

Sunday, January 7th, 2024



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

January 7th, 2024

Epiphany

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 Shall We Gather At the River setting by Dale Wood

Call to Worship

Leader: Arise, shine, for God's light has come!

People: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Leader: Let us praise the Lord together.

People: The sun shall no longer be our light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on us, for the Lord will be our light, and our God will be our glory.

Leader: The Lord will be our everlasting light, and our salvation.

People: Come, let us sing to our light and salvation!

***Hymn** #151 We Three Kings of Orient Are

Call to Confession

Leader: Why do we huddle in the shadowed corners of life, rather than running to the Light of life? Why do we love the wrong we do rather than grasping the good news offered to us? As we struggle with such questions, let us speak to God of all we have failed to do, seeking hope and grace as we pray:

Prayer of Confession (unison)

We search for your light, Star Caster, but too often end up settling for the dimness of temptation. Our motives for seeking to find Christ are not always pure, for we expect him to fulfill our desires, rather than your hopes for us. We want the gifts of wealth, health, success, fulfillment, rather than those of servanthood, of compassion, of peace.

Forgive us, Shaper of our lives, that we are so foolish to put our needs ahead of your grace. Help us to be like those wise people of so long ago, who found hope, instead of a destination; who found grace, instead of gifts; who found salvation, instead of a sign. As we journey with your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, fill us with the light of your joy and love.

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie, kyrie eleison, (Lord, have mercy)

Kyrie, kyrie eleison.

Christe, Christe eleison, (Christ, have mercy)

Christe, Christe eleison.

Kyrie, kyrie eleison,

Kyrie, kyrie eleison, eleison.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: In Jesus Christ, Grace has been poured into our hearts, love has flooded our souls, the light of hope shines in us.

People: This is the light which has come to all, the light we will carry and give to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayer of Illumination

First Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6

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

Children's Message

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the Church

Passing the Peace

***Hymn #152** What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

Second Scripture Lesson Matthew 2:1-12

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

Sermon "Manipulated or Guided?"

Offering

Offertory My Shepherd Will Supply My Need setting by Dale Wood

*Doxology



Praise God, from whom all blessings 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.

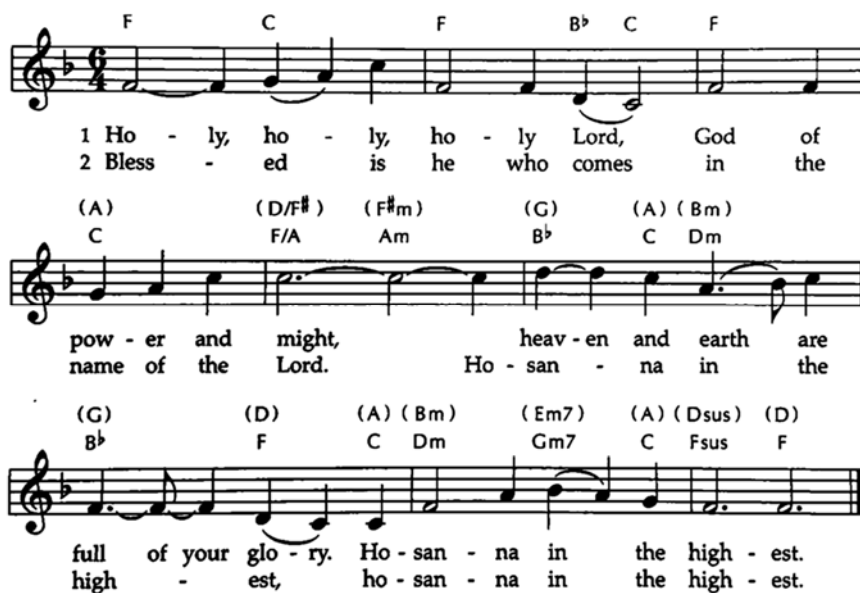
People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

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:



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of the
2 Bless - ed is he who comes in the
(A) (D/F#) (F#m) (G) (A) (Bm)
C F/A Am Bb C Dm
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
(G) (D) (A) (Bm) (Em7) (A) (Dsus) (D)
Bb F C Dm Gm7 C Fsus F
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer continues...

...

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

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

You are invited to eat the bread as it is served; Please hold the cup until all have been served; We will drink together. Please let the server know if you need gluten free bread.

