

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.

TOLLING THE HOUR

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETINGS

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PIANO PRELUDE **I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In**—English Carol

Arr. Robert Lowden

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE—PREPARE (Malachi 3:1-4)

Pat and Mary Terry

CALL TO WORSHIP

John came out of the wilderness to preach repentance; he preaches to us still.

Make straight the paths we now walk and prepare the way for God's reign of justice and love.

***HYMN**

"Comfort, Comfort You My People"

PH 3

WE CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened. We have not always determined what is best or made way for your reign in our lives, our church, and our society. Forgive us, we pray, and renew our covenant within us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silent Prayer

DECLARATION OF PARDON

SUNG RESPONSE

PH 9, Refrain

“Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!”

*HYMN

“Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming”

PH 48

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Isaiah 12:2-6 (Pew Bible p. 641 in the Old Testament)

SECOND READING Philippians 4:4-7 (Pew Bible p. 198 in the New Testament)

“Though my soul may set in darkness, it will rise in perfect light; I have loved the stars too fondly to be fearful of the night.”

Sarah Williams, *Twilight Hours: A Legacy of Verse*

“The darkest nights produce the brightest stars.” John Green

ANTHEM

Creator of the Stars of Night

Arr. Ferguson

“I am not alone at all, I thought. I was never alone at all. And that, of course, is the message of Christmas. We are never alone. Not when the night is darkest, wind is coldest, the world seemingly most indifferent. For this is still the time God chooses.”

Taylor Caldwell

ANTHEM**Come O Rose**

Greig

“Just when everything is bearing down on us to such an extent that we can scarcely withstand it, the Christmas message comes to tell us that all our ideas are wrong, and that what we take to be evil and dark is really good and light because it comes from God. Our eyes are at fault, that is all. God is in the manger, wealth in poverty, light in darkness, succor in abandonment. No evil can befall us; whatever men may do to us, they cannot but serve the God who is secretly revealed as love and rules the world and our lives.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer

ANTHEM**How Great Our Joy**

Courtney

“Christmas means a spirit of love, a time when the love of God and the love of our fellow men should prevail over all hatred and bitterness, a time when our thoughts and deeds and the spirit of our lives manifest the presence of God.”

George F. McDougall

ANTHEM**Light of the Stable**

Rhymer/Angerman

“Off to one side sits a group of shepherds. They sit silently on the floor, perhaps perplexed, perhaps in awe, no doubt in amazement. Their night watch had been interrupted by an explosion of light from heaven and a symphony of angels. God goes to those who have time to hear him –and so on this cloudless night he went to simple shepherds.” Max Lucado

ANTHEM**Petite Enfant**

Trad/Schram

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

“Christmas is... a time to mark our progress through this earthly journey. Every December we can look back and marvel at the designs of God and realize how very little we are in control of the events that shaped the past year. Then, with hearts full, look to the celebration of that silent, holy night, and all its certainty. Because of Christmas, this we know: Christ was born. He is love, and the plans he has for us always surpass those of our own.”

Karen Kingsbury, A Treasury of Christmas Miracles

***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

*"And when the Lord Jesus has become your peace, remember, there is another
thing; good will towards men. Do not try to keep Christmas without good will
towards me."* Charles Spurgeon

ANTHEM

I Heard the Bells On Christmas Day

Longfellow/Calkin

***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**

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

PH 38

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

“Peace with God, Peace with others, and Peace in your own heart.” Rick Warren

PIANO POSTLUDE **Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella**—French Carol Arr. Robert Lowden

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

SERVING THIS LORD’S DAY

Readers Choir Members
Director of Music Gwendolyn Huber
Accompanist..... Dr. Robert Lowden
Deacon of the Month Pat Andrus – 499-1038

CHOIR

Tricia Bangit

Nancy Grim

Ted Miller

George Carmichael

Robert Joe Lee

Jeremy Mills

Gail Fouse

Bobbi Maiuro

Melonie Newton

Ben Freid

Dana Maiuro

Next Sunday, December 16, 2018 - *Christmas Pageant*

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

From the “Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study: *Christmas Eve Worship Services; Human Rights Day; Immigrant Church Planter; 1001 New Worshiping Community; Princeton Seminary; Middle Eastern Presbyterian pastors; Sextuplets Baptized.*

Joys: Lovely decorations for Advent; upcoming concert by Bob Lowden here this Saturday evening; our new sound system; Marlene’s granddaughter, Bella, doing well in her new school; Marlie celebrating her 11th birthday on Friday; praise and thanks for Dr Shafer and his wife Jane worshipping with us today; praise and thanks for all of you, the faithful congregation; the birth of Barbara’s first great-granddaughter, Ahri Dawn, on November 7th, which is also her Mom’s birthday.

Concerns: The family of former U.S. President, George W. Bush; Simmee’s friend Domenic having surgery; Barbara’s brother Greg having health issues; Johanna’s father, Klaus, as he starts chemotherapy; Ben’s aunt, Marlene, as she undergoes surgery this week; Johanna & Ben’s sister-in-law, Carolyn, for healing after going to the ER on Saturday; Megan’s dad’s girlfriend, Joanne, who has her second chemo treatment tomorrow.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Silver Tea will be held today following worship in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to this special reception hosted by the Deacons.

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 and enter sponsor code Temple BNai Abraham.

Pre-Christmas Eve Service Concert will begin at 7.

St. Mary’s Food Pantry Current Needs: Beefaroni, canned chicken, Spam, toilet paper. 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, go to: [Facebook.com/St.MarysFoodPantry](https://www.facebook.com/St.MarysFoodPantry).

CALENDAR

THIS WEEK

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

NEXT WEEK

Sun 12/16	Children’s Chime Choir	8:55 am
	Church School	9:15 am
	Worship -- Pageant	10:30 am
Thurs 12/20	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
	Men’s Breakfast	8:00 am
	AA	7:30 pm



***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**

First Presbyterian Church

*Worship on the Lord's Day
December 9, 2018, 10:30 am*



A Christmas Cantata

Church Address: 420 Farnsworth Avenue
Office Address: 435 Farnsworth Avenue
Bordentown, NJ 08505
(609) 298-1243

www.bordentownpresbyterian.org
bordentownpresbyterian@gmail.com

Things not in the bulletin (from *Feasting on the Word*)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Saints, let us trust in God's love for us and confess our sin, confident in God's mercy.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Friends, I am confident of this: if we repent, God is sure to forgive us. The One who began a good work in us will bring it to completion. Grateful for the promise of joy and of peace, let us share that peace with one another.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, through your Holy Spirit instruct us by the light of your prophets. Illumine our hearts, that we may hear your call to become your path into the world. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 12:2-6 (Pew Bible p. 641 in the Old Testament)
Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.