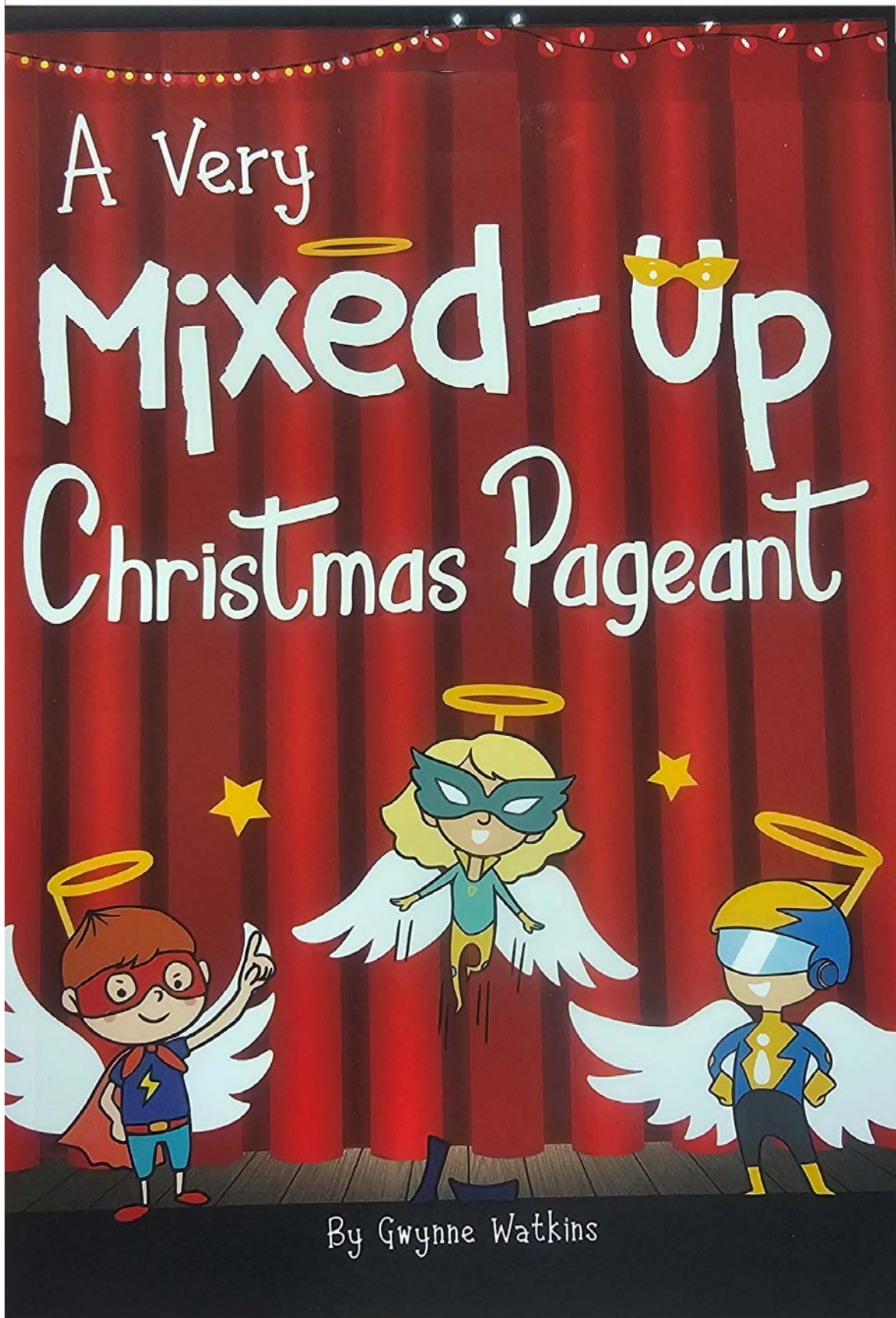


Sunday, December 15th, 2024



A Very
Mixed-Up
Christmas Pageant



By Gwynne Watkins

December 15th, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

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

Minute for Mission	Joy Offering	Debi Coccaro
Prelude	Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart	Micheal Perry

Advent Candle Lighting

***Hymn** From the Manger (Verses 1, 2, 3) (see insert)

Call to Confession

Leader: Seeking the joy that is often elusive, let us confess the ways in which we've failed to embody Christ's joy.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of abundant grace, in this season of Advent, we confess the times we've sought our own happiness or comfort at the expense of others. We have ignored others' needs and joys, overlooked the hungry, and forgotten true joy comes from sharing our abundance. We have forsaken the joy found in uplifting others and ensuring their needs are met.

Help us turn away from self-centeredness and toward a life of compassion and generosity. Likewise, we confess the times we have neglected our own joy, treated ourselves unkindly, worked when we should have rested, abandoned the interests and hobbies we cherish, and served purposes that drag us down. Let the expectant joy of Advent inspire us to return to ways that bring us joy. May the world be fed with joy. Amen.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news: God's joy is for all people, and God's forgiveness is for all who seek it. Because of God's great love for us, we are forgiven. Receive God's pardon and be at peace.

