
Fellowship Hour ..... Silver Tea

## ABOUT OUR GUEST PREACHER

**The Reverend Dr. Byron E. Shafer** is an *emeritus* professor of Biblical Studies at Fordham University in New York City and also the *emeritus* Pastor of the Rutgers Presbyterian Church in New York City. He taught full-time at Fordham from 1968 to 1996 and part-time from 1996 to the present, while serving the Rutgers Church as full-time pastor from 1996 to 2006.

In retirement, from 2007 through 2010 he spent four academic terms serving as a Visiting Professor of Old and New Testaments at the United Theological College in Bangalore, India.

Dr. Shafer has been active in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on many levels. He was a member of the Committee of 15 that reviewed and edited that denomination's "Brief Statement of Faith," part of its *Book of Confessions*. In 1993, he served as Moderator of the Presbytery of New York City. He is currently a member of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry of Monmouth Presbytery.

Between 1985 and 2003, Dr. Shafer served as the Protestant host of "Religion on the Line," a three-hour Sunday-morning interfaith call-in program on WABC Radio in New York City.

Dr. Shafer received his B.A. in History from the College of Wooster in Ohio (1960), his M.Div. from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago (1963), and his Ph.D. from Harvard University in the History, Religion, and Literature of Ancient Israel (1968).

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**From the "Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study":** *Depression During the Holidays; Hunger in the Heartland; Mission co-worker Gordon Gartrell; Church Conflict; Syrian Refugees; 2018 International Peacemakers; Rev. Eugene Peterson.*

### Joys

Joy for all the visiting family and friends over the Thanksgiving holiday.

### Concerns

Traveling mercies for family and friends returning home.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Concert** -- Bob Lowden will be in concert at 7 o'clock tonight at the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Cinnaminson, and on Saturday evening, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 o'clock, here at First Presbyterian.

**Annual Silver Tea** will be on Sunday, December 9th following worship in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to this special reception hosted by the Deacons. There are sign-up charts on back counter for those who will contribute cookies, punch ingredients, candies or other items.

**Blood Drive** – Temple B’Nai Abraham will sponsor an American Red Cross blood drive on Monday, December 17 at 58 Crosswicks Street, Bordentown from 2:30-7:30 PM. To make an appointment to give blood, call 1-800-733-2767 or go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code Temple BNai Abraham.

**Pre-Christmas Eve Service Concert** will begin at 7.

**St. Mary’s Food Pantry Current Needs:** *tuna--canned meats--evaporated milk--coffee.* Please place items in the right side basket in the rear of the church. Thank you for your continued support and generosity. To learn more, visit their website: <http://stmarysbordentown.org/food-pantry/>



***Our church now can accept online giving!  
Check out the “Give Now” button in the top right  
corner on our website.***

← **QR Code for online giving**

***Our office manager Sheri Devlin’s hours are 10:30 am to 2:00 pm.  
September through June: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.  
July and August: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.***

# CALENDAR

## THIS WEEK

<b>Sun 12/2</b>	<b><i>First Sunday of Advent</i></b>	
	Children's Chimes .....	8:55 am
	Church School .....	9:15 am
	Worship.....	10:30 am
	Deacons Meeting .....	<i>following worship</i>
	Percussion Ensemble .....	11:45 am
<b>Mon 12/3</b>	Women's AA .....	7:30 pm
<b>Thurs 12/6</b>	Choir ( <i>last of 2018</i> ) .....	7:00 pm
	AA.....	7:30 pm
	Bell Choir ( <i>last of 2018</i> ).....	8:15 pm

## NEXT WEEK

<b>Sun 12/9</b>	Children's Chimes .....	8:55 am
	Singing & Pageant Practice .....	9:15 am
	<b><i>Worship – Christmas Cantata</i></b> .....	10:30 am
	<b><i>Silver Tea</i></b> .....	<i>following worship</i>
	Percussion Ensemble .....	11:45 am
	Youth Group Christmas Party .....	2:00 pm
<b>Mon 12/10</b>	Women's Bible Study .....	7:00 pm
	Women's AA .....	7:30 pm
<b>Tues 12/11</b>	Session Meeting.....	7:00 pm
<b>Wed. 12/12</b>	Building and Grounds Meeting.....	7:00 pm
<b>Thurs 12/13</b>	AA.....	7:30 pm

# First Presbyterian Church

*Worship on the Lord's Day  
December 2, 2018, 10:30 am*



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