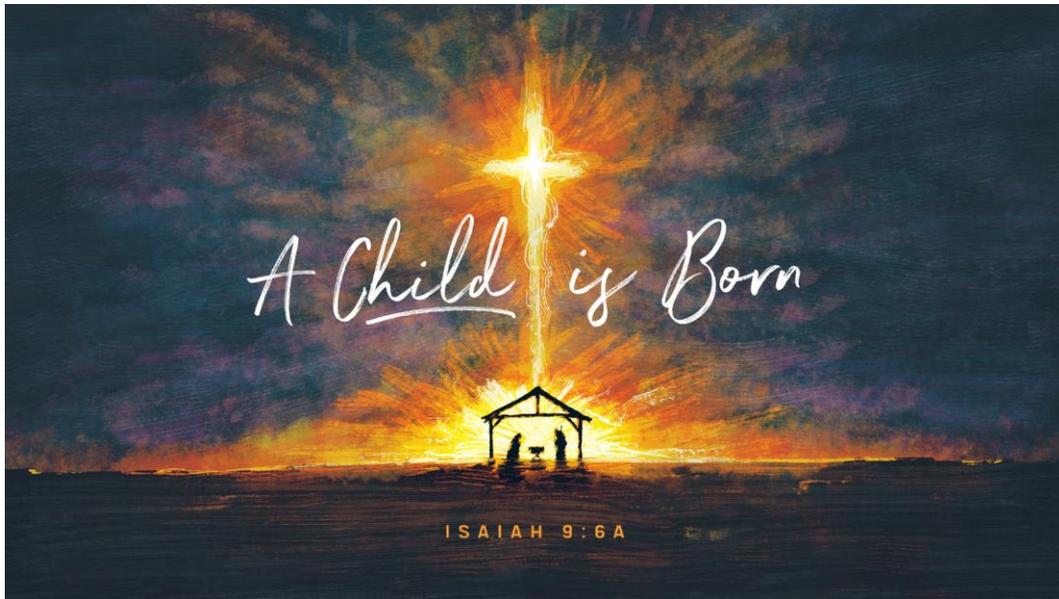


The United First Presbyterian Church  
of Amwell at Larison's Corner



The Reverend Courtney B. Cromie, Pastor

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**THE ORDER OF WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE, December 24, 2021 6:15 PM**  
Minister: The Reverend Courtney B. Cromie

**GREETING**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We come from a world of darkness

People: Into Christ's world of light.

Leader: We come from a world of weariness

People: Into God's strength and hope.

Leader: We come from a world without peace.

People: We come to celebrate the birth of Christ who meets all our hopes and fears.

All: Let us worship the newborn babe!

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

**HYMN "Oh Come, All Ye Faithful"**

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!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above! Glory to God, 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!

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)** – Dear God, when we allow darkness to overcome the light, forgive us. When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel, have mercy on us. When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing, hearing, and touching the needs of others, let your grace consume us. When wars around us are of no concern, forgive us and move us to compassion. When our caring is not extended to action, move us to seek justice for others. We come to confess our sinfulness before you and one another. Remove all barriers that divide us so no obstacle could keep us from loving you and one another. In the one born this night, Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**HYMN "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"**

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world; above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing, and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old, when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

## **A TIME FOR THOSE WHO ARE YOUNG**

**OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE:** Isaiah 9:1-7

**NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE:** Luke 2:8-20 The Shepherds and the Angels

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**HOMILY** – “The Shepherd’s Sermon”

## **PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**HYMN** “Joy to the World”

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let ev’ry heart prepare him room and heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, 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, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

## **A CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

### **LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**SPREADING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD**

## Hymn "Silent Night"

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, heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

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.

## BENEDICTION

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WELCOME TO LARISON'S CORNER!** We are pleased you are here with us. We hope you feel the warmth of God's love in our fellowship and worship. It is our hope that you return again soon. Until then, may God bless you and keep you in the palm of his hands. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**TONIGHT FROM 8-8:30 pm LARISON'S CORNER CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE ON THE FARM** (The Everitt Farm, 258 County Road 579, Ringoes, NJ 08551) A Live Nativity, a Telling of the Christmas Story, a Mini Sermon, Singing of Carols, Apple Cider, Cookies, etc.

**WORSHIP INSIDE every Sunday at 11 AM!** - Worship is live-streamed on Facebook at 11 AM; Recordings of worship available at a later date.

**THOMAS LAMBERT FUND UPDATE** - Thank you for your donations to The Thomas Lambert Fund. \$800 in Gift Cards were included in baskets for families in our community through The Ladies' Auxiliary and Kirkpatrick Church. This annual collection honors the life and legacy of beloved member, Thomas Lambert. We pray for these families and ask God to bless them.

**PER CAPITA** – In support of our Presbytery, NE Synod Staff & Mission, and The General Assembly Staff & Mission, our church is asked submit "dues/or per capita" equal to \$34.50 per member. Please mark it for Per Capita *There is a category in Tithely for Per Capita*

**CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING** – Tonight's offering will go to support those who experienced such devastation in Kentucky. Please share your resources as you are able to help those in need.

**SHARE YOUR RESOURCES WITH LARISON'S CORNER** –As we buy others gifts to celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us remember the wise men who brought gifts fit for a king to lay at Jesus' feet. May we also lay our finest gifts before our Lord for the work and ministry of Larison's Corner. *Ways to Give:*

1. Leave a gift in **the worship offering** via cash or check;
2. **Mail in a gift** via check to Larison's Corner Church, PO Box 348, Ringoes, NJ 08551;
3. Give Online through "Tithely" You can make an online gift, by visiting our website link at: <https://larisonscorner.org/contributions/>. You may also give on Facebook in our "about" section or by clicking here: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=4558529> - Once you are in Tithely, you can set up a one-time gift, ongoing gifts, or a special gift. *\*Give today by using your camera on your cell phone over the image to the right and following the link to make your donation.*



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

### **Session**

(Session meetings are the second Tuesday at 7:30 pm)

#### **Class of 2021**

Betty Jane Biache  
Ruth Chiesa

#### **Class of 2022**

Dianne Fleming

#### **Class of 2023**

Lysa Reiter  
Lois Riggs  
Charlie Rogers

### **Other Ordained Elders**

David Bond

Bill Heilman

Paula Melbourn

Donna DeVico

Arlene Knaub

Jodi Reed

Judy Grignon

Marlene Lambert

### **Board of Trustees**

(Board of Trustees meets the first Tuesday at 7:30 pm)

#### **Class of 2021**

Kyle Bond

#### **Class of 2022**

John Chiesa

David Everitt

#### **Class of 2023**

Bill Kurylo

Treacy Weeks

### **Corner Club**

President - Lois Riggs / Vice President – Kathy Kovacs

Secretary - Ruth Chiesa / Treasurer - Barri-Lynn Everitt

**The Reverend Courtney B. Cromie**, Stated-Supply Part-Time Pastor

**Luke Kirby**, Treasurer / **Deborah Kacerek-Cooley**, Assistant Treasurer

**Lois Riggs**, Clerk of Session

**Sue Mannino**, Organist Emeritus