

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

TOLLING THE HOUR

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETINGS

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PIANO PRELUDE

O Holy Night

Arr. Robert Lowden

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE (Micah5:2-5a)

Ben Freid and Johanna Heine with sons, Alexander and Christopher

CALL TO WORSHIP

Out of little Bethlehem comes one who is to rule in Israel.

He shall be great to the ends of the earth.

Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

God's mercy extends from generation to generation.

Holy is God's name!

*HYMN

"Away in a Manger"

PH 25

WE CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. 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: Psalm 80:1-7 (Pew Bible p. 540 in the Old Testament)

SECOND READING: Luke 1:46-55 (Pew Bible p. 57 in the New Testament)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON IN MUSIC

Meditation on Silent Night

Sally DeFord

Silent Night: Interlude I

Narration: Gordon Potts

Solo: Casey McEniry

Peace, Peace, Peace

Solo: Pat Andrus

Silent Night: Interlude II

Narration: Bill Walling

Solo: Casey McEniry

As Shepherds Kept Their Lonely Vigil

Soloists: Robert Joe Lee and Pat Andrus

Silent Interlude III

Narration: Bill Walling

Solo: Casey McEniry

Jesus Lord at Thy Birth

Solo: Robert Joe Lee

Silent Night by the congregation
(v. 4)

PH 60

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN**

“Joy to the World!”

PH 40

(vv. 1-2, 4)

***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

“Carols Medley”

*Arr. Ruth Zimmerman
Instrumental Ensemble*

***THE DOXOLOGY**

PH 592

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

From the “Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study”: *Christmas Joy Offering; Jesus’ birth; Nativity of the Lord/Christmas Day; Revs. Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather; Montreat Conference Center; 1001 New Worshipping Community; Mission vs. Property Maintenance.*

Joys

- Marlie’s cat, Catty, is doing much better.
- Sylvia celebrated her 4th birthday on December 14th.
- The children and all those who helped put together the worship service.

Concerns

- Robertshaw Family - Liana who is recovering from surgery, John who is scheduled for surgery on his leg this week, and Cathy as she supports and cares for her family.
- Dana for her students who have difficult situations in their homes.
- Joan and Linda’s friend, Dianne, who is battling breast cancer.
- A friend with marital problems.
- Guidance for someone in need of help.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pre-Christmas Eve Service Concert will begin tomorrow night at 7 p.m.

Fellowship next week, December 30 -- Plan on bringing your leftover Christmas treats to fellowship next week. This is a chance to share your holiday bounty with your church family.

The Wanderers will meet on Tuesday, January 10th, at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall at church. We will be hosting the senior group (Survivors) from the United Presbyterian Church in Yardville. Our lunch will be hoagies, salads, and desserts. Our program will be presented by Dr. Bob Lowden who will lead us in singing some old familiar songs. All seniors of the church and their friends are invited to a fun filled afternoon. Sign up sheet will be on the back counter.

St. Mary's Food Pantry Current Needs: *Spam--canned meats--tuna--cereal--soap.*

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

Sun 12/23	Worship.....	10:30 am
Mon 12/24	Women's AA	7:30 pm
	Pre-Service Concert.....	7:00 pm
	Christmas Eve Worship Service.....	8:00 pm
Thurs 12/27	AA.....	7:00 pm

NEXT WEEK

Sun 12/30	Worship.....	10:30 am
	Mission Meal.....	<i>following worship</i>
Mon 12/31	Women's AA	7:30 pm
Thurs 1/3	AA.....	7:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church

*Worship on the Lord's Day
December 23, 2018, 10:30 am*



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