

# December 31st, 2023

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**

### **Candle Lighting**

### **\*Call to Worship**

Leader: In Jesus Christ, God's grace has been given to us; therefore let us live for God,

**People: one day at a time.**

Leader: In every way we have been enriched in Christ, in spiritual gifts, through the witness of those who showed us Christ, and in speech and knowledge of every kind, therefore, let us give thanks to God,

**People: one day at a time.**

Leader: God is faithful and will strengthen us to the end, as we look for signs of Christ's presence,

**People: one day at a time.**

Leader: Till all is ended, all begun, we live in hope and worship God.

**People: one day at a time.**

Leader: In the name of the Three who are One, the Author, the Word, and the Breath. Amen.

**\*Hymn #119**      Hark the Herald Angels Sing

### **Call to Confession**

Leader: What a wonderful opportunity, on this December 31st, to be called to repentance! Honestly, we each have sins unconfessed, unnamed, that are a burden that we don't want to carry into the next year. Here we are, before God who is full of grace and truth. Let us seize the opportunity to leave the harmful ways of the old year behind and embrace the new life that comes to us in Jesus Christ. Let us pray:

### **Prayer of Confession (unison)**

**Life-changing Spirit, as we come to the end of the year, we recognize the thoughts, choices, and actions that we do not wish to follow us into the next year - in our life together as church, in our**

**relationships, in our homes and beyond. We take a deep breath....and we breathe out our confession, trusting our sins to the workings of your grace. We breathe in gospel truth...abiding in Jesus Christ, who is come, that our lives may be turned toward love, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### **Moment for Silent Reflection**

#### **Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun! As we continue to bear witness to the new life born to us in Jesus Christ, may we confess such a faith as to be reborn also through him.

**People: Thanks be to God for gift of new life!**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

#### **First Scripture Lesson: Luke 1:68-79**

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 #124**            Still, Still, Still


#### **Second Scripture Lesson: Luke 1:1-4**

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

**Sermon:**            "The Events Fulfilled Among Us"

**Offering**  
**Offertory**

## Doxology



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

\*Hymn #145      What Child Is This

## Benediction

## Postlude

### Worship Leaders

<b>Pastor:</b>	<b>Rev. Katja Gruening</b>
<b>Director of Music Ministries:</b>	<b>Marcello Velame</b>
<b>Liturgist:</b>	<b>Nancy Vodhanel</b>
<b>Ushers:</b>	<b>Steve Aquilina</b> <b>Sue Starke</b>
<b>Zoom Hosts:</b>	<b>John Palframan</b> <b>Jim Wright</b>
<b>Social Hour:</b>	<b>Deacons</b>

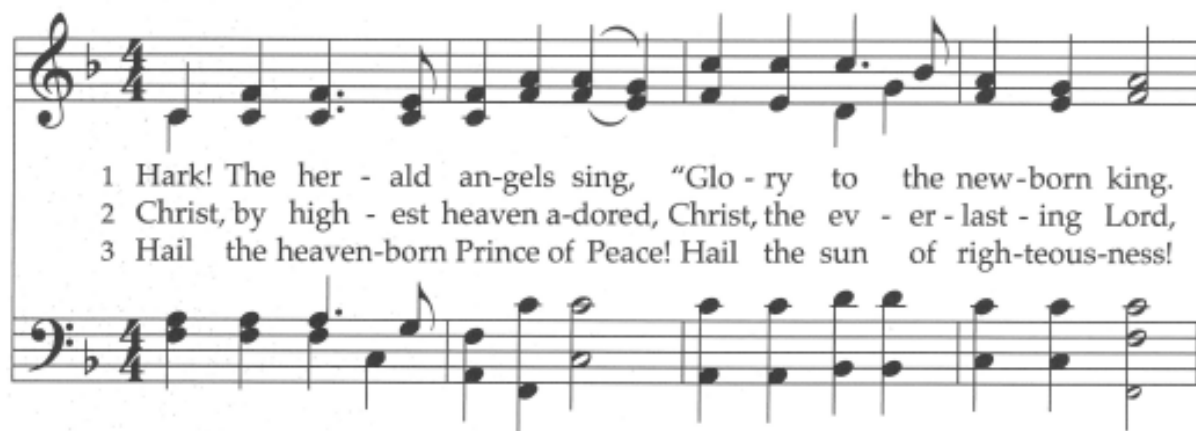
## Epiphany Sunday - January 7th, 10am

And by the light of that same star,  
Three Wise Men came from country far,  
To seek for a King was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went

