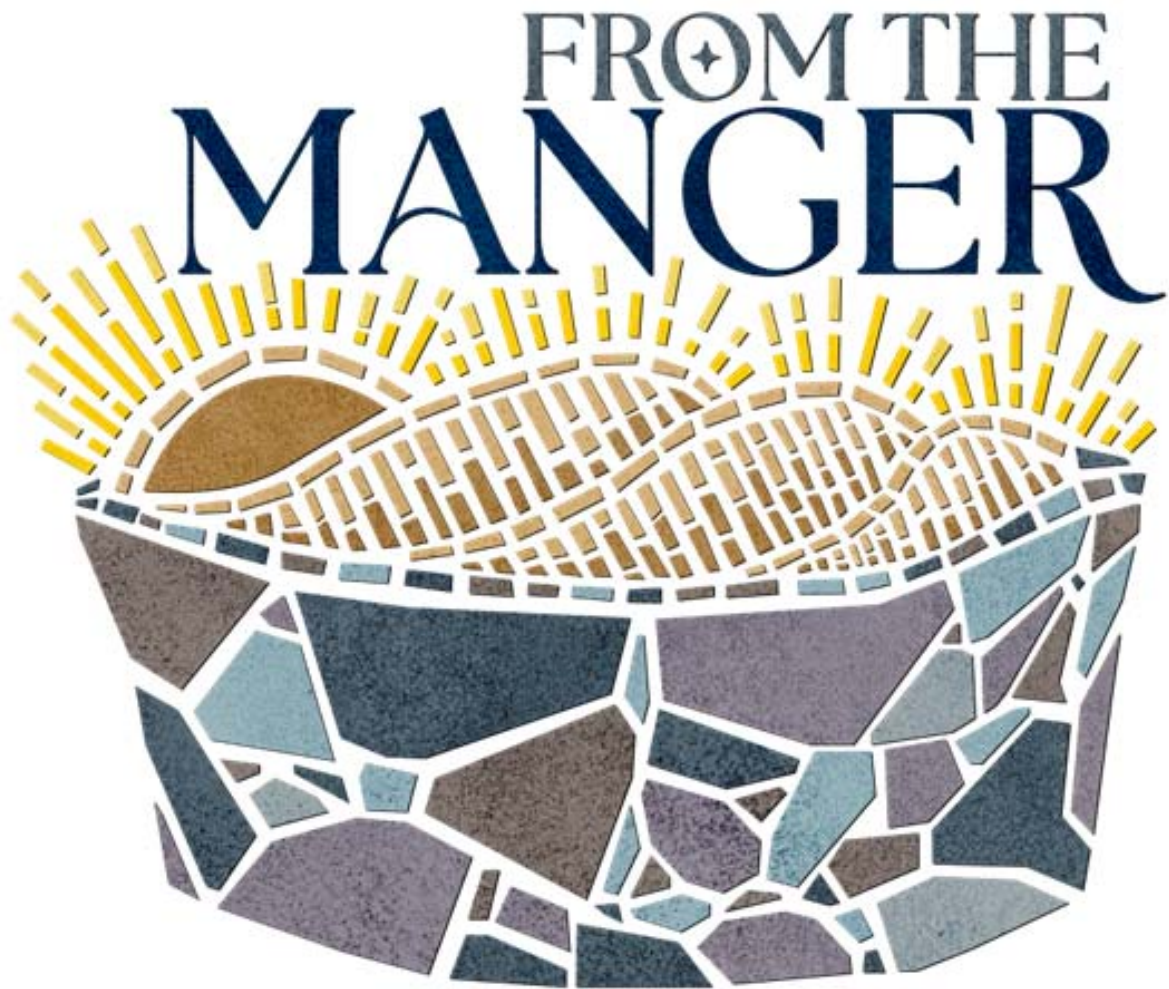


Sunday, December 22nd, 2024



ADVENT FOUR: LOVE GROWS

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

December 22nd, 2024

Fourth 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

Prelude Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Setting by Anna Laura Page
Jubilee Bells

Advent Candle Lighting

***Hymn** From the Manger (All verses) (see insert)

Call to Confession

Leader: Let us confess the ways in which we have failed in love, because Christmas calls us to a better way of life.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Ever-loving and compassionate God, you have shown us how to love. You sent your Son to teach us, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." Love requires us to care for others. We confess we have turned our eyes away from suffering. Love abounds in shared meals and conversation. We confess we have avoided interaction and common tables. Love reflects a rainbow of authentic expressions. We confess we have limited love to familiar boxes and boundaries. From creation, you have demonstrated your love through a beautiful world with enough resources for all to thrive. We confess we have hoarded resources and fenced ourselves in, away from people who are different from us. From the manger, you have shown us love that visits the humble and powerless. We confess we have aimed our affections toward the popular and powerful. Teach us to love, that we might be true disciples of the one who showed us how to love. May the world be fed with love. Amen.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news: God's love is immense enough, infinite enough, to cover us when our love is not enough. When we confess our sins into the ocean of God's compassion, we are forgiven. Receive God's pardon and be at peace.

