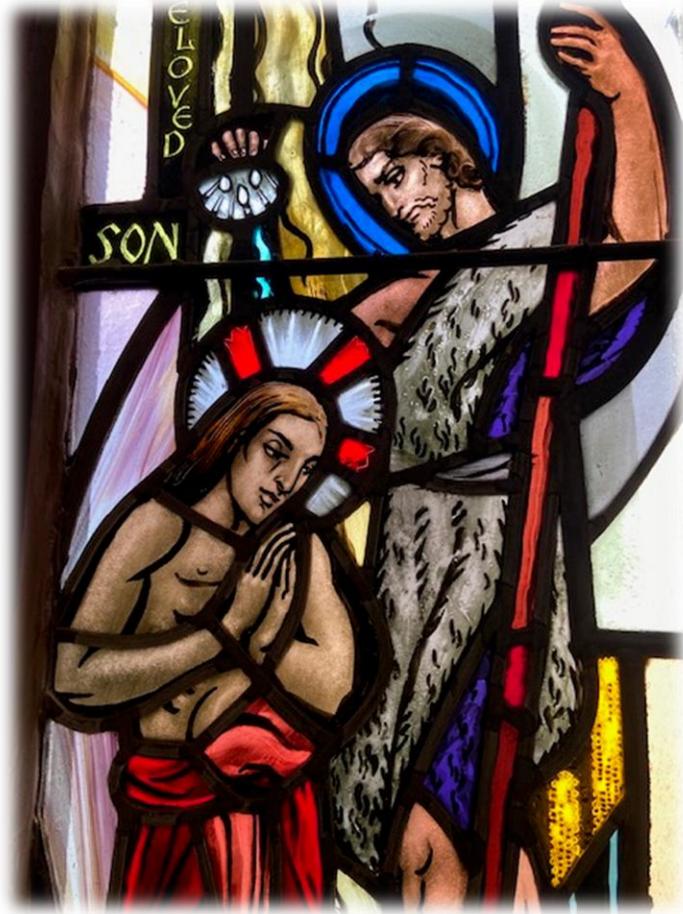


# The Presbyterian Church at Tenafly



*Jesus baptized by John the Baptist – in our Chapel stained glass*

## ***For Every Heart a Home***

**December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 10:30am  
Second Sunday of Advent  
Sacrament of The Lord's Supper**

**Rev. Dr. Martin Ritchie**  
**Liturgist: Carolyn Rocco**  
**Ushers: Howard and Noelle Bryson**  
**Communion Servers: Rick Bower, Gillian Iappelli, Jeanne Lambert, Diane Allen**  
**Coffee Hour: Melissa Rexroth**

*Welcome to worship! If you are visiting or here for the first time and would like to stay in touch with us, please consider filling in one of the contact cards that you will find alongside the hymnals or you can use this QR code. These can be placed in the offering plate or handed to an usher. Church School for children happens during the 10:30am worship service. Ask one of the ushers for directions if you would like to take your child through to join in.*



*All are welcome at the Lord's table. The gluten free bread and grape juice will be served together during the distribution. Please wait to eat and drink together on the Pastor's cue. He will say "the body of Christ", then we eat. "The blood of Christ", and then we drink.*

## **Prelude**

**Welcome, Sharing the Peace and Announcements**

Rev. Dr. Martin Ritchie

**\*Hymn 96**

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

**Lighting the Advent Candles**

The Iappelli family

**\*Advent Hymn**

*Hope is a Candle* vs.1 and 2 (see page 8)

**Reading**

Isaiah 11:1-10

Liturgist

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall

live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

**Choir Anthem**

*Soon And Very Soon* arr. Andre Crouch

**Reading**

Matthew 3:1-12

Liturgist

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

**\*Hymn**

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed! (see page 9)*

**Sermon**

Rev. Dr. Martin Ritchie

**Sharing our Gifts** during which we hear the Bell Choir play *Angels We Have Heard on High*

*If you are visiting or would like to make an extra offering on top of your usual contribution to the church, you can use your smart phone to scan this QR code to make a donation by credit card (3% surcharge) or by debit card (no surcharge). Cash and check donations are always acceptable!*

GENERAL OFFERING



## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The table of bread and wine has been made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a while. You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who may feel that you have failed. Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

**\*Song**            *We Are Coming, Lord, to the Table* (see page 10-11)

## The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Worship and praise belong to you, maker of light and darkness. Your wisdom draws beauty from chaos, brings a harvest out of sorrow and leads the exiles home.