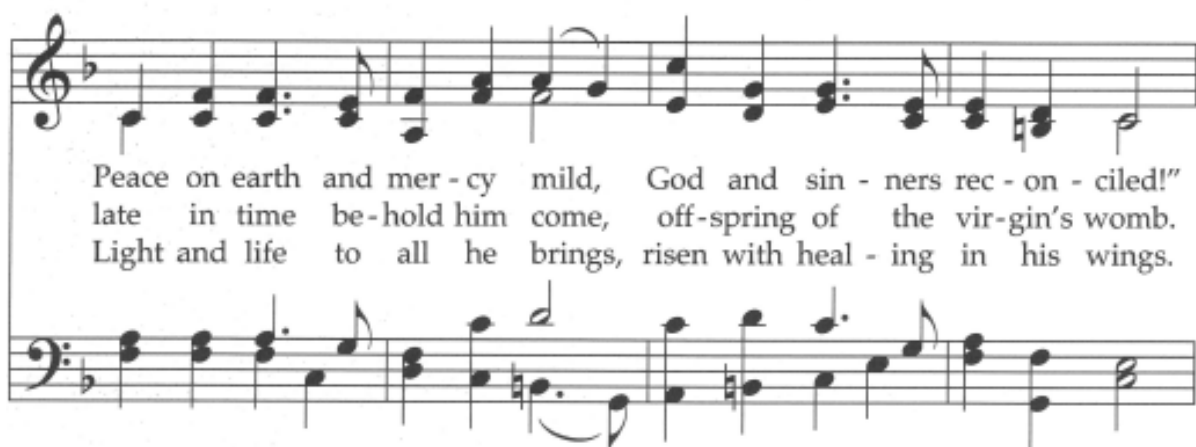
We will celebrate Epiphany, and give out "Star Words".  
Come and receive a "star word" to guide you in the new  
year.

We will also be celebrating the Lord's Supper.

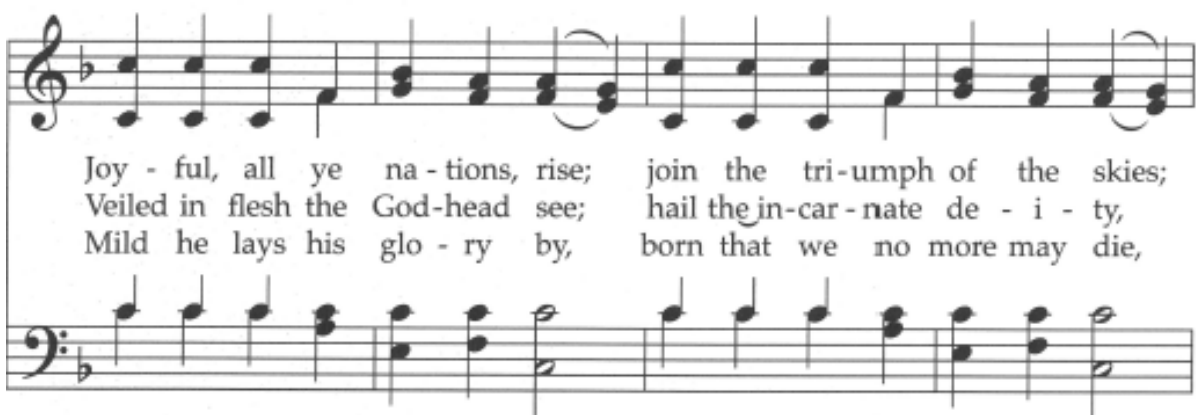
# 119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



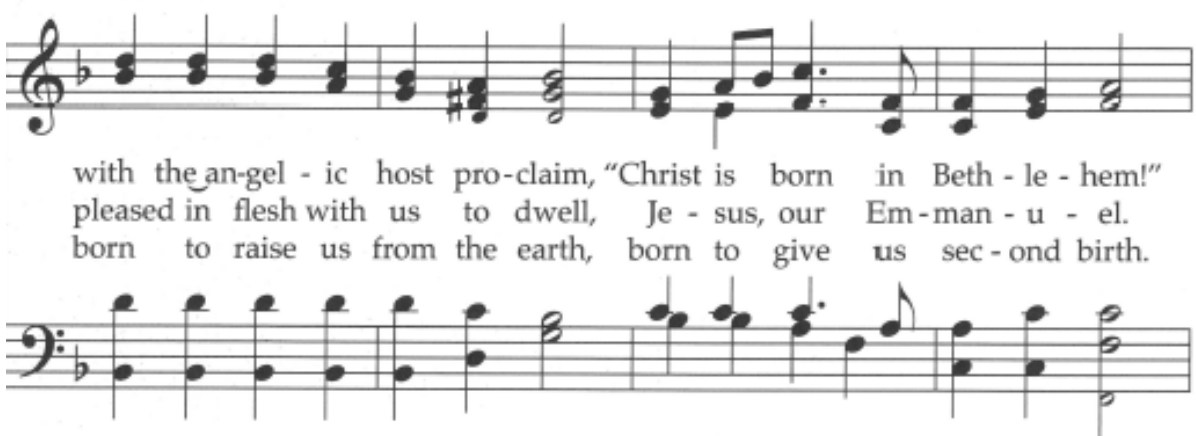
1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.  
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