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson: Luke 1:39-45 pg. 57 NT
This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God!**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the Church

Passing the Peace

Leader: As we prepare to pass the peace, let us remember the joy that comes from God's provision. Out of God's abundance come friendship, fellowship, and care toward all our physical, spiritual, and social needs. With grateful, joyful hearts, let us pass the peace of Christ to each other.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

***Hymn #98** To a Maid whose Name Was Mary (verses 1,2,6)

Second Scripture Lesson Luke 1:46-55 pg. 57 NT
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God!**

The Word Proclaimed:

"A Very Mixed-Up Christmas Pageant"

Scene #1

Song #1 Oh Holy Night sung by Nia Marcenat

Scene #2

Song #2 Silent Night

Silent night, holy night!

All is calm, all is bright

'round yon virgin mother and child!

Holy Infant, so tender and mild,

sleep in heavenly peace,

sleep in heavenly peace.

**Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born;
Christ the Savior is born!"**

Scene #3

Song #3 Go Tell it on the Mountain

Refrain:

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain***

**The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain***

Scene #4

Song#4 The First Noel

**The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain:

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel!**

**They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain 2 times***

Scene #5

Song #5 *Jingle Bells*

**Dashing through the snow
in a one horse open sleigh;
o'er the fields we go,
laughing all the way.
Bells on bob tail ring,
making spirits bright;
what fun it is to laugh and sing
a sleighing song tonight**

Refrain

**Jingle bells, jingle bells,
jingle all the way.
Oh, what fun it is to ride
in a one horse open sleigh!
Jingle bells, jingle bells,
jingle all the way.
Oh, what fun it is to ride
in a one horse open sleigh!**

**A day or two ago,
I thought I'd take a ride,
and soon Miss Fanny Bright
was seated by my side.
The horse was lean and lank;
misfortune seemed his lot.
He got into a drifted bank,
and then we got upshot! *Refrain***

**Offering
Offertory
Doxology**

Come Emmanuel

Gilbert Martin

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise *him, all crea-tures
here be-low; praise *him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise
Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

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:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory! Hosanna in the high-
est! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Prayer continues...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ has Risen; Christ will come.

Prayer continues...Continue with the prayer Jesus taught"

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.**

Words of Institution and Sharing of the Elements

*Communion is served today by intinction. You are invited to come
down the aisle to the servers at the head of your aisle, take the
bread, dip in the cup. Gluten-free bread and a separate cup are
available for those who need them. Servers will go to those need-
ing to be served in the pews.*

Prayer after Communion (unison)

**Faithful God, we leave this table with full hearts and transformed
vision. Just as the shepherds left the manger's side with praise on
their lips because of what they had heard and seen, we return to
our daily lives with renewed praise, thankful you do what you
say you will do. Bless us with joy this week. Amen.**

***Hymn** #110 Love Has Come

Benediction

Postlude Love Has Come Christopher Uehlein

*The flowers this morning are dedicated to
Carol Morse in celebration of her birthday!*

*Following the service, Pastor Katja welcomes you
to the Manse for refreshments!*

Worship Leaders

Pastor:	Rev. Katja Gruening
Director of Music Ministries:	Marcello Velame
Director of Youth and Family Ministries	Sherri Laberdee
Liturgist:	Nancy Vodhanel
Advent Candle:	Ken Gibbons
Communion Servers:	Debi Carter
	Heather Palframan
	Ken Gibbons
Music Ministry	Kathleen Healy-Wedsworth
	Rich Vodhanel
Ushers:	Brian Sergeant and John Tortora
Zoom Hosts:	John Palframan and Jim Wright

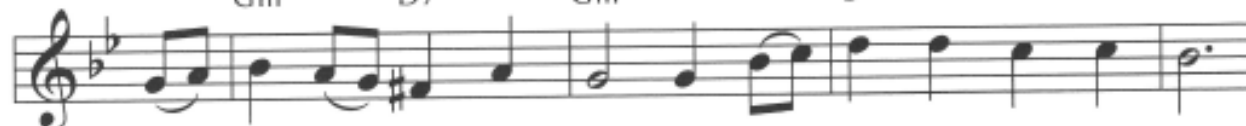
98 To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary

Capo 3: (Em) (B7) (Em) (Am) (B) (Em)
 Gm D7 Gm Cm D Gm



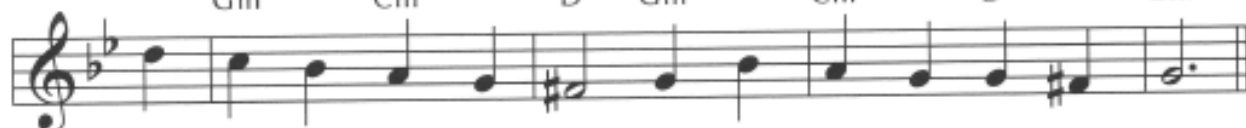
1 To a maid whose name was Mar - y, the an - gel Ga - briel came.
 2 "For you are high - ly fa - vored by God the Lord of all,
 3 But Mar - y was most trou - bled to hear the an - gel's word.
 4 "Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.
 5 "How shall this be?" said Mar - y, "I am not yet a wife."
 6 As Mar - y heard the an - gel, she won - dered at his words.

