

Sunday, November 26th, 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*

November 26th, 2023

Reflections on Inclusivity

Lord, give us new strength so that we can build places of belonging: To create a community for all to share their gifts, To know that each of us is loved, To help us to see the light of Christ in all that we serve. Let us remember that each of us is loved, each of us is willed and each of us is necessary...Xavier University prayer

Order of Worship
(*Please rise in body and/or spirit)

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude O Come, O Come Emmanuel Setting by David Lantz III

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader: We gather, bringing the light of hope,

**People: From homes and hospitals
From vaccines and vacations
From midnights we thought would never end
And moments gone too soon.**

Leader: We gather, here, because the world is broken and
the wait is long, but hope calls us out of hiding,
bubbles to the surface of our hearts
starting small then picking up speed,
rising, always rising, until we cannot stay away.

**People: “Keep awake,” she whispers, “God’s glory is
spilling over, right at the edge of all we know.”**

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

People: Hope, here, with us.

The first Advent candle is lit.

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

***Hymn #104** O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Call to Confession

Leader: We take a deep breath, and we recognize that the month ahead of us will have many competing interests. Some will confuse in us the meaning of this season. We pray for the grace to navigate faithfully the days coming.

Prayer of Confession (unison):

Gracious God, we step into the Advent season, distracted already by Christmas. Instead of attending to Mary in her time of pregnancy, or joining John the Baptist in preparing for the Lord's arrival, or Zechariah in his silent contemplation, we follow the economic calendar. It does not want us to consider the gifts we have from God already, and what comes to those who wait in faith. It wants us to believe the season is for shallow entertainments and sparkly objects, not for God's slow revealing of the answer to all of our prayers.

It is a hard time of year to be a Christian, to resist the secularizing of our most treasured gift - our Savior. It is a gift some of us won't even bother to open this year. But that is why we pray now, at the beginning of the season. Lord - that we might see your gifts present and yet to come, forgive our distractions and rearrange some pieces in our lives so that we can live a bit more on your timeline and according to your plan. Amen.

Moment for Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: In the end, what matters is that we recognize our need of a Savior, and the immeasurable gift of our salvation. Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love are real, and are real through faith in Christ. There is nothing on earth, in heaven, or in hell that will ever shake that reality. Jesus reigns. That is an eternal gift. And even if you don't want to wait on God right now, God will wait on you. Such is the nature of God's love and grace. **Thanks be to God!**

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson: First Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11
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 #87 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Second Scripture Lesson: Romans 12:3-8

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

Sermon: "Gifts While We Wait: Compassion, Hospitality, Generosity"

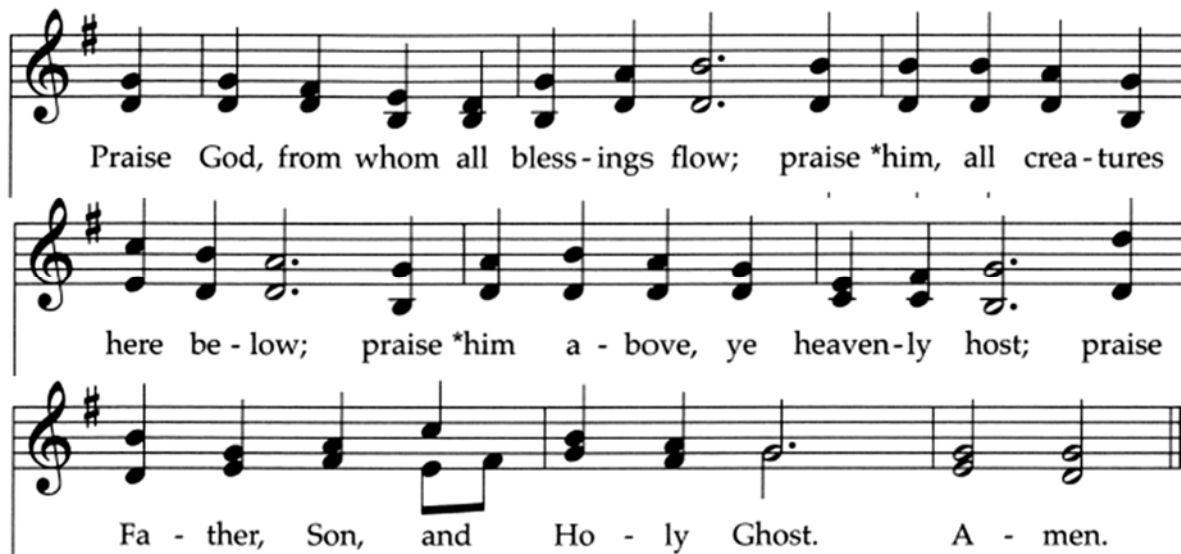
Offering

Offertory

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Setting by Gail Hazard

*Doxology



Prayer of Dedication

***Hymn #711** Lord of All Good

Benediction

Postlude

Jesus Lover of my Soul

Setting by Vicki Tucker Courtney

*The flowers today are given by Judy Murphy,
"In loving memory of my husband, Robert J. Murphy."*

