

Welcome to all who gather here today.

We hope the service enables you to worship God meaningfully.

In your pew are:

✦ Visitor cards - *Welcome!*

✦ A pew envelope for an offering

✦ Joys and Concerns cards for submitting prayer requests
(all to be placed in the offering plate)

* = *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

Medley for the Christ Child

Arr. Lowden

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE (Luke 1:26–38)

Derek and Marjorie Tafel

SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Refrain

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

The musical score is written in 2/2 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef staff with lyrics 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' and a bass clef staff. The second system has a treble clef staff with lyrics 'Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!' and a bass clef staff. The music is a simple, hymn-like melody.

CALL TO WORSHIP

As God came to Mary, so God comes to us:

The Spirit works through our lives in astonishing ways.

As God spoke to Mary, so God speaks to us:

In times of joy and of pain, the Lord promises to stay by our side.

As Mary awaited the joy and pain of Immanuel's birth, so we wait.

The time is near. The Light is breaking through. God is breaking in.

***HYMN**

**Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
(vv. 1-3)**

PH 5

WE CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Faithful God, we know that you are always there to guide us, yet we often make plans without listening to you. We have discovered that our human agendas can drown out our ability to hear your will for us. We repent of these faults and turn to you in love. Forgive our sins, that our lives may magnify your holy name forever. Amen.

Silent Prayer

DECLARATION OF PARDON

SUNG RESPONSE

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Refrain: "Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."

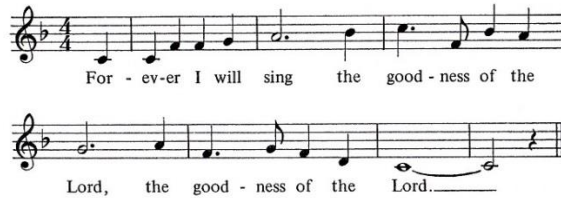
PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING: Luke 1:26-38 (Pew Bible pp. 56-57 in the New Testament)

Psalm 89

Forever I Will Sing the Goodness of the Lord



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

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

"Mary, Mother of God"

Rev. William Stell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN**

Song of Mary

PH 600

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

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.

***THE GLORIA PATRI**

PH 579

THE OFFERING

THE OFFERING IN MUSIC

Lo, How a Rose/Little Town of Bethlehem

(Instrumental Ensemble)

***THE DOXOLOGY**
***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

PH 592

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**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

PH 2

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Ding Dong! Merrily on High – Based on a Traditional Carol Arr. Lowden

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

SERVING THIS LORD'S DAY

Pastor Rev. William Stell
Reader Elke McAteer
Director of Music Gwendolyn Huber
Accompanist..... Dr. Robert Lowden
Deacon of the Month Lisa Van Pelt, 324-9149

Next Sunday, December 31, 2017

Reader

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

From the “Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study”: Christmas Joy Offering; SDOP helping people live independent and fruitful lives; Celebrating the life of Marie 'Breezy' Lusted; Swipe the Page; The Kuhnekt Initiative builds relationships among church members; Presbyterian Pastor Ben Gutierrez had a heart as big as Texas; Can we help end poverty?

Joys: Dana's work with the church's youth; Christmas party hosted by William and Robert; several recent birthdays: Sylvia, Meredith, Alex, Ellis and others.

Concerns: Prayers of healing for: John and Cathy Robertshaw; Karen Deets; Linda Blackwell 's cousin, Allen; Bobbi Maiuro's sister's friend, Sharon; Deb Branson and Mike Onofri's friend, Mike; Leslie Conte; prayers of comfort for the family and friends of Gerry Thompson.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pre-service Christmas Music Tonight! Come to the church anytime between 7:15 and 8:00 tonight to hear Christmas music played and sung before our Christmas Eve service.

Please pick up your envelopes for 2018; they will be on the back counter on Sunday, December 31st.

Interested in becoming a member of our church? We'll be welcoming new members in January! If you're interested and want to learn more, sign up on the yellow sheet at the back of the sanctuary, or talk to Pastor William.

Yoga Church resumes on Sunday, January 7th! Join us in the new year for our introductory-level yoga class, Sundays from 5 to 6pm. There's no set cost—pay whatever you can. Bring your own mat or towel.

St. Mary's Food Pantry Current Needs: shampoo; toothpaste; body lotion; razors. Please place items in the basket in the rear of the church. Thank you for your continued support and generosity. To learn more, go to: ***Facebook.com/St.MarysFoodPantry.***

CALENDAR

THIS WEEK

Sun 12/24	Christmas Eve	
	Worship	10:30 am
	Worship and Communion	8:00 pm
Mon 12/25	Merry Christmas!	
	Women's AA	7:30 pm
Thurs 12/28	AA	7:30 pm

NEXT WEEK

Sun 12/31	Worship	10:30 am
Mon 1/1/18	Happy New Year!	
	Women's AA	7:30 pm
Thurs 1/4	Percussion Ensemble	6:00 pm
	Choir	7:00 pm
	AA	7:30 pm
	Handbells.....	8:15 pm
Sun 1/7	Children's Chime Choir	8:55 am
	Church School.....	9:15 am
	Worship	10:30 am
	Yoga Church	5:00-6:00 pm
	Youth Group.....	6:00 pm

Rev. Stell's office hours are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 1 pm. In addition, he hosts "office hours" at Starbucks on Dunns Mill Road from 8:00 am to 10:00 am on Fridays. You may also make an appointment with him on other days. To reach him, please email him at PastorWilliam@bordentownpresbyterian.org or call him at (609) 316-7165.

First Presbyterian Church

*Worship on the Lord's Day
December 24, 2017, 10:30 am*



James B. Janknegt's The Annunciation

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Rev. William Stell, Pastor

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