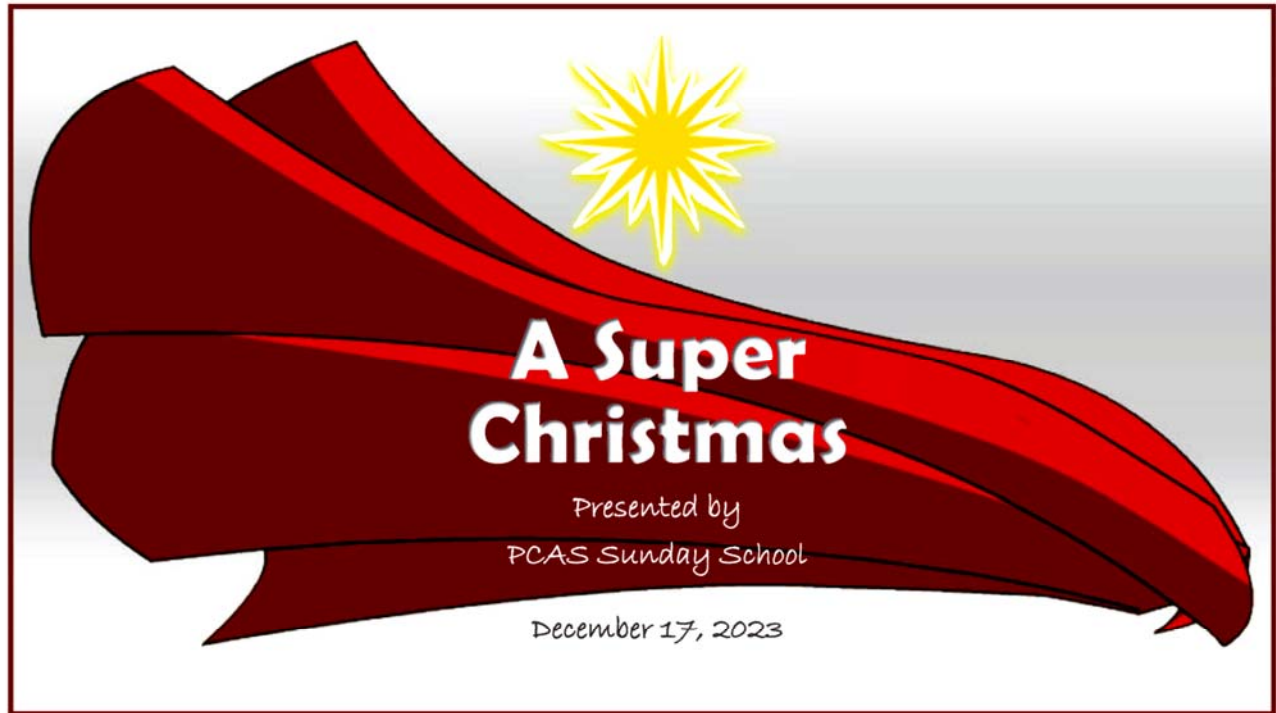


*Sunday, December 17th, 2023*



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

# December 17th, 2023

## 4th 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

**Prelude**     Gymnopédie No.1

Erik Satie

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader: We gather bringing the light of love,

**People: from crowded tables and tents in the wilderness,**

**from the glint in a student's eye and the clasp of a  
patient's hand,**

**from heartbeats and hugs and hallelujahs.**

Leader: We gather, here, because the world is broken and the wait is long, but love never stops casting out fear, speaking truth, healing the deepest wounds, crossing the divide from this world to the next and back again.

**People: "Here I am", she whispers, "the servant of the Lord."**

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

**People: Love, here, with us.**

*We Gather: A Candle Lighting Liturgy by Rev. Karen Ware Jackson*

\*Hymn #113

Angels We Have Heard On High

### Call to Confession

Leader: Jesus comes into the world for a reason. We need saving. We pray together, naming today's reason for why we need a Savior.

### Prayer of Confession (unison):

**Living God, God Incarnate,**

**As we light the candle today longing for love, we recall that you  
teach us to love on three fronts: to love you, to love others, and to  
love ourselves. Those instructions seem so universal, and so**

agreeable, and yet somehow we keep breaking hearts, judging others with hatred, acting out in fear. We are inconsiderate of your role in our lives, inattentive to your presence. We can't escape our own self-criticism, struggling to accept the truth that we are made in your divine image. As we behold the light of your love in the candle before us, envelop us in its glow. Show us now how you practice what you teach: how you love yourself, love us, and love all. Forgive us when we depart from the ways of love. Call us back into your love.

### **Moment for Silent Reflection**

#### **Assurance of Pardon** *(From 1 John 4:9-10, 14, 16).*

Leader: God's love is revealed to us in this way: God sends his only Son into the world that we might live through him. God sends his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. God sends his only Son as the Savior of the world.

