

Sunday, December 4th, 2022



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

December 4th, 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 Gymnopédie No.1

Erik Satie

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Leader: Across the universe
creation waits
for the prophets to speak
their words of expectation
and their vision of renewal

**People: May we gather round them today
once more
and let their longing grip us
and lead us
into birth and blessing**

Leader: So come now my friends
this is the meeting place
of promise and prophecy
let us listen through the ancient words
that we might be ready to hear
a baby's cry

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Leader: The Word of the Lord from Isaiah 7:14:
"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman
is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel."

Let us pray: Advent God, we light two candles to proceed on our journey.
We may not know yet what our deepest hope for the world and for
ourselves is. May your prophets and messengers guide us toward
recognizing what kind of salvation is coming, and what deep need in our
lives the Savior will meet. Amen.

*Hymn #96 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh.
Awake and harken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from sin:
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward.
Without your grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.

Call to Confession

Leader: Our Advent preparations guide us to recognize why we need a Savior. What can we no longer overcome without help? Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Long-awaited Messiah, Lord of Hope: Have mercy.

Long-awaited Messiah, Defender of Compassion: Have mercy.

Long-awaited Messiah, Provider, Protector, Liberator: Have mercy.

**Release us from the chains of this moment, born of imprisoned years
the distractions and false calls of those who cannot help.**

**Release us from the blindness to our complicity, frailty, and poverty
the apathy keeping us from seeing, speaking, and caring.**

**Release us from
the weight of needs stealing our courage to try
the slowness of change chipping away at our enduring.**

**Have mercy on us.
Finish your good and generous work.**

Amen.

Moment for Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: And the angel said: Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God.

People: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

Prayer of Illumination

First Scripture Lesson Genesis 18:1-15

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

Children's Message

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the Church

*Passing of the Peace

*Hymn #98 To a Maid Whose Name was Mary

To a maid whose name was Mary,
the angel Gabriel came.

"Fear not," the angel told her,
"I come to bring good news;
good news I come to tell you,
good news, I say, good news."

"For you are highly favored
by God the Lord of all,
who even now is with you.
You are on earth most blest;
you are most blest, most blessed;
God chose you, you are blest!"

But Mary was most troubled
to hear the angel's word.
What was the angel saying?
It troubled her to hear,
to hear the angel's message,
it troubled her to hear.

"Fear not, for God is with you,
and you shall bear a child.
His name shall be called Jesus,
God's offspring from on high.
And he shall reign forever,
forever reign on high."

"How shall this be?" said Mary,
"I am not yet a wife."
The angel answered quickly,
"The power of the Most High
will come upon you shortly,
your child shall be God's child."

As Mary heard the angel,
she wondered at his words.
"Behold, I am your handmaid,"
she said unto her God.
"So be it; I am ready
according to your word."

Second Scripture Lesson Luke 1:26-38
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God**

Sermon **"Angels We Have Heard on Earth"**

Offering

Offertory What Child Is This Setting by Gary Lanier

Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Prayer continues...

...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

F C F B^b C F

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
2 Bless - ed is he who comes in the

(A) (D/F[#]) (F[#]m) (G) (A) (Bm)
C F/A Am B^b C Dm

pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

(G) (D) (A) (Bm) (Em7) (A) (Dsus) (D)
B^b F C Dm Gm7 C Fsus F

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer continues...

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

F C F B^b C F C F/A Am

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

(G) (A)(Bm) (G) (D) (A)(Bm) (Em7) (A)(Dsus)(D)
B^b C Dm B^b F C Dm Gm7 C Fsus F

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution and Sharing of the Elements

You are invited to eat the bread as it is served; Please hold the cup until all have been served; We will drink together.

Please let the servers know if you need gluten free bread.

Prayer after Communion (unison)

God of glory, we thank you for your favor shown us at your table. We thank you for the message of your love and saving grace brought to us through the bread and the cup. Send us out to be messengers of your good news, sharing what we have received. Amen.

*Hymn #82 Come, thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

*Benediction

Postlude Go Tell it on the Mountain setting by Gary Lanier

.BLUE CHRISTMAS

Wednesday, December 7th at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary.

This is a special meditative service, held by Candlelight, for reflection, prayer, support and, for those requesting, anointing with oil and laying on of hands. Following an ancient practice of the Christian Church, this service offers a time of worship and prayer for those who may be struggling during this season, or who are in need of centering and peace. All are welcome to this safe space of care and prayer, to be surrounded by the warmth and love of the church community.

ADVENT SERVICE

Wednesday, December 14th at 7:30 PM on Zoom

The congregation has a wonderful opportunity to be immersed in music, readings, prayer and candlelight as we prepare to welcome our Savior on Christmas Day. Please set aside this time to escape the busyness of the season and reflect on the true meaning of Advent.

Meeting Schedule Week of December 4th

4	DEC, SUN	● 8:30 – 9:30am	Choir Practice (Social Room)
		● 10 – 11am	Sunday School
		● 10 – 11am	Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
		● 11am – 12pm	Coffee Hour (FH)
		● 3:30 – 4:30pm	AA (TR)
		● 5 – 6pm	AA (TR)
<hr/>			
5	DEC, MON	● 4:30 – 5:30pm	Wisdom Tree Yoga (studio)
<hr/>			
6	DEC, TUE	● 9 – 10:30am	Zoom Bible Study
		● 11am – 12pm	Overeaters Anonymous (TR)
<hr/>			
7	DEC, WED	● 9:30 – 10:30am	Wisdom Tree Yoga (studio)
		● 7 – 9pm	Boy Scouts (FH)
		● 7 – 8pm	Blue Christmas Service (Sanctuary)
<hr/>			
8	DEC, THU	● 4:45 – 5:45pm	Yoga Small Group (FH)
		● 6 – 7pm	Bells (Social Room)
<hr/>			
10	DEC, SAT	● 8 – 9:30am	Men's Group (offsite)
		● 7:30 – 9pm	AA (TR and FH)