

Sunday, December 10th, 2023



Gifts While We Wait

You are not lacking in any spiritual gift
as you wait for the revealing
of the Lord Jesus Christ – 1 Cor. 1:7

*The Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury
352 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702*

December 10th, 2023

3rd Sunday in Advent

Our PCAS Vision: "To be a Light by Living, Loving, Learning,
and Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Order of Worship

*(*Please rise in body and/or spirit)*

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission: Christmas Joy Offering Nancy Vodhanel

Prelude And the Angel Appeared to Mary David Paxton

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader: We gather bringing the light of joy,

People: From song and silence

From first cries and last breaths

**From places joy should not exist, like funerals and
waiting rooms,
and meetings that should have been an email.**

Leader: We gather, here, because the world is broken and the
wait is long, but our joy cannot be contained.

Like a toddler, toppling the thrones of power with a
gleeful swipe,

Joy interrupts our sighing with laughter,
unshackles our fumbling feet to dance.

**People: "My soul magnifies the Lord", she whispers, "and
my Spirit rejoices in God my savior."**

Leader: So we gather to light a candle, because this might be
the spark we need:

People: Joy, here, with us.

*Hymn #88 O Come, O Come Emmanuel (verses 1 - 5)

Call to Confession

Leader: We do not now confess in order to create a greater burden and
reinforce impossible expectations of human achievement, but the very
opposite. We pray for the great mercy of God to support, transform, and
love us. We confess in order to distance ourselves from what is dark,

heavy, and constricting in our lives, and be free in the forgiveness and joy of the Lord. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession (unison):

**Compassionate Creator,
You hold us with faithfulness each day, and we ask for your forgiveness to flood our lives. We recognize in ourselves persistent struggles, the same old failures, the things we get too tired to confess again, the things we've hidden for so long that we've convinced ourselves they're not so wrong after all.**

Thank you for your patience, God. Please forgive and free us. Heal our hearts and liberate our minds. Carve in us a deeper kindness. May new springs of healing and forgiveness flow from your reservoir of grace.

Moment for Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: I do not know with what you may be struggling before the Lord today, but I know that as we have shared general words of confession, you may have connected with them in a particular way. There is good news for you: we approach the Advent of our Savior, Jesus Christ. A different kind of life is on its way into our world, and if you would receive him, into your life as well. This divine life brings forgiveness, renewal, and restoration to all who realize that we need more than we can do for ourselves. Let us rejoice today that God is moving towards us.

People: Let us choose also to move towards God.

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God!**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the Church and 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.

Passing the Peace

Hymn #98 To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary

Second Scripture Lesson: 1 Peter 4:10-11

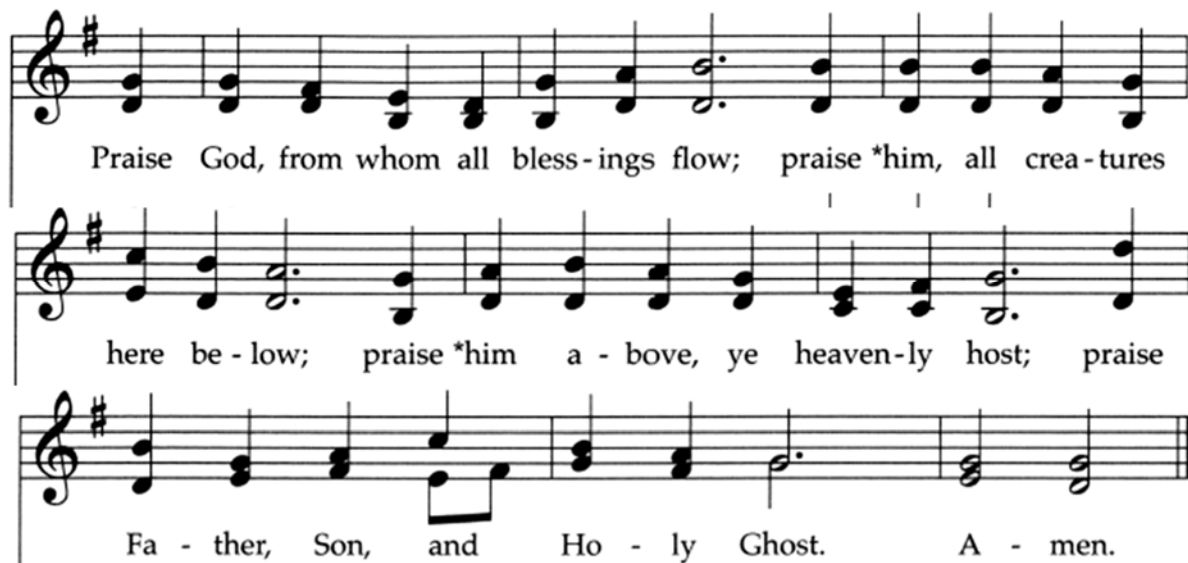
This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon: “Gifts While We Wait: Miracles, Prayer, and Service”.

