

Sunday, December 11th, 2022



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

December 11th, 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

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Setting by Martha Lynn Thompson

Played by Jubilee Bells

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Leader: In the midst of frenzied shopping
and end-of-year weariness,
we spread out a purple cloth,
read again the ancient stories,
and light a candle in the darkness,
to celebrate a visitation.

**People: Gathered here we declare our intention to live
as if the greatest gift in the world
were about to be placed into our hands,
and as if the Giver has understood
our deepest needs, our most heartfelt prayers.**

Leader: Like Mary,
may we be surprised by our calling;
like Simeon and Anna,
may the years increase our faith;
like sleepy shift workers on a hillside,
may our eyes be opened;
like Joseph may we listen to our dreams;
for this season requires our creative imagination.
There is a Presence in our world that asks to be seen,
who will stay awake?

**People: There is a coming to our world that seeks a welcome, who
will offer hospitality?**

Leader: Even now Jesus Christ is moving towards us.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Leader: The Word of the Lord from Isaiah 40:9-11

“Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.”

Let us pray: Advent God, we light three candles as we journey deeper into our hope for the Messiah. In these darkest days of the year, visit us through your messengers who bring good tidings to ordinary people. Amen.

*Hymn #88 O Come, O Come Emmanuel
O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show;
and teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*

O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace. *Refrain*

Call to Confession

Leader: Let us join in the prayer of confession, remembering our desire to prepare the way of the Lord, and making a path to receive his grace.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Merciful God, as we yearn for the coming of a Savior, we recognize that we are still caught up in the circumstances we hope to be saved from. We laugh at the misfortune of others; we speak lies while complaining there is no truth to be heard; we long for a love we don't wish to give. We pray that you would loosen our grip on sin and make way for the new life that comes through Jesus. Amen.

Moment for Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear what the Christmas angel has to say:

“Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.”

People: We hear the good news and we rejoice in the coming of the Savior, Christ the Lord.

Prayer of Illumination

First Scripture Lesson Psalm 103:19-22

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

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the Church & The Lord's Prayer

*Passing of the Peace

*Hymn #117 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
an angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind:
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and humankind.

"To you, in David's town, this day
is born of David's line
the Savior, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

"The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all simply wrapped in swaddling bands,
and in a manger laid."

Thus spoke the seraph and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
good will to all from highest heaven
begin and never cease."

Second Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:8-20

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

Sermon

"Those Celebrating Angels"

Offering

Offertory

The First Noel

Setting by Martha Lynn Thompson
Played by Jubilee Bells

Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn #113 Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

*Benediction

Postlude Angels We Have Heard on High

Setting by Arnold B. Sherman

Played by Jubilee Bells

Worship Leaders

Liturgist:	Doreen Pampel
Advent Wreath	Sandy, Elizabeth, Mira, and Catrice Crome
Organ:	Marcello Velame
Musicians	Jubilee Bells
Ushers:	Steve Aquilina
	Sue Starke
	Diane Suarez
Zoom Hosts:	John Palframan
	Jim Wright
Coffee Hour:	Deacons

Church Staff

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Advent Service – Wednesday, December 14th at 7:30pm 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.

Christmas Pageant - Sunday, December 18th, during worship

Our Sunday School class will present “A Night in Bethlehem!”, interpreting the Christmas story in joyful and dramatic fashion.

Christmas Coffee Hour at the Manse - Sunday, December 18th

You are invited to join us after worship on December 18th for Christmas Coffee Hour at the Manse, hosted by our Deacons.

Blue Christmas Service - December 21st at 7:00pm

Blue Christmas services are often held on this shortest day of the year - with the longest 'night', reflecting the experience of some of our more difficult emotions and some of struggles that surface during this season. From then on, light only grows. We will offer Blue Christmas on Dec. 21st, including a variety of spiritual practices that invite you to feel warmth and love of God and the care of the church community. All are welcome to come as you are, and as you desire, to light candles, to be prayed for, to share the company of like souls, to be nourished by communion.



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

On **December 17, 2022 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.

Meeting Schedule Week of December 11th

11	DEC, SUN	● 8:30 – 9:30am	Choir Practice (Social Room)
		● 10 – 11am	Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
		● 11am – 12pm	Coffee Hour (FH)
		● 11:30am – 12:30pm	Deacon's Meeting (TR)
		● 3:30 – 4:30pm	AA (TR)
		● 5 – 6pm	AA (TR)
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12	DEC, MON	● 4:30 – 5:30pm	Wisdom Tree Yoga (studio)
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13	DEC, TUE	● 9 – 10:30am	Zoom Bible Study
		● 11am – 12pm	Overeaters Anonymous (TR)
		● 7 – 8:30pm	Dorcas (FH and Kitchen)
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14	DEC, WED	● 9:30am – 12pm	Mission Belles (TR)
		● 11am – 3:30pm	Master Gardener Luncheon (FH)
		● 7 – 9pm	Boy Scouts (FH)
		● 7:30 – 8:30pm	Advent Service (Zoom)
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15	DEC, THU	● 4:45 – 5:45pm	Yoga Small Group (FH)
		● 6 – 7pm	Bells (Social Room)
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17	DEC, SAT	● 11am – 12pm	Wreaths Across America (cemetery)
		● 7:30 – 9pm	AA (TR and FH)

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

DEADLINE TO ORDER: DECEMBER 18, 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**