In Christ your Son enemies are reconciled, debts forgiven and strangers made welcome. Your Spirit frees us to live as sons and daughters in our Father's house.

We who by Christ's power follow the way of the Cross, sharing the joy of his obedience, now offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven singing the hymn of your unending glory:



"Take, eat.

This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup,

he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying:

"Drink this, all of you.

This is my Blood of the new covenant;

it is poured out for you, and for all,

that sins may be forgiven.

Do this in remembrance of me."

We now obey your Son's command.

We recall his blessed passion and death,

his glorious resurrection and ascension;

and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.

Made one with him, we offer you these gifts

and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.

**(unison)**

**Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit**

**upon us and upon this bread and this wine,**

**that, overshadowed by your life-giving power,**

**they may be for us spiritual food and drink,**

**and we may be kindled with the fire of your love**

**and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.**

**Help us, who are baptized into the fellowship of Christ's Body**

**to live and work to your praise and glory;**

**may we grow together in unity and love**

**until at last, in your new creation,**

**we enter into our heritage in the company of the apostles,**

**and prophets, and of all our brothers and sisters**

**living and departed.**

**Pastor:**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you,

Lord of all ages, world without end. **Amen.**

**Agnus Dei**

Jesus, Lamb of God

**Have mercy on us**

Jesus bearer of our sins  
**Have mercy upon us**  
Jesus redeemer of the world  
**Grant us your peace.**

### **Sharing the Bread and Wine**

*(The Elders will serve the bread and wine to you in your seats. Please wait to eat and drink all together)*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

### **Post-Communion Prayer (Unison)**

**Father of all, we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*Hymn**                      *Lord, for the Years* (see page 12)

### **Benediction and Celtic Amen**

***Amen, Amen, Alleluia, Amen (x2)***

### **Postlude**

**\*Those who are able, please stand.**

# Hope is a Candle

GALLOWAY TAM



1. Hope is a can - dle, once lit by the pro - phets,
2. Peace is a can - dle to show us a path - way,
3. Joy is a can - dle of mys - t'ry and laugh - ter,
4. Love is a can - dle whose light makes a cir - cle,
5. Christ is the light that the pro - phets a - wait - ed,



ne - ver con - sumed, though it burned through the years, dim in the day - light of  
threat - ened by gusts from our rage and our greed. Friend, feel no en - vy for  
mys - t'ry of light that is born in the dark; laugh - ter at hear - ing the  
where ev' - ry face is the face of a friend. Wi - den the cir - cle by  
Christ is the li - on, the lamb, and the child. Christ is the love and the



pow - er and priv - 'lege when they are gone, hope will shine on.  
those in the sha - dows vio - lence and force their dead end course.  
voice of an an - gel ev - er so near, cast - ing out fear.  
shar - ing and giv - ing God's ho - ly dare: love ev - 'ry - where.  
mys - t'ry and laugh - ter; can - dles make way! Christ is the day.

# 72A Hail to the Lord's Anointed

G D C Dsus D G

1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!  
 2 You come with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,  
 3 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;  
 4 Kings shall fall down be - fore you, and gold and in - cense bring;

D C Dsus D G

Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!  
 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;  
 love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.  
 all na - tions shall a - dore you, your praise all peo - ple sing.

Asus A D C G Em D

You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free,  
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light,  
 Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald, go;  
 To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend;

G/B C Am D C Dsus D G

to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.  
 whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are pre - cious in your sight.  
 and right - eous - ness in foun - tains from hill to val - ley flow.  
 your king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.