Prayer after Communion (unison)

Thank you, Lord, for revealing yourself to us today in divine light, in power, in Word, and in sacrament. Continue, we pray, to reveal yourself also in the places where we live and work, in the ordinary of our daily lives. Glory be to you, O Christ, now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn #526** Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Benediction

Postlude Blessed Assurance setting by J. Bert Carlson

Worship Leaders

Pastor:	Rev. Katja Gruening
Director of Music Ministries:	Marcello Velame
Liturgist:	Lori Hirce
Ushers:	Steve Aquilina
	Rich Vodhanel
Zoom Hosts:	John Palframan
	Jim Wright
	Rich Vodhanel
Social Hour:	Church & Society

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED!

Sunday coffee hour after our church service is a well loved and important fellowship opportunity for all of us.

Historically, each week has been assigned to the various Session committees, Deacons, Presbyterian Women, and other organizations of our church.

Starting in 2024 we will be doing this slightly differently. Most weeks will be assigned as they have been in the past. However, the third Sunday of every month we will be looking for volunteers to host. So please consider pairing up with someone and hosting! If you are unsure how to host a coffee hour, please reach out to the church office and we can assist in finding you a coffee hour “veteran” to show you the ropes.

Another change, is that in addition to the coffee, tea and paper products being in the kitchen. There will also always be available in the fridge: milk, half & half, juice and cheese; and crackers and packaged cookies in a labeled bin on the counter.



We have volunteers to host for January; but are **looking for volunteers for the third Sunday: February through June.** Please call 732.747.3557 or email the church office pcas@verizon.net...Thank you!

151 We Three Kings of Orient Are



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:



field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.



Refrain



O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!



What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright 152

Capo 2: (C) (Am) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G) (C) (F)
 D Bm A D G D A D G



1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more
 2 'Tis now full-filled what God de-creed, "From
 3 While out-ward signs the star dis-plays, an
 4 O Je-sus, while the star of grace im-

(C) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G)
 D A D G D A



love-ly than the noon-day light? 'Tis
 Ja-cob shall a star pro-ceed"; and
 in-ward light the Lord con-veys and
 pels us on to seek your face, let

(Am) (D7) (G) (C) (F) (C) (Dm)
 Bm E7 A D G D Em



sent to an-nounce a new-born king, glad
 lo! the east-ern sa-ges stand to
 urg-es them, with ten-der might, to
 not our sloth-ful hearts re-fuse the

(G) (C) (G) (C) (F) (G) (C)
 A D A D G A D



ti-dings of our God to bring,
 read in heaven the Lord's com-mand.
 seek the giv-er of the light.
 guid-ance of your light to use.

526 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one; at the ta - ble he
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a



shout of joy: bread is bro - ken; the wine is poured;
sets the tone, teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless,
world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share:



Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
love in word and in deed ex - press. Je - sus lives a - gain;
God (Im - man - u - el) ev - ery - where!



earth can breathe a - gain; pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Meeting Schedule Week of January 8th

8	JAN, MON	● 4:30 – 5:30pm	Wisdom Tree Yoga (FH)
		● 7 – 9pm	Boy Scouts (FH)
9	JAN, TUE	● 9 – 10:30am	Zoom Bible Study
		● 9:30 – 10:30am	Wisdom Tree Yoga (FH)
		● 11am – 12pm	Overeaters Anonymous (TR)
		● 5 – 7pm	Mental Health Association of Monmouth County (FH)
		● 6:30 – 8:30pm	Boy Scouts Eagle Boards of Review (TR)
		● 7 – 8:30pm	Dorcas (FH and Kitchen)
10	JAN, WED	● 7:30 – 9:30pm	P&A Meeting (ZOOM)
		● 7:30 – 9pm	Boy Scout Leader Meeting (O)
		● 8 – 9pm	Igreja Presbiteriana Gethsemani Bible Study (TR)
11	JAN, THU	● 9:30am – 12pm	Wisdom Tree Yoga (FH)
		● 12:30 – 1pm	Homesteaders Chair Yoga (FH)
		● 1 – 3pm	Homesteaders (FH)
		● 4:45 – 5:45pm	Yoga Small Group - (FH)
		● 6 – 7pm	Bells (SR)
		● 7 – 9pm	Igreja Presbiteriana Gethsemani choir practice (FH)
13	JAN, SAT	● 7:30 – 9pm	AA (TR and FH)
14	JAN, SUN	● 8:45 – 9:30am	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
		● 10 – 11am	Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
		● 11am – 12pm	Coffee Hour (FH)
		● 11:30am – 12:30pm	PW Board Meeting (TR)
		● 11:30am – 12:30pm	Worship Committee (TR)
		● 3:30 – 4:30pm	AA (TR)
		● 5 – 6pm	AA (TR)
		● 6 – 9pm	Igreja Presbiteriana Gethsemani Worship (FH)