

*I know not always how God comes,
but that God comes — this I know:
in an obscure stable,
in splashing waters,
in the breaking of bread*

*and often, my friend,
incarnate in you,
for God, I believe, still comes in the flesh, in
people.*

*Now and always
may the Christ in you
keep you
a sign of living love
and love living among us.*

—Bonnie B. Belasic



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
AT CALDWELL
326 Bloomfield Avenue
Caldwell, New Jersey 07006
973-228-0310
www.firstprescaldwell.org



Candlelight Service



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT CALDWELL

CHRISTMAS EVE
December 24, 2014
11:00 p.m.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Richard N. Sommers	Pastor/Head of Staff
Rev. Don Brown	Associate Pastor
Rev. Barbara Jo Piercy	Minister of Music
Noel Piercy	Associate Director of Music
Jaime Staehle	Director of Youth and Children's Ministry
James De La Garza	Trumpet 1, Leader
Dan Egan	Trumpet 2
Tim Sessions	Trombone 1
Rob Fournier	Trombone 2
John Lenis	Bass
Erik Lynch	Percussion and Timpani
Jessica Goodson	Flute
Ray Liptak	Sound Technician
Elizabeth Resch	Candle Preparation

Chancel Choir
Chancel Handbell Choir

*May your Christmas be filled with
Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.
The Church Staff*

PRELUDE

"Psallite"

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

arr. Susan T. Nelson

"Wexford Carol"

arr. H. Dean Wagner

GREETING AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Joy to the world,

People: The Lord is come!

Leader: Sing it. Say it. Tell the world.

People: Go, tell it on the mountain,

Leader: Over the hills and everywhere.

People: Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

Leader: Sing it. Say it. Spread the news!

People: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Leader: O come, let us adore him.

People: O come, let us adore him.

ALL: O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

*PROCESSIONAL CAROL NO. 133

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Adeste fideles

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold Him, Born the King of angels! O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning, Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;

Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing. O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation! Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all Glory in the highest! O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT AND CHRIST CANDLES

The Hauser Family

*CAROL NO. 134

“Joy to the World!”

Antioch

*As we begin to sing the **LAST STANZA**, please RAISE your candle as a symbol of Jesus Christ, the Light which darkness will never overcome!*

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing. . .**

**Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy. . .**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of his love. . .**

*At the conclusion of the blessing, please extinguish your candle
and deposit it with the ushers as you exit.*

*BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

“Forest Green”

arr. Charles E. Peery

** Please rise in body or in spirit.*

†A warm welcome to all who are worshiping with us on this Christmas Eve! On this sacred evening, remember in prayer all those who are near and dear to you, and all others in need. The Pastoral Families and Staff Members of The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell join in wishing you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

†Please sign the Red Friendship Pad located in each pew and pass it to the person next to you. Please put a check in the appropriate box if you would like a Pastor to call or are interested in joining our congregation. You may call the church office Monday through Friday at 973-228-0310 with any questions or pastoral concerns.

†Our cradle room is open tonight to serve children up to 24 months old. Restrooms are located through the door to the left of the pulpit, then left to the end of the hallway.

†An usher will be glad to assist you and provide you with more information about this congregation. Worship is every Sunday at 8:30AM in our Chapel (except Dec. 28th and the first Sunday of each month) and 10:00AM in the Sanctuary with Sunday School for children and youth also at 10:00AM. The first Sunday of each month is Church Family Sunday and we unite in worship and celebrate Communion at 10:00AM. Excellent infant care for children up to 24 months is available at the 10:00AM service. We hope you will come again. Opportunities abound for all ages!

CHRISTMAS BREAK CABIN FEVER DAY

All children in 1st-5th grade are invited to join us for a fun day at church on Monday, December 29th from 9am-3pm! We'll be playing games, watching a great Christmas movie, doing some fun crafts, and having yummy snacks. The cost for the day is \$5. Kids should bring their own sack lunch. Teens are invited to join us as helpers for the day.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

God promises that, through Abraham, all the peoples of the world will be blessed.

*CAROL NO. 88

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people who walk in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah.

ANTHEM

“Gloria in Excelsis” from Messa di Gloria

Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)

Arr. Michael Burkhardt

THIRD LESSON

Micah 5:1-4

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

CAROL NO. 121

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

St. Louis

**O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary; And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to all on earth.**

**How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!**

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Jesus is born in a stable, because there is no room in the inn.

ANTHEM

“In The Bleak Mid-Winter”

Gustav Holst (1858-1924)
arr. Joel Raney

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-14

The angels bring good news to the shepherds.

*CAROL NO. 147

“The First Nowell”

The First Nowell

**The first Nowell the angel did say Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.**

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

**They looked up and saw a star Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night. Refrain**

**Then let us all with one accord Sing praises to our heav’nly Lord;
That hath made heaven and earth of naught, And with his blood our life hath bought. Refrain**

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:15-20

The shepherds go to the manger.

*CAROL NO. 113

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Gloria

**Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

SEVENTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

The writer of the fourth gospel unfolds the mystery of the incarnation

*CAROL NO. 119

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th’ angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

THE OFFERING
OFFERTORY

“Personent Hodie!”

arr. Mark Hayes

*CAROL OF DEDICATION NO. 136 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Go Tell It

**Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,
Behold, through out the heavens there shone a holy light. Refrain:**

**The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth. Refrain:**

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain: 2x**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND 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.**

LIGHTING OF INDIVIDUAL CANDLES

During the singing of “Silent Night,” the candles will be lit. Please follow appropriate safety procedures. Hold lighted candles upright and tip the unlighted candles toward the lighted ones. Parents, please give your children adequate supervision if they are participating in the candle-lighting.

CAROL NO. 122

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

Stille nacht

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly host sing, Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.**