# We are coming, Lord, to the table

Words & Music: Sierra Leone traditional  
Transcription & Arrangement: Greg Scheer

Prayerfully ♩ = 100

We are co - ming, Lord, to the ta - ble.

4b

We are co - ming, Lord, to the ta - ble.

8b

1. With the gift of bread, we are com-ing, Lord.  
2. To re - ceive the bread, we are com-ing, Lord.

13b

Oh, sing it o - ver:

With the gift of wine, we are co-ming, Lord.  
To re - ceive the wine, we are co-ming, Lord.

19

1. We of - fer you the gift of  
 2. We're co - ming to re - ceive the

Oh, we are com - ing, Lord.

23

bread.  
 bread.

We of - fer you the gift of  
 We're co - ming to re - ceive the

Oh, we are com - ing, Lord.

27

wine.  
 wine.

Oh, sing it o - ver.

Oh, we are com - ing, Lord.

31

Oh, we are com - ing Lord.

# Lord, for the Years

Timothy Dudley-Smith

Michael Baughen



1. Lord, for the years your love has kept and guid - ed,  
2. Lord, for that word, the Word of life which fires\_ us,  
3. Lord, for our land, in this our gen - er - a - tion,  
4. Lord, for our world; when we dis - own and doubt him,  
5. Lord, for our - selves; in liv - ing power re - make us,



urged and in - spired us, cheered us on\_ our way,  
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls\_ a - blaze,  
spi - rits op - pressed by pleas - ure, wealth and care;  
love - less in strength, and com - fort - less\_ in pain;  
self on the cross and Christ up - on\_ the throne;



sought us and saved us, par - doned and pro - vi - ded,  
teach - es and trains, re - bukes us and in - spires us,  
for young and old, for com - mon-wealth and na - tion,  
hun - gry and help - less, lost in - deed with - out him,  
past put be - hind us, for the fu - ture take us,



Lord of the years, we bring our thanks to - day.  
Lord of the word, re - ceive your peo - ple's praise.  
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.  
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.  
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ a - lone.

## Announcements

### NEXT SUNDAY

**Christmas Pageant at 10:30am in the Sanctuary**  
**11:30am Coffee Hour in the Church House**

**Livestreaming of Worship.** Today's service is broadcast live online. You can watch the service again later via our website homepage if you wish to. Huge thanks to our entire technical team.

**The Presby Readers will meet this afternoon** at 4pm at Viki Shima's home. We picked a "short" book this go round. Join us to discuss Peter Bringley's, *All the Beauty in the World: The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Me*. Come with a few discussion points and book suggestions for the new year!

**This Monday,** December 8<sup>th</sup> **PCAT Men's Dinner** at 7pm at Café Europe in Tenafly. Let Pastor Martin or Jim Crook know if you are planning to come. All PCAT men and friends are welcome!

**Tenafly Community Choir** – meets this week on **TUESDAY Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm in the Sanctuary. Any queries contact Jim Millar at [dirmusic@tenaflypresby.org](mailto:dirmusic@tenaflypresby.org)

**Adventures in Faith** meets this Wednesday Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon in the church house when we continue our Advent study, *The First Christmas*. Everyone is welcome. Bring your lunch if you like, drinks and treats provided.

**From Irene Scartozzi: Table-to-Table - Volunteer Opportunity. What You'll Do:** Wrap gifts for shoppers (training and all supplies provided). **Where:** The Shops at Riverside, Hackensack. If interested, contact [sconley-webb@tabletotable.org](mailto:sconley-webb@tabletotable.org) We're currently looking for volunteers to cover the following shifts: **Dates:** December 5–6, 10–13, 17–20, and 22–23 **Shift Times:** 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM, 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

**The Soup Squad.** We are asking all soup makers to share a container of their home-made soup. Please arrange with Nancy in the office to drop off donations and help with labeling, the type of soup and the ingredients are needed. Many thanks for sharing your culinary skills!