Offering

Offertory Somebody Build a Manger Joel Raney

***Doxology**



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise *him, all crea-tures
here be - low; praise *him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Prayer of Dedication

***Hymn #146** Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Benediction

Postlude What Child Is This Setting by Jacob B. Weber

Worship Leaders

Pastor:
Director of Music Ministries:
Liturgist:
Advent candle lighting:
Music Ministry:
Ushers:
Zoom Hosts:
Social Hour:

Rev. Katja Gruening
Marcello Velame
Doreen Pampel
Joe and Linda Talerico
Chancel Choir
Cari and Diane Suarez
John Palframan
Jim Wright
Deacons

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



- 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
- 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
- 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
- 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice!
law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 6 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.
- 7 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.

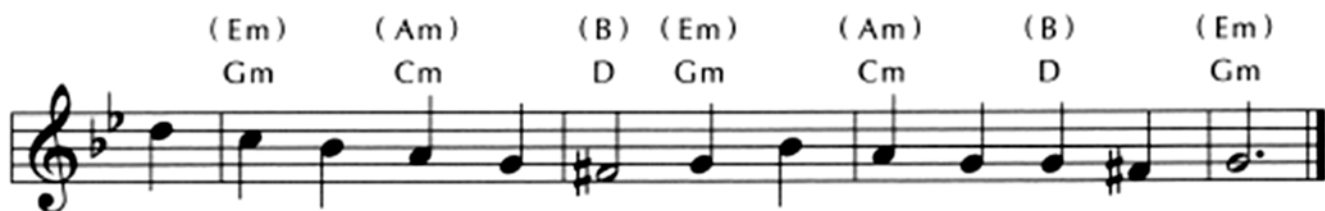
98 To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary



1 To a maid whose name was Mar - y, the an - gel Ga-briel came.
 2 "For you are high - ly fa - vored by God the Lord of all,
 3 But Mar-y was most trou-bled to hear the an-gel's word.
 4 "Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.
 5 "How shall this be?" said Mar - y, "I am not yet a wife."
 6 As Mar-y heard the an - gel, she won-dered at his words.



"Fear not," the an - gel told her, "I come to bring good news;
 who e - ven now is with you. You are on earth most blest;
 What was the an - gel say - ing? It trou-bled her to hear,
 His name shall be called Je - sus, God's off-spring from on high.
 The an - gel an-swered quick - ly, "The power of the Most High
 "Be - hold, I am your hand-maid," she said un - to her God.



good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news."
 you are most blest, most bless - ed; God chose you, you are blest!"
 to hear the an - gel's mes - sage, it trou-bled her to hear.
 And he shall reign for - ev - er, for - ev - er reign on high."
 will come up - on you short - ly, your child shall be God's child."
 "So be it; I am read - y ac - cord - ing to your word."