Worship Leaders

Pastor:	Rev. Katja Gruening
Director of Music Ministries:	Marcello Velame
Liturgists and Advent candle lighting:	Lauren, Audrey, and Elisabeth Sergeant
Ushers:	Brian Sergeant
	Andy Wolf
Zoom Hosts:	John Palframan
	Jim Wright
Social Hour:	Facilities



WREATHS
— across —
AMERICA

REMEMBER the Fallen. . .
HONOR those who Serve. . .
TEACH our children the
value of Freedom.

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.

Follow the below link to the PCAS wreath sponsorship page.

<https://wreathsaacrossamerica.org/pages/166296/Overview/?relatedId=0>


Deadline for ordering is November 28th

Thank you so much for supporting the effort at The Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury and Wreaths Across America! We look forward to seeing you there.

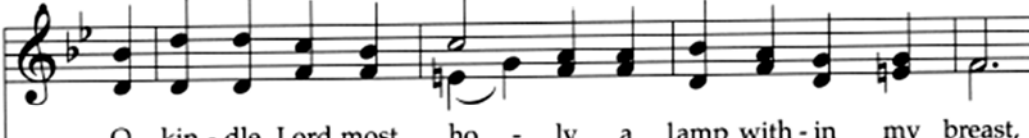
O Lord, How Shall I Meet You 104



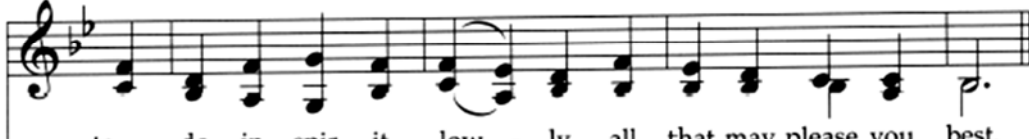
1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a - right?
2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;
3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro-cured my lib - er - ty.
to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.

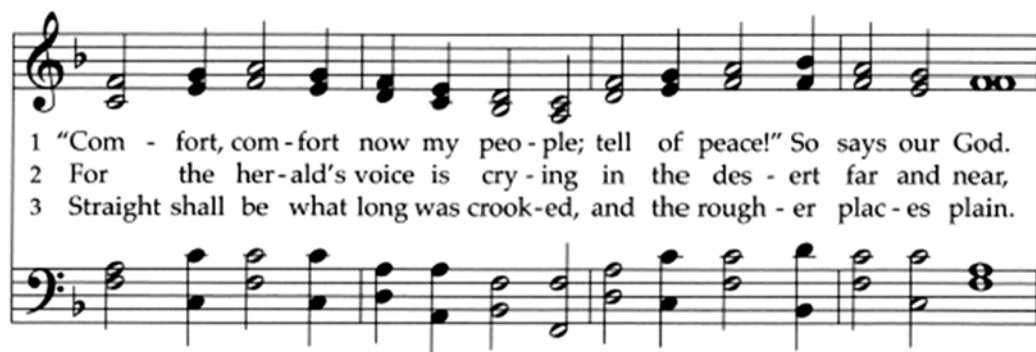


O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,
O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day

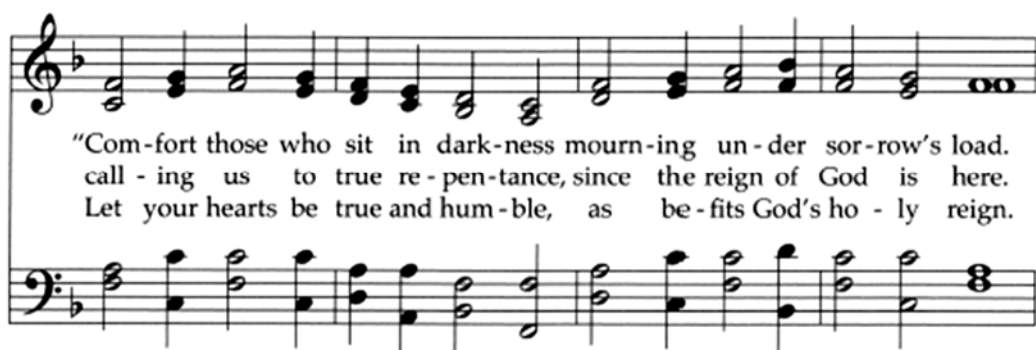


to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.
when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

