

Sunday, December 18th, 2022



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

December 18th, 2022

*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 In the Bleak Midwinter setting by Wilbur Held

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Leader:

it is ancient
as old as the first word
for it is the first word ever
spoken by a God
who was feeling the divine voice
for the first time

People:

**its sound has taken many forms through
the ages, but it speaks
still, the single
truth it always has**

Leader:

some hear it beating swords into ploughshares
others hear it hammering spears into pruning hooks
and still others hear the
original word
that shaped these others
the first word:
the word,
love

Lighting of the Advent Candles

The Word of the Lord from Isaiah 2:3b-5

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their

spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Let us pray: Advent God, we light four candles as our expectations for your coming grows. May the words of prophets and angels we hear today help us see how things will be different under the reign of the coming king. Amen.

*Hymn #119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

Christ, by highest Heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time, behold Him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel. *[Refrain]*

Hail the heavenly Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild He lays His glory by;
born that man no more may die;
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. *[Refrain]*

Call to Confession

Leader: Let us come before God as we are in this moment – desiring God’s presence and intervention, yet resisting the fullness of God’s work among us. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of awe and wonder,

Despite our preparations, we are not yet ready for Thy will to be done on earth. As we reach out with one hand for the peace and wholeness that Christ comes to bring, we hold on to the ways of sin and division with the other. Your coming is world changing. Even hoped-for change is unnerving when it finally arrives. We pray for the faith and the trust to live into this life changing miracle as we receive your Son into our midst. May we learn to embrace him, reaching out with both hands. Amen.

Moment for Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

People: Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. *(Luke 1:46-49)*

Prayer of Illumination

First Scripture Lesson Isaiah 52:7-10

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God!**

Noisy Offering

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the Church & The Lord’s Prayer

*Passing of the Peace

Christmas Pageant: “A Night in Bethlehem”

Narrator: Audrey Sergeant
Mary: Evie Truxal
Joseph: Landon Lee
Innkeeper: Christian Reamy
Shepherds: Hannah Heller
Maddie Lee
Wyatt Truxal
Kings: Elisabeth Sergeant
Devon Barnes
Brylin Barnes
Angels: Bryce Barnes
Cari Suarez

2022 Christmas Pageant Carol Lyrics

Carol 1

O Little Town of Bethlehem- verse 1

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy darkness shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

Carol 2

O Little Town of Bethlehem- verse 2

For Christ is born of Mary
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth
and praises sing to God, the king,
and peace to all on earth.

Carol 3

Do You Hear What I Hear? -Verse 1

Said the night wind to the little lamb,
do you see what I see
Way up in the sky, little lamb,
do you see what I see
A star, a star, dancing in the night
With a tail as big as a kite
With a tail as big as a kite

Carol 4

Do You Hear What I Hear? -Verse 2

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy,
do you hear what I hear
Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy,
do you hear what I hear
A song, a song, high above the trees
With a voice as big as the sea
With a voice as big as the sea

Carol 5

Do You Hear What I Hear? - Verse 3

Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king,
do you know what I know
In your palace warm, mighty king,
do you know what I know
A Child, a Child shivers in the cold
Let us bring Him silver and gold
Let us bring Him silver and gold

Carol 6

Do You Hear What I Hear? -Verse 4

Said the king to the people everywhere,
listen to what I say
Pray for peace, people everywhere!
listen to what I say
The Child, the Child, sleeping in the night
He will bring us goodness and light
He will bring us goodness and light

Carol 7

Joy to the World- Verse 1

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.

Offering

Offertory The First Noel

Setting by Gail Leven Pollock

Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn #110 Love Has Come

Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

*Benediction

Postlude Love Has Come (Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella)

Setting by Christopher Uehlein

Worship Leaders

Liturgist:	Judy Murphy
Advent Wreath	Sherri Adler and Lisa Barnes
Piano and Organ:	Kathleen Healy – Wedsworth
	Marcello Velame
Ushers:	Steve Aquilina
	Jim Wright
Zoom Hosts:	John Palframan
	Jim Wright
Coffee Hour:	At the Manse, hosted by the Deacons

Church Staff

Pastor:	Rev. Katja Gruening
Director of Music Ministries:	Marcello Velame
Sexton:	Douglas Silk
Office Administrator:	Diane Suarez

Longest Night Service

Wednesday, December 21st at 7pm in the Sanctuary

We gather on the longest night of the year to create a supporting and safe space to welcome those who are struggling during this season. We know that experiences of grief, loss, and challenges to mental and physical health can feel particularly overwhelming at this time, and so we open our sanctuary and the heart of our community to those in need of care and prayer.

Our Longest Night Service will include the opportunity for reflection, for you to light candles in remembrance of loved ones, receive anointing with oil and individual prayer with Elders from our church, and be assured that God is with us as God gifts us the divine presence through Holy Communion. We practice open communion.

Everyone is welcome to the Lord's Table.

You are warmly invited to come and participate as fully as you feel comfortable. Following the service, we will have light refreshments and fellowship in the Social Room.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

DEADLINE TO ORDER: DECEMBER 20, 2022

**I would like to order _____ Poinsettia Plants @ \$7 each
to be placed in the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve Service
Total enclosed _____ (Checks made out to the Deacons)**

Name(s) in memory to be listed in the Church bulletin:

Donated by: _____

Phone: _____ **Email** _____

_____ I would like to pick up my poinsettia(s) after the Christmas Eve Service

_____ I will leave the poinsettia(s) at the church

You can also email PCAS@verizon.net, call 732.747.3557 or mail your order and payment to:

Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury

Attention: Deacons

352 Sycamore Avenue

Shrewsbury NJ 07702