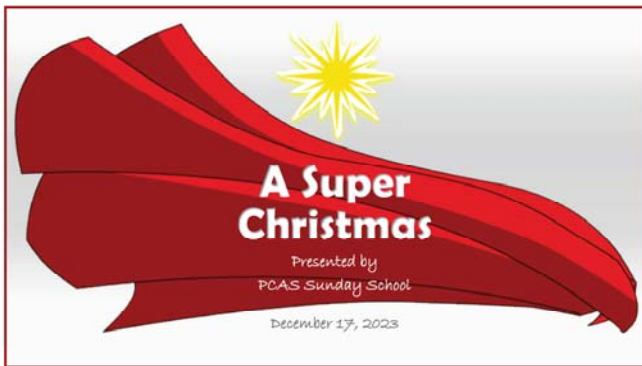
Gentle Mary Laid Her Child 146

1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;
 2 An - gels sang a - bout his birth; wise men sought and found him;
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;

there he lay, the un - de - filed, to the world a strang - er.
 heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth, glo - ry all a - round him.
 he is still the un - de - filed, but no more a strang - er.

Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Sav - ior?
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, heard the an - gels sing - ing;
 Son of God, of hum - ble birth, beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;

Ask the saved of all the race who have found his fa - vor.
 all the plains were lit that night; all the hills were ring - ing.
 praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glo - ry!



PLEASE JOIN US DURING
WORSHIP ON
DECEMBER 17TH FOR
THE SUNDAY SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT!

IT WILL BE A **SUPER**
SPECTACULAR EVENT!



*CHRISTMAS COFFEE HOUR
AT THE MANSE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH*

You are invited to join us after
worship on December 17th for
Christmas Coffee Hour at the
Manse, hosted by Presbyterian



REMEMBER the Fallen. . .

HONOR those who Serve. . .

TEACH our children the value of
Freedom.

Please join us on **December 16, 2023 at 11:00 am**, Wreaths Across America will be at The Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury to Remember and Honor our veterans through the laying of Remembrance Wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes and the act of saying the name of each and every veteran aloud.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Advent Worship Services, Sundays at 10am

"Gifts While We Wait"

Nov. 26th

Dec. 3rd, with Communion

Dec. 10th, with Choir & Handbells

Children's Christmas Pageant

"A Super Christmas"

Sunday, Dec. 17th, 10am

Longest Night Service

Hope & Prayer for the Darkest Time of Year

Wednesday, Dec. 20th, 7:30pm

Christmas Eve Morning

with a Christmas Story for All Ages & Carols

Sunday, Dec. 24th, 10am

Christmas Eve Evening

Live Christmas Music at 8:30pm

Traditional Candlelight Service at 9pm

Sunday, Dec. 24th



Wreath Laying Ceremony

Honoring Veterans

Sat., Dec. 16th, 11am

Church Cemetery

The Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury

352 Sycamore Ave., Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

tpcas.org



@TPCASNJ

Meeting Schedule Week of December 11th

11	DEC, MON	● 4:30 – 5:30pm	Wisdom Tree Yoga - Gentle Floor Yoga(FH)
		● 7 – 9pm	Boy Scouts (FH)
12	DEC, TUE	● 9 – 10:30am	Zoom Bible Study
		● 9:30 – 10:30am	Wisdom Tree Yoga - Chair Yoga Fitness(FH)
		● 11am – 12pm	Overeaters Anonymous (TR)
		● 5 – 7pm	Mental Health Association of Monmouth County (FH)
13	DEC, WED	● 9:30am – 4pm	Master Garden luncheon (FH)
		● 7:30 – 9:30pm	P&A Meeting (ZOOM)
		● 7:30 – 9pm	Boy Scout Leader Meeting (O)
		● 8 – 9pm	Igreja Presbiteriana Gethsemani Bible Study (TR)
14	DEC, THU	● 4:45 – 5:45pm	Yoga Small Group - (FH)
		● 6 – 7pm	Bells (SR)
		● 7 – 9pm	Igreja Presbiteriana Gethsemani choir practice (FH)
16	DEC, SAT	● 7:30 – 9pm	AA (TR and FH)
17	DEC, SUN	● 8:45 – 9:30am	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
		● 10 – 11am	Christmas Pageant
		● 10 – 11am	Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
		● 11am – 12pm	Manse Reception
		● 3:30 – 4:30pm	AA (TR)
		● 5 – 6pm	AA (TR)
		● 6 – 9pm	Igreja Presbiteriana Gethsemani Worship (FH)