

First Presbyterian Church Hackettstown, NJ



PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE

Artist: Katelynn Zook

December 29, 2024

Vision Statement of First Presbyterian Church

Strengthening families;
Sowing friendships;
Serving community;
In the name of Jesus Christ

Happy New Year

December 29, 2024

PRELUDE

Go Tell it on the Mountain

arr. Labenske

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE - JESUS CHRIST

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hebrews 1:1-4

What are they that are but one?

We have one God alone in heaven above sits on His throne:

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

***HYMN**

Joy to the World (vs. 1&2)

134

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, 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, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

TWO TURTLE DOVES—THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS

What are they which are by two?

Two testaments, the old and new, we do acknowledge to be true.

THREE FRENCH HENS—THE TRINITY

What are they which are but three?

Three persons in the Trinity which make one God in unity.

THREE FRENCH HENS — THEOLOGICAL VIRTUES: FAITH, HOPE, CHARITY

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God—Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, as we come to you in the light of this Christmas week, we admit that there are times when our faith, hope, and charity are not so readily on display.

It can be difficult to hold on to our belief and trust in you amidst the trials, and busyness, and boredom of our lives. Sometimes our faith wanes, and we fail to take the time to call a friend, or return to scripture, or sink into deep prayer that we might find you anew. Forgive us when our faith fails us.

Sometimes, as our earth warms, and violence rages, and children are caged in the name of security, the bad news of the world can be overwhelming. And we lose sight of your promises that light and love will always get the last word. Forgive us when our hope falters.

Sometimes, in our fear of not having enough or another having what they do not deserve, we hold on too tightly to the gifts you give us. Other times we dole out compassion to make ourselves feel good without seeking a genuine connection with those in need of care. Forgive us when we resort to puffed-up charity or forget how to love our neighbors as ourselves. Bring us back to the tenderness of the manger to restore our faith in our God who risks to be among us, our hope in the one who set the angels to singing, and our generosity to share like the magi who came with gifts before a poor, working-class, refugee baby.

(Time for silent reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

***GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

FOUR CALLING BIRDS—FOUR GOSPEL WRITERS: MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE & JOHN

What are they which are but four?

Four sweet Evangelists there are, Christ's birth, life, death which do declare.

***HYMN** *Angels, From the Realms of Glory* (vs. 1 & 4) **143**

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er
all the earth; you, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth: come and worship
come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

All creation, join in praising God the Father,
Spirit, Son, evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One: come and worship
come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:1-5, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

FIVE GOLDEN RINGS—FIVE BOOKS OF THE PENTATEUCH GENESIS, EXODUS, LEVITICUS, NUMBERS, DEUTERONOMY

***HYMN** *Angels We Have Heard on High* (vs. 1&3) **113**

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!

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

SIX GEESE A LAYING—SIX DAYS OF CREATION

SEVEN SWANS A SWIMMING—GOD'S GIFTS OF THE LIBERAL ARTS - GRAMMAR, DIALECT, RHETORIC, ARITHMETIC, MUSIC, GEOMETRY, ASTRONOMY

What are they which are but seven?

Seven liberal arts hath God sent down with divine skill man's soul to crown.

***HYMN** *We Three Kings of Orient Are Kings of Orient (vs. 1&2)* **151**

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

EIGHT MAIDS A MILKING—THE BEATITUDES Matthew 3:1-10

What are they which are but eight?

Eight Beatitudes are there given use them right and go to heaven.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

HYMNThe First Nowell* (vs. 1&2)**147**

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.

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.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the king of Israel.

NINE LADIES DANCING—THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT LOVE, JOY,
PEACE, PATIENCE, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS,
SELF-CONTROL

OFFERING INVITATION**OFFERTORY***Silent Night***arr. Bober*****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 FOR THE PEOPLE**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.

TEN LORDS A LEAPING—THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

What are they which are but ten?

**Ten statutes God to Moses gave which, kept or broke, do spill or
save.**

Serving Our Congregation Today

Worship Leader: Deb Shepherd and Brielle Plumbo

Music Director: Lorinda Ravo

Video: Jean Zetterberg

Greeting: Ginny & Brielle Plumbo

The cards this week on the piano for you to sign are for our friends:

Sandy Lindstedt & John O’Brien

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH

Interested in joining our church as a member? We would love to talk more with you about our ministry here. Feel free to fill out a visitors card and hand it to one of our ushers or Pastor Erin and we will make sure to reach out to you!

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY

We invite our children to worship with their families this morning.

STEW’S CLUE!

Kids (and grown-up kids too), did you find Stewie last week? He was hiding by the rocking chair in the Christmas play. Did you find him? This week, Stewie has moved again. The Stew’s Clue is piano.

JANUARY SECOND SUNDAY!

On January's Second Sunday, **January 12**, we’ll be holding our own Winter Olympics from 11:30-1:30 with crafts, games, contests and plenty of fun! Be sure to pre register by signing up in church or calling Pattie in the office.

NEW MEMBERS

What a blessing that we will welcome new members to our church on Sunday, **January 26** during worship. If you are interested in being part of our church family we will have another new member’s class this winter. Let us know by filling out a visitor’s card and sharing with one of our greeters. More details coming soon.

FYI-INFORMATION

12/22/24	In Person Attendance	119
	Virtual Attendance	137
	Offering	\$3,314.40

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at FPCH Dec. 29, 2024 - Jan. 4, 2025

Sunday	10:00 am	Worship
Wednesday	Church Office Closed	Celebrating the New Year
Thursday & Friday	9:00 am - 12:00 noon	Church Office Open

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES in our Chapel -Dec. 29, 2024 - Jan. 4, 2025

Monday	10:30-11:30 am 7:00-9:00 pm	AA Step by Step Jazz Band
Tuesday	7:30-9:00 pm	NA Change or Die
Wednesday	7:30-9:00 pm	Stone Soup Symphony
Thursday	10:30-11:30 am	AA New Beginnings
Friday	Storage use only 7:00-9:00 pm 7:30 pm	Colonial Musketeers Colonial Musketeers Sr. GA Meeting
Saturday	7:00 pm	12 Steps



FOR PASTORAL CARE

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