

*FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*



First Sunday of Christmas
Sunday, December 31, 2023
10:00 A.M.

119 WEST COMMERCE STREET
BRIDGETON, NJ 08302
PHONE (856)455-0809 WWW.FPCBRIDGETON.ORG

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE “Away in a Manger” arr. David H. Hegarty

WELCOME Liturgist

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP Liturgist

God speaks to us through the words of the prophets.

How beautiful is the messenger who brings good news!

God’s Word became flesh and lived among us.

In the Christ-child we find the image of God.

Make a joyful noise of thanksgiving!

God speaks to us by a Son, the reflection of God’s glory.

Let us worship God!

***HYMN** #29 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

CALL TO CONFESSION elder

A new neighbor has arrived,

but we are too insulated to greet them.

A new neighbor has come to our door,

but we are too sequestered to receive them.

God became flesh to live among us,

but we are too arrogant to recognize it.

We segregate ourselves as if we have the power to withhold God’s grace,

but our members-only policies have failed us time and time again.

Have we accepted inaccessibility, seclusion, and quarantine as best practices for living in community? When will we learn that we are interdependent?

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us, God our neighbor.

Forgive us, God our savior.

Forgive us, we pray. . . .

Remind us who you really are
and who we really are,

so that, with Simeon, we might rejoice
when we recognize you at last.

Amen. (*Silent Reflection*)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

When will we learn that God's grace
is not something to be withheld?

When will we finally hear the good news
and believe it: in Jesus Christ, **we are forgiven.**

Thanks Be To God!

***GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO.....**

A TIME TO BE YOUNG

ANTHEM "On This Day Earth Shall Ring" arr. Gustav Holst

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

HYMN #49 "Once in Royal David's City"

The First Lesson

Luke 1:11-16

HYMN #53 "What Child Is This"

The Second Lesson

Luke 2:25-32

Hymn #411 "Arise, Your Light Is Come"

The Third Lesson

Isaiah 60:1-6

HYMN #68 “What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright”

The Fourth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

HYMN #66 “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Liturgist

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

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Elder

All that is in the heavens and on earth is yours, O Lord, and of your own we give it to you. Amen

OFFERTORY “A Quiet Joy”

Marcel Duprè

***Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of glory, by your grace a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests on his shoulders, and in his name we pray.

Wonderful Counselor,
we pray for wisdom for the world's leaders, that they may use their power to lift burdens and break the bonds of oppression.

Mighty God,
we pray for the church of Jesus Christ our Lord, that you will multiply and increase our joy as we share in the harvest you have gathered.

Everlasting Father,
we pray for families, friends, and loved ones, that those who now walk in deep darkness may see the great light of your saving love.

Prince of Peace,
we pray for an end to violence and warfare, that your authority may continue to grow until there is endless peace in every land.

Lord of hosts, establish your holy realm with justice and righteousness, from this time on and forevermore.
Amen.

Let us pray now with confidence as children of God the prayer Jesus taught his disciples to pray saying:

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.

HYMN

#63 “As With Gladness Men of Old”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

“May the Lord watch between me and thee, while absent, one from the other.” (Mizpah Benediction)

POSTLUDE Impression on “We Three Kings” Alfred V. Fedak





Please Join me
for a
Holiday Open House
at the Manse
Sunday,
January 7, 2024
After the worship service

Happy
New year!

Serving Today

LITURGIST- Curtis H.

USHERS-Team

Beth S., Ron S. & Kahlil W.

COUNTERS - Team

Volunteers

FELLOWSHIP

Jody H. & Linda A.

Rev. Norlita Kaul, Pastor

EMAIL: BridgetonFPCPastor@GMAIL.COM

CELL # (248) 342-6190

Gae Finch, Organist and Choir Director

Christie Sever, Administrative Assistant

EMAIL: firstpresbridgeton@gmail.com

John Ambrose, Clerk to Session

Bob Woodruff, Treasurer

