



Sunday, December 24th, 2023

10:00 AM

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

# December 24th, 2023

## Christmas Eve

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**

### **Prayer of Hope**

Leader: When the world was dark  
and the city was quiet,  
you came.

**People: You crept in beside us.**

Leader: And no one knew.  
Only the few  
who dared to believe  
that God might do something different.

**People: Will you do the same this Christmas, Lord?**

Leader: Will you come into the darkness of tonight's world?  
Will you come into the quietness of this town?  
And will you come into the dark corners  
and quiet places of our lives?

We ask this not because we are guilt-ridden  
or want to be,  
but because the fullness our lives long for  
depends on us being as open and vulnerable to you  
as you were to us,  
when you came,  
wearing no more than diapers,  
and trusting human hands  
to hold their maker.

**People: Will you come into our lives,  
if we open them to you,  
and do something different?**

Leader: When the world was dark  
and the city was quiet  
you came.

**People: You crept in beside us.**

Leader: Do the same this Christmas, Lord.

**People: Do the same this Christmas.**

**Amen.**

“When the World was Dark”, *Cloth for the Cradle*, Iona Community Wild  
Goose Worship Group, 2000.

**\*Hymn #133**      O Come, All Ye Faithful

### **Gathering Around the Light**

Leader: We gather bringing the light of Christ,  
from our hope (candle 1)  
from our peace (candle 2)  
from our joy (candle 3 - pink)  
from our love (candle 4).

**People: Because the world is broken and the wait is  
long, but Christ is with us through it all. In a  
humble manger in a back-water town - a baby.  
On a convict's cross - a king.**

Leader: In every heart and every home  
in every sanctuary and street and stream  
we meet Christ anew.

**People: “Glory to God in the Highest heaven,”  
we whisper, “and peace to all on earth.”**

Leader: So we gather to light this candle, because it is the only  
spark we need:

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

*The Christ Candle is lit.*

### **A Christmas Story for Children and Children-at-Heart: “Twas the Evening of Christmas”**

**Carol: #122**      **Silent Night, Holy Night!**

### **Christmas Prayer**

Leader: God of our Salvation,  
we come to you on this wondrous day to gather in praise,  
to lift up your name with friend, family, and stranger.  
In the beginning, your creative work began with a word,  
and today, your creation continues with the Word  
made flesh.

On this holiest of days, we join the everlasting chorus saying:

**People: Glory to God in the highest! Great is your name in all the earth!**

Leader: Like Mary, we ponder these things in our hearts,  
and wonder how you could love us so much  
as to actually become one of us, one with us.  
We remember these stories this evening  
that remind us of your steadfast love,  
that affirm that you have never, and will never, give up on your children.

**People: Thank you for your steadfast presence in our lives!**

Leader: And yet, even on this day on which we celebrate the fulfillment of love,  
we recognize that there are many who are still waiting for fulfillment:  
the fulfillment of adequate food and shelter...  
the fulfillment of peace and the end of violence...  
the fulfillment of reprieve from the fierce grip of grief...  
the fulfillment of a restoration of a broken relationship...  
the fulfillment of a renewing of heart, mind, or body...  
the fulfillment of healing from a chronic illness...  
Giving God,

**People: give us the courage to do your work in the world and to share the peace coming to us in the manger this evening.**

Leader: We pray today especially for those who have traveled to be here...  
for those who will be traveling in the coming days and weeks...  
for those who work on Christmas: especially medical workers, police, and emergency personnel...  
for those who cannot make it home for Christmas...  
hear us we pray, O God,

**People: Restore us and make your face to shine that we might be saved.**

Leader: In all that we do and in all that we are,  
send your Spirit to send us forward with the majesty of this day  
and to share the grace we find with everyone we encounter.  
This we pray in the name of your Son, who taught us to pray saying:

**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.**

## **Sharing of the Peace of Christ**

## **The Story of the Birth of Christ - Luke 2:1-20**

**Christmas Meditation:** Rev. Gruening

**Offering**

**Offertory**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Carol:** #134                      Joy to the World

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

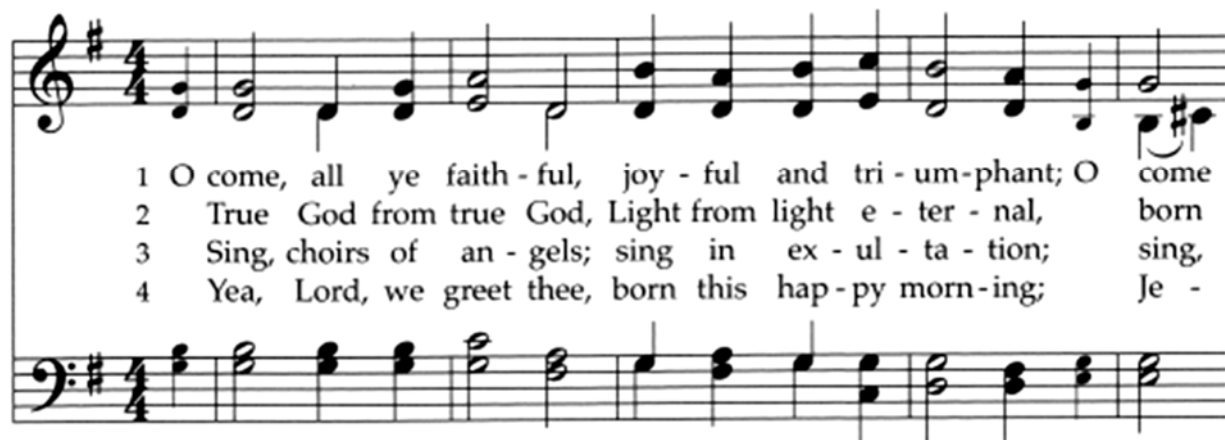
***Join us in the Social Room for Christmas Cookies and Coffee or Cocoa***