**People: When he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. So we will know and believe the love that God has for us.**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

**First Scripture Lesson:** Psalm 89:1-5

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

### **Noisy Offering**

### **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 #141**      On this Day Earth Shall Ring

**Second Scripture Lesson:** Matthew 1:18-25

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

**The Word Proclaimed: "A Super Christmas"**

**Annual Sunday School Pageant**

Superman - Landon Lee

Hulk - Christian Reamy

Mary - Catalina Oh

Gwen from Spiderman - Maddie Lee

Captain America - Wyatt Truxal

Wonder Woman and Shepherd - Elisabeth Sergeant

The Voice - Audrey Sergeant

Cat Woman - Hannah Heller

Joseph- Christian Reamy

Iron Man - Leo Williams

Shepherd - Evie Truxal

**Offering**

**Offertory**

Two French Carols

Setting by Brant Adams

**\*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 #136**

Go Tell It On the Mountain

**Benediction**

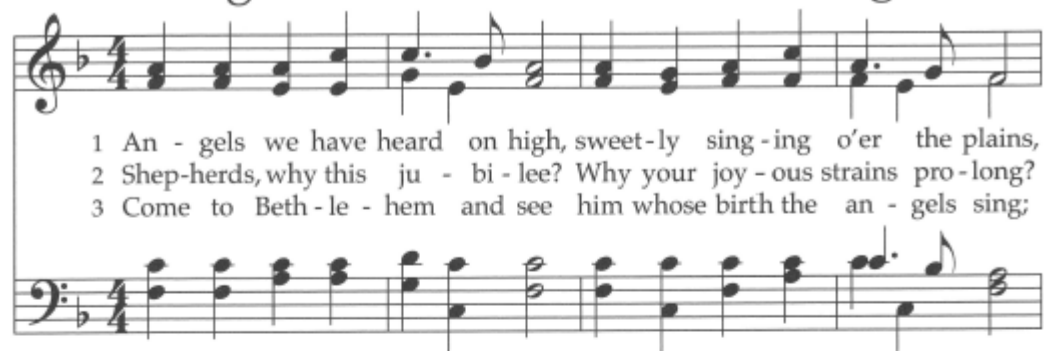
**Postlude**

Go Tell It On the Mountain

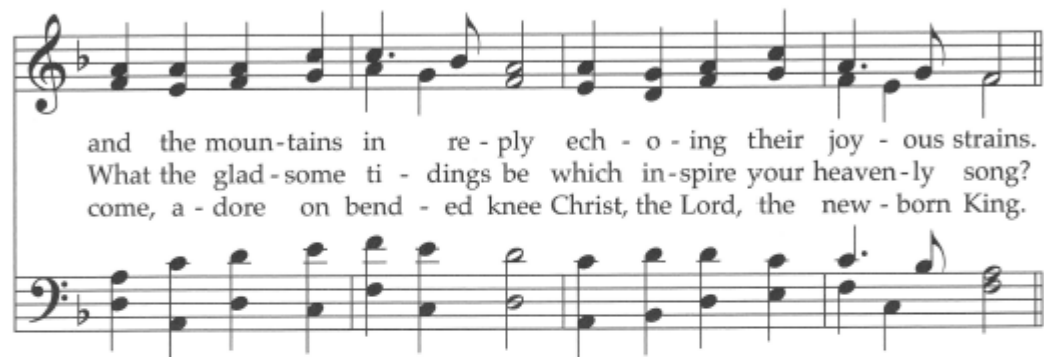
Setting by Gary Lanier

***All are invited to the Manse - the Pastor's residence - in front of the Church House - for a festive "coffee hour" after service today.***

# 113 Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad-some ti - dings be which in-spire your heaven-ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

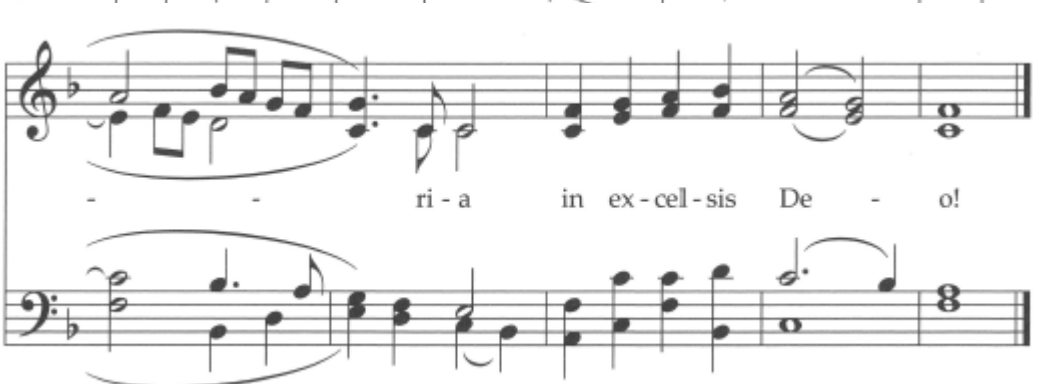
*Refrain*



Glo - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - -



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# 141 On This Day Earth Shall Ring



