

The Presbyterian Church at Tenafly



For Every Heart a Home

**December 28th, 2025 at 10:30am in the Chapel
First Sunday of Christmas
The Gate of the Year**

Rev. Dr. Martin Ritchie
Liturgist: Tim Patryk
Ushers: Ron Rexroth and Christopher Kuttner
Coffee Hour: Lisa Schmid

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. There is no Church School today; children are welcome to stay for the service.



Prelude

Welcome, Sharing the Peace and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Martin Ritchie

Call to Worship

***Hymn 40**

Joy to the World

Gathering Prayer

Liturgist

The Lord's Prayer

Liturgist

Poem

The Christmass, by Edwin Muir

Reader: Jane Sharp

Solo

The Little Road to Bethlehem, by Michael Head

Christina and Jason Hart

Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Reader: Jon Teall

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the

prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Solo

The Cherry Tree Carol

Christina Hart

Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

Reader: Jon Teall

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, 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 wise men 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 at its rising, 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.

***Hymn 56**

The First Nowell

Reading

Matthew 2:13-18

Reader: Jon Teall

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I

have called my son.’ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ‘A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’

***Hymn**

Unto Us a Boy is Born v. 1-4

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Unto us a boy is born!
King of all creation,
came he to a world forlorn,
the Lord of every nation,
the Lord of every nation. | 2. Cradled in a stall was he
with sleepy cows and asses;
and the very beasts could see
that he all folk surpasses,
that he all folk surpasses. |
| 3. Herold then with fear was filled;
‘A prince’, he said, ‘in Jewry!’
All the little boys he killed
at Beth’em in his fury,
at Beth’em in his fury. | 4. Now may Mary’s son, who came
so long ago to love us,
lead us all with hearts aflame
unto the joys above us,
unto the joys above us. |

Reading

The Journey of the Magi, by T.S. Eliot Reader: Jon Teall

Solo

Song without Words, by F. Mendelssohn

Jim Millar, piano

Reading

Matthew 2:19-23

Reader: Jane Sharp

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, ‘He will be called a Nazorean.’

Solo

When Israel was in Egypt’s Land

Christina Hart

Reflection

Transitions

Rev. Dr. Martin Ritchie

Offering during which we hear Jim Millar play *Reverie*, by C. Debussy

Poem

The Road, by Edwin Muir

Reader: Jane Sharp

Prayers of Thanksgiving, Dedication, Commitment and Trust

***Hymn**

Lord, for the Years (see page 7)

Reading

Ring Out Wild Bells by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Reader: Dori Persson

Benediction with Sung Celtic Amen

Amen, Amen, Alleluia, Amen (x2)

Postlude

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

Announcements

Next 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 Dec. 30th – Jan. 1st

We are open on Monday December 29th and Friday January 2nd.

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



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.

Doodle away . . .

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT TENAFLY

Rev. Dr. Martin Ritchie, M.A., B.D, PhD, Pastor

55 Magnolia Avenue, Tenafly, NJ 07670

Phone (201) 567-0111 / Fax (201) 567-0529

Office Email: office@tenaflypresby.org

Pastor Martin's email: pastorpcat@gmail.com

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