### **Worship Leaders**

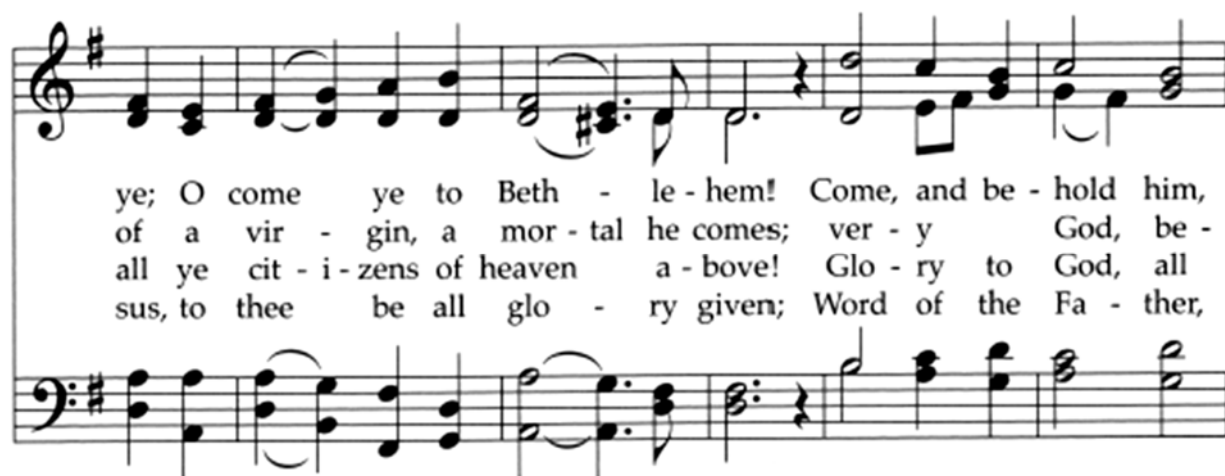
<b>Pastor:</b>	<b>Rev. Katja Gruening</b>
<b>Director of Music Ministries:</b>	<b>Marcello Velame</b>
<b>Liturgist:</b>	<b>David Apy</b>
<b>Advent Candle Lighters:</b>	<b>Lisa and Lina Won</b>
<b>Ushers:</b>	<b>Diane Suarez</b>
	<b>Rich Vodhanel</b>
<b>Zoom Hosts:</b>	<b>John Palframan</b>
	<b>Jim Wright</b>

# O Come, All Ye Faithful

133



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come  
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -



ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,  
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -  
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all  
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

*Refrain*



born the King of an - gels!  
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let  
 glo - ry in the high - est!  
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!



us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

## Silent Night, Holy Night!

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light  
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and  
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -  
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing  
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"  
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

## Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs  
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and  
 sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,



## Upcoming Services

**December 31st, 10am** - We continue our Christmas celebration. Join us for more carols and an opportunity to name and give thanks for the ways in which we have seen, felt, and received the grace of God this season.

**January 7th, 10am** - We will celebrate Epiphany, and give out "Star Words". Come and receive a "star word" to guide you in the new year.

**January 14th, 10am** - Baptism of the Lord - While remembering Jesus' baptism, we will also remember our own and reconnect with the promises of baptism.

### Meeting Schedule Week of December 25th

25	DEC, MON	● All day	OFFICE CLOSED
26	DEC, TUE	● 9 – 10:30am	Zoom Bible Study
		● 11am – 12pm	Overeaters Anonymous (TR)
		● 5 – 7pm	Mental Health Association of Monmouth County (FH)
27	DEC, WED	● 8 – 9pm	Igreja Presbiteriana Gethsemani Bible Study (TR)
28	DEC, THU	● 4:45 – 5:45pm	Yoga Small Group - (FH)
		● 7 – 9pm	Igreja Presbiteriana Gethsemani choir practice (FH)
30	DEC, SAT	● 7:30 – 9pm	AA (TR and FH)
31	DEC, SUN	● 10 – 11am	Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
		● 11am – 12pm	Coffee Hour (FH)
		● 3:30 – 4:30pm	AA (TR)
		● 5 – 6pm	AA (TR)
		● 6 – 9pm	Igreja Presbiteriana Gethsemani Worship (FH)