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.

# Still, Still, Still

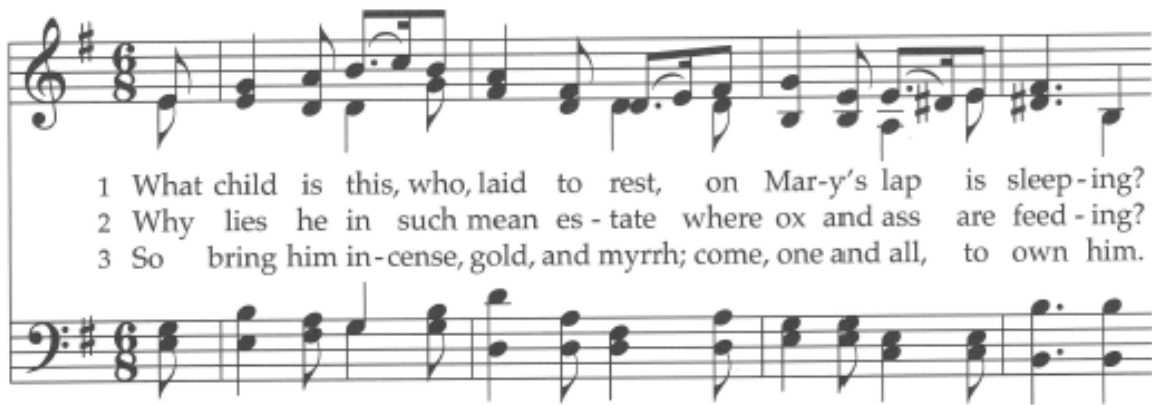
124

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

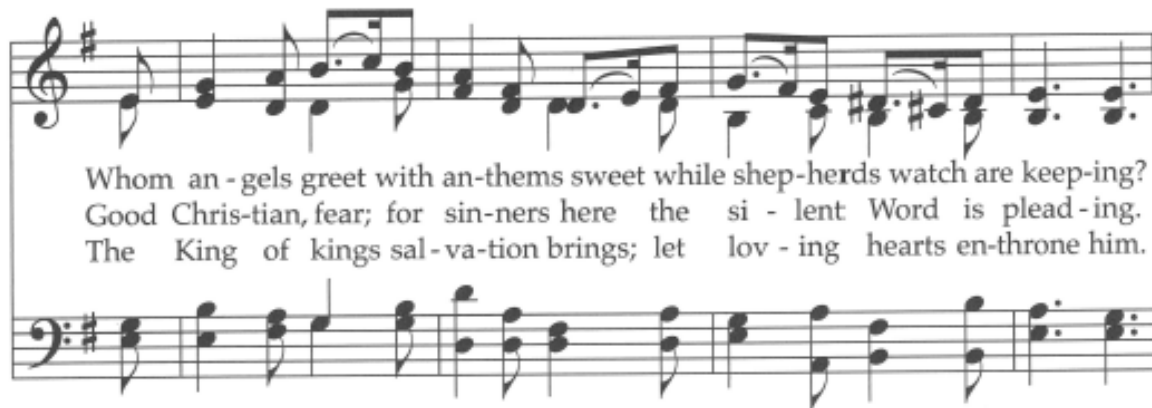
ten - der. arms en - fold - ing, warm and safe the child are hold - ing.  
hosts from heaven come wing - ing, sweet - est songs of joy are sing - ing.