(Em) (B7) (Em) (G) (D) (G)
 Gm D7 Gm B^b F B^b



"Fear not," the an - gel told her, "I come to bring good news;
 who e - ven now is with you. You are on earth most blest;
 What was the an - gel say - ing? It trou - bled her to hear,
 His name shall be called Je - sus, God's off - spring from on high.
 The an - gel an - swered quick - ly, "The power of the Most High
 "Be - hold, I am your hand - maid," she said un - to her God.

(Em) (Am) (B) (Em) (Am) (B) (Em)
 Gm Cm D Gm Cm D Gm



good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news."
 you are most blest, most bless - ed; God chose you, you are blest!"
 to hear the an - gel's mes - sage, it trou - bled her to hear.
 And he shall reign for - ev - er, for - ev - er reign on high."
 will come up - on you short - ly, your child shall be God's child."
 "So be it; I am read - y ac - cord - ing to your word."

Love Has Come

110

Capo 3: (D)

(Bm7)

(Em7)

(A)

F

Dm7

Gm7

C



1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D)

(Bm7)

(Em)

(A7)

(D)

F

Dm7

Gm

C7

F



Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all
 Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A)

(D)

(Bm)

(D)

(A)

(G)

(D)

C

F

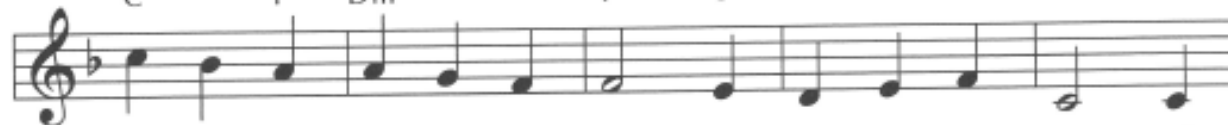
Dm

F

C

B^b

F



heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of
 glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her
 Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7)

(F#7)

(G)

(A)

(Bm)

(A7)

Gm7

A7

B^b

C

Dm

C7



joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D)

(A)

(G)

(A)

(D)

(A)

(A7)

(Dsus)

(D)

F

C

B^b

C

F

C

C7

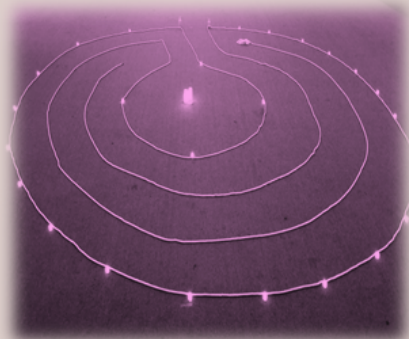
Fsus

F



Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.
 Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

A Labyrinth Journey for Advent



Wednesday, December 18th, 7:30pm
Fellowship Hall

Centered around an ancient spiritual practice of walking a labyrinth, our Advent Service invites you to bring a life challenge or prayer intention to God and walk a spiritual path in a contemplative way that opens us up to receiving God's response.

Finger labyrinths and journal pages will provide a way to journey for those desiring an alternative to walking during that time in the service.

Scripture, Singing, and Communion will round out the service.

The Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury
352 Sycamore Ave., Shrewsbury, NJ 07702
tpcas.org 732-747-3557

Christmas Eve Service

We gather for Christmas Music from the choir, bell choir, and soloists at 8:30pm on Christmas Eve, followed by the our traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve service at 9pm.

One-third of the world's population professes Jesus Christ as Savior of the World. Come join this immense celebration of the birth of Christ and receive the gift of Emmanuel - God with us.

Let's Give Santa a helping hand!
Christmas Giving Project

The Center in Asbury Park has recently received a grant enabling them to provide 20 additional units for those they serve. We've agreed to help with the soft furnishings of these apartments. The items should be new and we are looking for:

Bath towels
Comforters (full/queen)
Pillows
Bed Sheets (full/queen)
Dish Towels
Shower Curtains

Items can be placed in the box
in Fellowship Hall Deadline
December 24th



CHRISTMAS EVE POINSETTIAS ORDER FORM

I would like to order # _____ Poinsettia plants @\$5 each to be placed in the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve Service Total enclosed \$ _____
Name(s) in memory of 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
Attn: Deacons
352 Sycamore Ave
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

DEADLINE TO ORDER: SUNDAY DECEMBER 15TH



A VERY MIXED UP CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

By Gwynne Watkins

Reverend: Landon Lee
Leslie: Elisabeth Sergeant
Narrator: Evie Truxal
Gabriel: Lina Oh
Mary: Maddie Lee
Joseph: Leo Williams
Herod: Leo Williams
Wiseman: Christian Reamy
Star: Lina Oh
Angel: MJ Williams
Shepherd: Wyatt Truxal
Interjecting Kid: Christian Reamy

A special thank you to Libby Andia, Lisa Barnes, John Hanley, Marcello Velame, Diane Suarez and Pastor Katja.

A BIG thank you to our Sunday School!

We wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas!
Sherri Laberde – Director of Youth & Family Ministries