**Next weekend! The start of our Christmas Festival! Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup>** from 2-5pm: Open house with creche festival in the Chapel a specially decorated Sanctuary and festive café in the Church House; **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>**: Pageant at 10.30am and Community Choir concert at 7pm.

**Christmas Concert.** Tenafly Community Choir and Orchestra, directed by Jim Millar, will have a fabulous program of festive favorites, sacred and secular, with Christmas Carols for all to join in! Come along and bring a friend on **Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Sanctuary.**

**We need volunteers to be hosts at this important weekend.** Would you be a welcoming presence in the Sanctuary, Chapel or Church House for some time on Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup> from 2-5pm when we have our open house? Also, we need volunteers to be front of house greeters at the community choir concert on Sunday evening. Contact Nancy in the office if you can help.

**Angel Tree Gifts. The unwrapped gifts need to be dropped by NEXT Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup>.** Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

**Greater Faith Works of Paterson, NJ Christmas Appeal.** This Christmas please help us to support the needs of the Greater Faith community. We will be collecting the following items through December 14<sup>th</sup>. 1. Personal hygiene items. 2. Blankets. 3. Hand warmers. 4. Monetary donations in lieu of the above [cash or checks made out to PCAT with *Greater Faith Works* in the memo line]. Thank you for your generosity.

#### Regular Groups at PCAT

GROUP	WHEN	CONTACT
AA (Morning Glory)	Saturdays 10:30am JHH	Jay McSherry JayMcSherry@earthlink.net
Adventures in Faith	Wednesday 12pm Church House	Pastor Martin pastorpcat@gmail.com
Bell Choir	Tuesdays 3pm Room 203	Jim Millar Dirmusic@tenaflypresby.org
Choir	Sundays 9am	Jim Millar Dirmusic@tenaflypresby.org
Church School and Childcare	Sundays 10:30am	Sherrie Reilley reilleysherrie@gmail.com

Cro-Knitters	Tuesdays 2pm-4pm Lounge	Joan Roselle (201) 569-3819
English Second Language (ESL)	Tuesdays 10am-12pm Church House	Jun Motai Motaicoaching@gmail.com
Mommy/Daddy/and Me		Christina Chan Shanghai68@gmail.com
PresbyReaders	Meets monthly (Sundays at 4pm)	Mary Jane Eimer mjeimer@aol.com
Women's Group		Marilyn Coats-Thomas coathomas@aol.com or Christina Chan Shanghai68@gmail.com
Men's Group		Pastor Martin pastorpcat@gmail.com or Jim Crook rjamescrook@gmail.com

*Doodle away . . .*

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT TENAFLY**  
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Pastor's Cell # (551) 755-0950  
Sherrie Reilley, Dir. of Children, Youth and Family Ministry  
Email: Reilleysherrie@gmail.com  
Jim Millar, Director of Music Email: Dirmusic@tenaflypresby.org  
Will Farnham, Associate Director of Music Email: farnham.william@gmail.com  
Web page: www.tenaflypresby.org

Look for us on Facebook, Instagram, and X





# CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL



**FREE  
ENTRY**

**Saturday, December 13th**  
**Open House 2-5pm**

Festive treats in the Church House  
Cafe, creche festival in the old Chapel  
and our stunningly decorated  
Sanctuary with Christmas caroling  
at 4pm.

**Sunday, December 14th**

**10:30am Childrens Pageant**

The annual all-age telling of the Christmas story!

**7pm Community Choir and Orchestra**

festive favorites, sacred and secular,  
with carols for all to join in.

**Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Lessons and Carols 10:30am in the Sanctuary.**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH**

**Christmas Eve**

5pm Family carol service!

9pm Festive Prelude Music

9:30pm Candlelight Service



**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT TENAFLY**  
**55 MAGNOLIA AVENUE**

**[WWW.TENAFLYPRESBY.ORG](http://WWW.TENAFLYPRESBY.ORG)**

