

The Presbyterian Church at Tenafly



**Candlelight Carol Service for Christmas Eve 2025
9:30pm**

Christmas Eve 2025
Festive prelude music from 9pm

Rev. Dr. Martin Ritchie
Ushers: Brian Coats-Thomas and Ron 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. These can be placed in the offering plate or handed to an usher.



Prelude

Welcome and Sharing the Peace

Rev. Dr. Martin Ritchie

Organ *Chorale Prelude In Dulci Jubilo* by Dietrich Buxtehude, BuxWBV 197

***Processional Hymn** *Once In Royal David's City*

1. Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
 Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed;
 Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

2. He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
 And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
 With the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

4. For he is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us he grew,
 He was little, weak and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew.
 And he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.

6. Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
 We shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
 When like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.

Gathering Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Jon Chan

Solo

O Holy Night, Adolphe Adam

Sherice Roberts

Reading

Isaiah 11: 1-9

Jon Teall

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 the poor, and decide with equity for the meek 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 and the fatling 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.

Choir

In Silence We Wait by John Parker and Lloyd Larsson

*In silence we wait for the day of God's mercy,
In silence we wait for Emmanuel to come.
In silence we wait for the gift for God's promise.
In silence we wait and pray.*

*Lord, hear our prayer: "Deliver your people.
Send us a Savior to show us the way!
Guide us in mercy, shepherd us in love."
In silence we wait and pray.*

*In darkness we wait for the light of the Christ child.
In darkness we wait for the Day Star to shine.
In darkness we wait for the glory of morning.
In darkness we wait and pray.*

*Lord, hear our prayer: "Deliver your people.
Send us a Savior to show us the way!
Guide us in mercy, shepherd us in love."*

*In silence we wait and pray.
In silence we wait.
In silence we pray.
Lord, send your Christ today. Amen.*

Reading

Micah 4:1-4

Jeanne Lambert

In days to come the mountain of the LORD's temple shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised up above the hills. Peoples shall stream to it, and many nations shall come and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid, for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.

***Hymn 123**

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear v.1,2,3,5

Reading

Luke 2: 1-7

Jon Chan

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

***Hymn 121**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Reading

Luke 2: 8-14

Caitlin Chan

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

Hymn 113Angels We Have Heard on High***Reading**

Luke 2: 15-20

Zach Chan

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Choir*Sussex Carol* by Elaine Hagenberg

*Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;
On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.*

*Then why should men on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad;
Then why should men on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad;
When from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty*

*When sin departs before his grace then life and health come in its place.
When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the new born King.*

*All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night;
Then out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night,
“Glory to God in highest heav’n, Now and for evermore: Amen*

Reading

Matthew 2: 1-12

Dori Persson

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Solo

The Little Road to Bethlehem, by Michael Head

Christina Hart/Jason Hart

Reading

John 1: 1-14

Rev. Dr. Martin Ritchie

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into

the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

***Carol** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

1. O come, all ye faithful,
 joyful and triumphant;
 O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
 Come, and behold him,
 born the King of angels!
 O come, let us adore him;
 O come, let us adore him;
 O come, let us adore him,
 Christ, the Lord!

2. God of God,
 Light of Light.
 Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
 Very God, Begotten, not created:
 O come, let us adore him;
 O come, let us adore him;
 O come, let us adore him,
 Christ, the Lord!

6. Sing, choirs of angels;
 sing in exultation;
 sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
 Glory to God, all
 glory in the highest!
 O come, let us adore him;
 O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!

7. Yea Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!

Reflection

Rev Dr Martin Ritchie

Sharing of Our Gifts during which we hear the string quartet play *What Child is This*.

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



*Doxology

What Can I Give Him?

144 v.4

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession (during which we respond to the words, "All is calm, All is bright" with a verse of Hymn 122: ***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!”

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

***Hymn 266** *Joy to the World*

Benediction

Organ Postlude

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

Announcements

Sunday Dec. 28th 10:30am The *Gate of the Year* Service in the Chapel
(No Church School this Sunday)

Sunday Jan. 4th 10:30am Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in the Chapel

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 Church Office will be closed on Dec. 25th and 26th and Dec. 30th – Jan. 1st
We are open on Monday December 29th and Friday January 2nd.

PCUSA Christmas Joy Offering which distributes gifts equally to the assistance program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian related schools and colleges, equipping communities of color, will be taken until the end of December. Envelopes are available in the narthex. They can be placed in the offering plate, handed to an usher or returned to the office. Thank you for your generosity. *Mission committee, Mary Jane Eimer and Gillian Iappelli*

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!

The Presby Readers will be gathering Sunday, January 25th at 4pm at Carolyn and Al Rocco's home to discuss *Berry Pickers: A Novel* by Amanda Peters. All are welcome.

Nora Neus is back with us to talk about her new book, *24 Hours at the Capitol: An Oral History of the January 6th Insurrection*. Join us on Sunday January 11th at 4:30pm in the Sanctuary.

Scottish Night Saturday January 24th at 5pm in the Church House. An evening of food, poems, stories, and music to celebrate Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns. Sign up in the Narthex.

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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