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson: Luke 2:25-32 pg. 59 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: We pass the peace of Christ because the love of God compels us to create peace among ourselves, our families, and in this world. When peace feels impossible, we dedicate ourselves to demonstrating peace from within. So, let us create peace here and now. May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

***Hymn #124** Still, Still, Still

Second Scripture Lesson Matthew 9:35-36 pg. 9 NT
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God!**

Sermon "From the Manger....Love Grows!"

Offering

Offertory In the Bleak Midwinter

Setting by Cynthia Dobrinski
Jubilee Bells

Doxology



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures
here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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 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
highest! 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 needing
to be served in the pews.*

Prayer after Communion (unison)

Faithful God, just as Simeon was filled with awe and gratitude upon seeing the infant Jesus, we leave this table with hearts overflowing with your love. As Jesus looked upon the crowds with compassion, we too are inspired to act with kindness and grace. As we return to our daily lives, may we carry the light of your love with us, shining it into every corner of our world. Guide us to embody the love and compassion of Christ in all we do. Bless us with strength to love deeply and serve faithfully this week. Amen.

***Hymn** #119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Benediction

Postlude

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Setting by Ron Mallory
Jubilee Bells

Worship Leaders

Pastor:

Rev. Katja Gruening

Director of Music Ministries:

Marcello Velame

Director of Youth and Family Ministries

Sherri Laberde

Liturgist:

Sean Starke

Advent Candle:

Lori and Bob Levy

Communion Servers:

Kim Davies

Kurt Kaboth

Kirsten Schanck

Sean Starke

Music Ministry

Rev. Katja Gruening

Rich Vodhanel

Kathleen Healy-Wedsworth

Jubilee Bells

Ushers:

Sue Starke and Diane Suarez

Zoom Hosts:

John Palframan and Diane Suarez

Social Hour:

Personnel Committee

From the Manger

Words and Music by Amanda Meisenheimer
Arranged by Andrea Hamilton



1. A qui - et town called House of Bread,
2. A star - ry sky breaks forth with light,
3. From grass - y field to Je - sus' side
4. Mar - y's ba - by close - ly held,



a new-born ba - by falls a - sleep;
the an - gel says, "Be not a - fraid."
a hum - ble shep-herd runs back home.
wrapped up in sweet ex - pect - an - cy.



a bed of hay be - neath his head,
Glor - i - a to the high - est heights,
For - ev - er changed one ho - ly night,
Now the Mes - si - ah is un - veiled,



Im - man - u - el be - gins to dream.
hea - ven - ly hosts are sing - ing praise.
com - pelled to make these won - ders known.
em - bod - ied for the world to see.



For all cre - a - tion to be fed;
You'll find him as the an - gel said;
From pas - tures green will all be fed;
So all cre - a - tion can be fed;



hope from the ground_ to the break - ing of bread.
peace from the heav'ns_ to the break - ing of bread.
joy from the fields_ to the break - ing of bread.
love will be found_ in the break - ing of bread.



From the man - ger_ hope grows; he will
From the man - ger_ peace grows; he will
From the man - ger_ joy grows; he will
From the man - ger_ love grows; he will



be God with us_ From the man - ger_ hope
be God - with - us_ From the man - ger_ peace
be God - with - us_ From the man - ger_ joy
be God - with - us_ From the man - ger_ love



grows: Bread of Life, Je - sus_ _
grows: Bread of Life, Je - sus_ _
grows: Bread of Life, Je - sus_ _
grows: Bread of Life, Je - sus_ _

Still, Still, Still

124

1 Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill! The vir - gin's
2 Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slum - ber deep while an - gel

ten - der arms en - fold - ing, warm and safe the child are hold - ing.
hosts from heaven come wing - ing, sweet - est songs of joy are sing - ing.

Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slum - ber deep.

119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

8:30pm Christmas Music
9pm Candlelight Service

Come at 8:30pm for music led by our choir, handbell choir, Director of Music, and soloists.

At 9pm we move into a traditional service with carols, the reading of the Biblical Christmas story, a message from the Rev. Katja Gruening, and sharing the Light of Christ as we sing Silent Night.

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

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

23	DEC, MON	● All day	Office Closed
		● 7 – 9pm	Boy Scouts (FH)
24	DEC, TUE	● All day	Office Closed
		● 6 – 7:30pm	Mental Health Association of Monmouth County (TR)
		● 8:30 – 10pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
25	DEC, WED	● All day	Office Closed
26	DEC, THU	● 4:45 – 5:45pm	Yoga Small Group - (FH)
		● 7 – 9pm	Igreja Presbiteriana Getsemani choir practice (FH)
27	DEC, FRI	● 3 – 4:30pm	Mental Health Association of Monmouth County (TR)
28	DEC, SAT	● 7:30 – 9pm	AA (TR and FH)
29	DEC, SUN	● 8:30 – 9:30am	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
		● 10 – 11am	Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
		● 11am – 12pm	Coffee Hour (FH)
		● 3:30 – 4:30pm	AA (TR)
		● 5 – 6pm	AA (TR)
		● 6 – 9pm	Igreja Presbiteriana Getsemani Worship (FH)