1 On this day earth shall ring with the song  
 2 His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came  
 3 God's bright star, o'er his head, wise men three  
 4 On this day an - gels sing; with their song



chil - dren sing to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to  
 down to earth Beth - le - hem saw his birth; ox and ass be -  
 to him led; kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts be -  
 earth shall ring, prais - ing Christ, heav - en's King, born on earth to




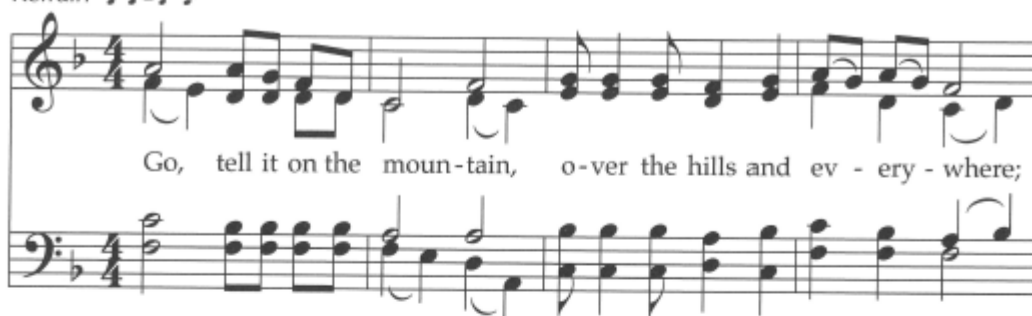
save us; him the Fa - ther gave us.  
 side him from the cold would hide him. \*Id - e - o - o - o - o,  
 fore him, praise him and a - dore him.  
 save us; peace and love he gave us.



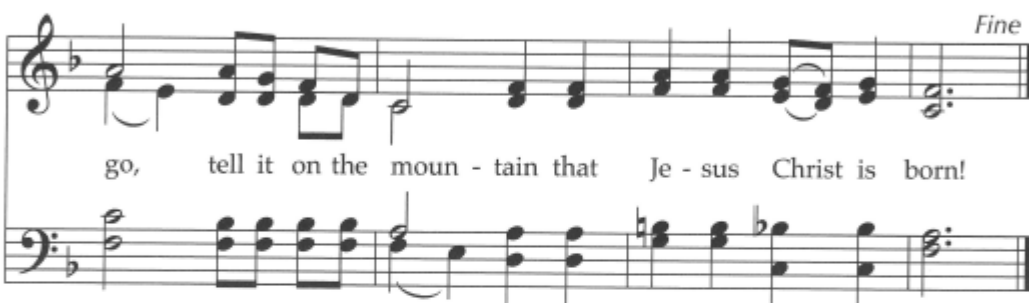
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# 136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

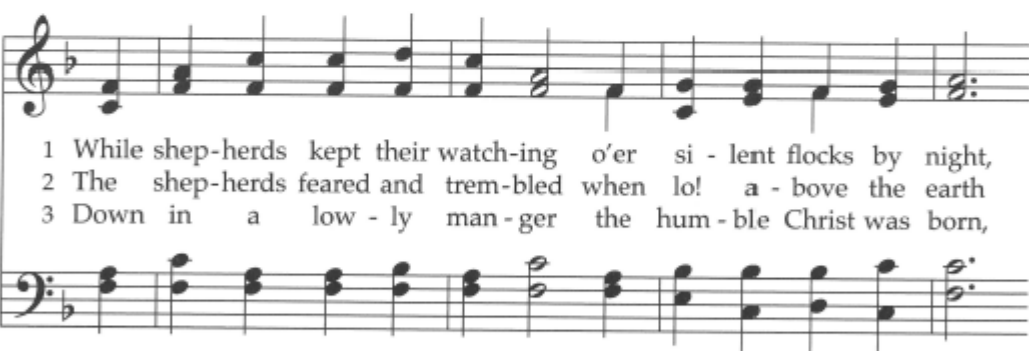
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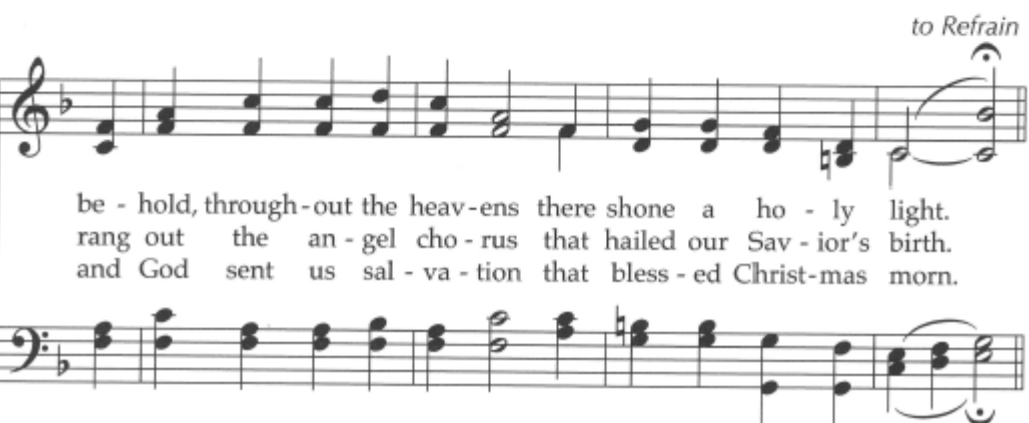
Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a low - ly man-ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