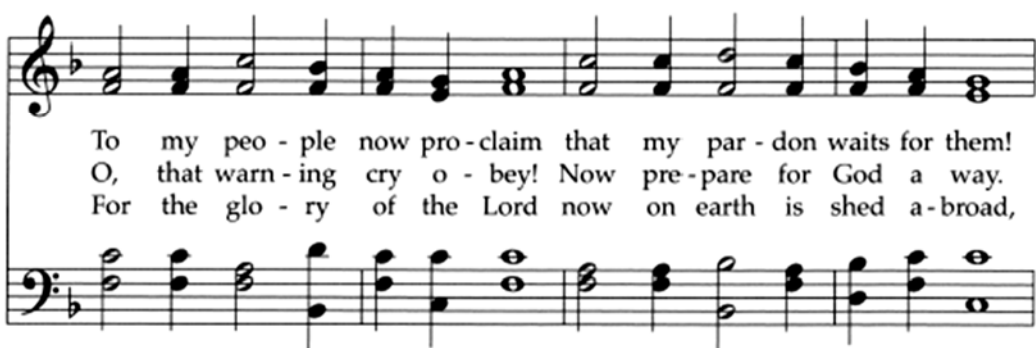
Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87



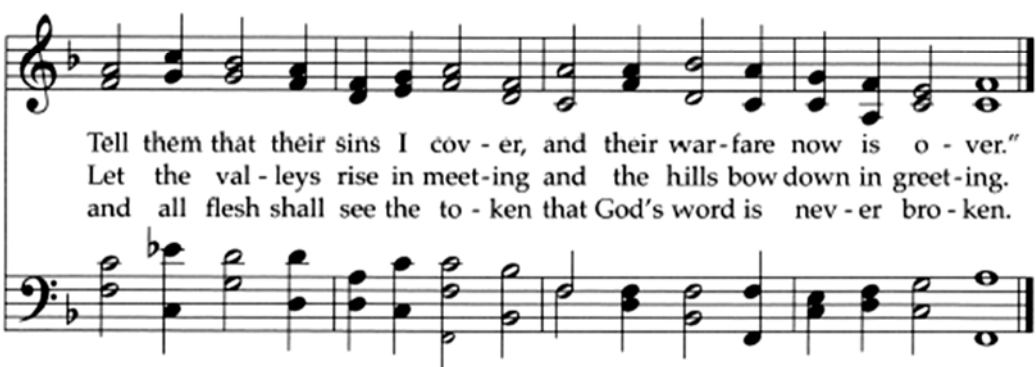
1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook-ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



"Com-fort those who sit in dark-ness mourn-ing un - der sor-row's load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen-tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To my peo - ple now pro-claim that my par - don waits for them!
 O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre-pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a-broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war-fare now is o - ver."
 Let the val - leys rise in meet-ing and the hills bow down in greet-ing.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Lord of All Good

1 Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to you;
 2 We give our minds to un - der - stand your ways;
 3 Fa - ther, whose boun - ty all cre - a - tion shows;

use them your ho - ly pur - pose to ful - fill,
 hands, eyes, and voice to serve your great de - sign;
 Christ, by whose will - ing sac - ri - fice we live;

to - kens of love and pledg - es brought a - new,
 heart with the flame of your own love a - blaze,
 Spir - it, from whom all life in full - ness flows:

that our whole life is of - fered to your will.
 till for your glo - ry all our powers com - bine.
 to you with grate - ful hearts our - selves we give.

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



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 9:30-2:00

ALL ARE WELCOME!

THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

Homemade Bake Goods

Handmade Crafts

Wreaths

Fresh Floral Arrangements

Christmas Treasures

Sports Items

Homemade Soups

Poinsettias

Giftware

Jewelry

Gently Loved Toys

Books

Delicious Lunch!

Proceeds go to Mission

BARGAINS!

FREE STUFF!!!

***PHOTOS WITH
SANTA!!!***

Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury 352 Sycamore Ave Shrewsbury NJ

732-747-3557