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

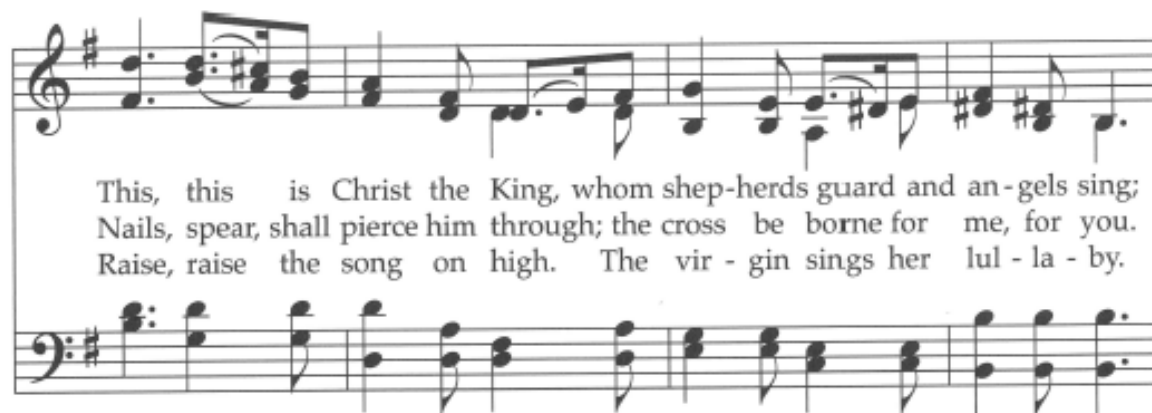
## What Child Is This



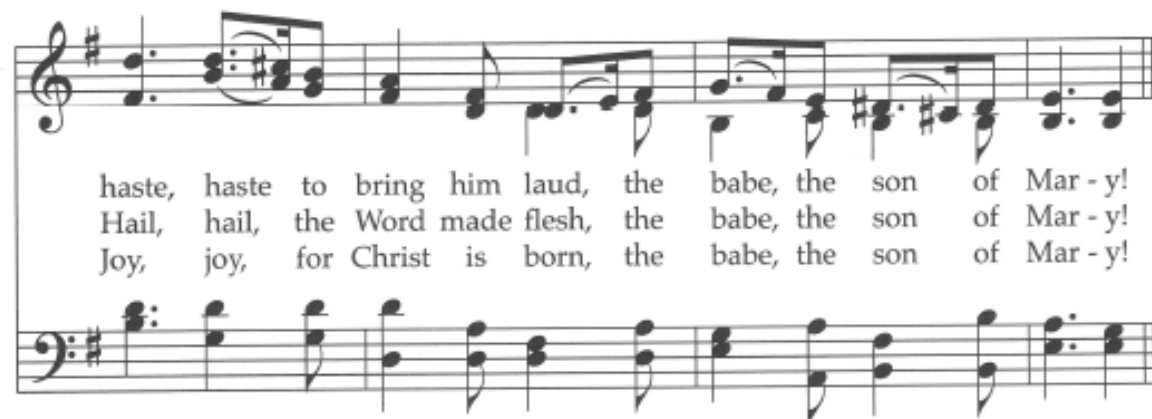
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.  
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

## Meeting Schedule Week of January 1st

1	JAN, MON	● 7 – 9pm	Boy Scouts (FH)
2	JAN, TUE	● 9 – 10:30am ● 9:30 – 10:30am ● 11am – 12pm ● 5 – 7pm	Zoom Bible Study Wisdom Tree Yoga (FH) Overeaters Anonymous (TR) Mental Health Association of Monmouth County (FH)
3	JAN, WED	● 4:30 – 5:30pm ● 8 – 9pm	Wisdom Tree Yoga (FH) Igreja Presbiteriana Gethsemani Bible Study (TR)
4	JAN, THU	● 9:30 – 10:30am ● 4:45 – 5:45pm ● 6 – 7pm ● 7 – 9pm	Wisdom Tree Yoga (FH) Yoga Small Group - (FH) Bells (SR) Igreja Presbiteriana Gethsemani choir practice (FH)
6	JAN, SAT	● 8 – 9:30am ● 7:30 – 9pm	Men's Group (offsite) AA (TR and FH)
7	JAN, SUN	● 8:45 – 9:30am ● 10 – 11am ● 10 – 11am ● 11am – 12pm ● 12 – 1pm ● 3:30 – 4:30pm ● 5 – 6pm ● 6 – 9pm	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) Sunday School Sunday Worship (Sanctuary) Coffee Hour (FH) Deacon's Meeting (O) AA (TR) AA (TR) Igreja Presbiteriana Gethsemani Worship (FH)