to Refrain

### Worship Leaders

**Pastor:**

**Rev. Katja Gruening**

**Director of Music Ministries:**

**Marcello Velame**

**Liturgist:**

**Kim Davies**

**Advent Candle Lighters:**

**Courtney, Bryan, and Hannah Heller**

**Music Ministry:**

**Rich Vodhanel**

**Ushers:**

**Brian Sergeant**

**Andy Wolf**

**Zoom Hosts:**

**John Palframan**

**Jim Wright**



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

You are invited to join us today after worship for Christmas Coffee Hour at the Manse, hosted by Presbyterian Women.

On December 21st there will be  
7 hours 14 minutes of day  
16 hours 46 minutes of night

Feel it?  
We feel it too.  
We care.

Come to light candles,  
to be seen and loved,  
to seek peace and hope,  
to reach for the sacred.

## **Longest Night Service**

December 21st, 2023, 7:30pm, Sanctuary  
The Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury  
352 Sycamore Ave., Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

CHRISTMAS

EVE

MORNING

Christmas Eve falls  
on a Sunday this year.  
We are excited to offer  
a morning Christmas service,  
as well as the 8:30pm  
Traditional Candlelight Service.

### **The 10am service will feature:**

The Reading of the Christmas Story  
The same favorite carols as we sing at night  
A special Christmas Story for our children  
The Pastor's Christmas Message  
Cookies & Cocoa in the Social Room after

### **We especially welcome in the morning:**

- families with children (we know 10pm is too late for our young ones!)
- those who want to be together in person on Christmas Eve and are unable to join us at night.



# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

## **Advent Worship Services, Sundays at 10am**

**"Gifts While We Wait"**

Dec. 3rd, with Communion

Dec. 10th, with Handbells

## **Children's Christmas Pageant**

**"A Super Christmas"**

Sunday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, 10am

Followed by Christmas Reception at the Manse

## **Longest Night Service**

Hope & Prayer for the Darkest Time of Year

Thursday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:30pm

## **Christmas Eve Morning**

with a Christmas Story for All Ages & Carols

Sunday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, 10am

## **Christmas Eve Evening**

Live Christmas Music at 8:30pm

Traditional Candlelight Service at 9pm

Sunday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>



## **Wreath Laying Ceremony**

**Honoring Veterans**

Sat., Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, 11am

Church Cemetery

## **The Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury**

352 Sycamore Ave., Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

[tpcas.org](http://tpcas.org)



@TPCASNJ

## Meeting Schedule Week of December 18th

18	DEC, MON	● 4:30 – 5:30pm	Wisdom Tree Yoga - Gentle Floor Yoga(FH)
		● 7 – 9pm	Boy Scouts (FH)
19	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)
		● 7:30 – 9pm	Session Meeting (TR)
20	DEC, WED	● 8 – 9pm	Igreja Presbiteriana Gethsemani Bible Study (TR)
21	DEC, THU	● 4:45 – 5:45pm	Yoga Small Group - (FH)
		● 6 – 7pm	Bells (SR)
		● 7 – 9pm	Igreja Presbiteriana Gethsemani choir practice (FH)
		● 7:30 – 8:30pm	Longest Night Service (Sanctuary)
23	DEC, SAT	● 7:30 – 9pm	AA (TR and FH)
24	DEC, SUN	● 8:45 – 9:30am	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
		● 10 – 11am	Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
		● 11am – 12pm	Coffee Hour (SR)
		● 1 – 4pm	Igreja Presbiteriana Gethsemani Worship (FH)
		● 3:30 – 4:30pm	AA (TR)
		● 5 – 6pm	AA (TR)
		● 8:30 – 10:30pm	Christmas Eve Worship (sanctuary)