**The Presbyterian Church**

**at Tenafly**

***A person holding a lit candle

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***Darkness to Light***

**A Service of Music and Readings for Advent Sunday**

***Darkness to Light***

**Advent Sunday November 27, 6:30pm**

Advent Community Choir

Rev Dr Martin Ritchie, director/piano

Jin Heo, organ/piano

**Organ Prelude**

**Welcome**

*(the lights are dimmed)*

**Organ** *Chorale Prelude* by D. Buxtehude

on *Nun Komm Der Heiden Heiland*

(Saviour of the Nations, Come)

**\*Hymn** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* 88 v. 1,2,4,7

*(during which we light our candles)*

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.  
  
2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily:  
to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.  
  
4 O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan’s tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o’er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.  
  
7 O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven’s peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee,

O Israel.

**Bidding Prayer**

**Reading** Isaiah 9: 1-7

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness  
    have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
    on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied exultation;   
    you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
    as with joy at the harvest,  
    as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden  
    and the bar across their shoulders,  
    the rod of their oppressor,  
    you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
    and all the garments rolled in blood  
    shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For a child has been born for us,  
    a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders,  
    and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
    Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Great will be his authority,   
    and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
    He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
    from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**Choir**  *In Silence We Wait*

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 Christchild.

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

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** *Comfort, Comfort, O My People* 87

1 “Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God. “Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load. To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them! Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.”  
2 For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,  
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.  
O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.  
Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.  
  
3 Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain. Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign. For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.

**Reading** Isaiah 11: 1-9

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.

**Choir** *Creator of the Stars of Night* 84

1 Creator of the stars of night, your people’s everlasting light,  
O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray you, hear us when we call.  
  
2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in splendor bright, not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blameless mother mild.  
  
3 At your great name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow: all things on earth with one accord, like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.  
  
4 To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,  
praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.

**Reading** John 1: 1-14

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 overtake 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.

**\*Hymn** *While We are Waiting, Come* 92

1 While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.  
  
**Refrain:  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.**

2 With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come. (Refrain)  
  
3 Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come. (Refrain)

**Reading** Luke 1: 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

**Choir** *Canticle of the Turning*

(Stephanie Chan, flute)

1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?

**Refrain:**  
My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn.  
  
2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)  
  
3 From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears  
every tyrant from his throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn; there are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)  
  
4 Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast: God’s mercy must deliver us from the conqueror’s crushing grasp. This saving word that our forebears heard  
is the promise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. (Refrain)

**Reading** Luke 2: 1-7

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** *Who Would Think That What Was Needed?* 138

1 Who would think that what was needed to transform and save the earth might not be a plan or army, proud in purpose, proved in worth? Who would think, despite derision, that a child should lead the way? God surprises earth with heaven, coming here on Christmas Day.  
  
2 Shepherds watch and wise men wonder; monarchs scorn and angels sing; such a place as none would reckon hosts a holy helpless thing. Stable beasts and by-passed strangers watch a baby laid in hay; God surprises earth with heaven, coming here on Christmas Day.

3 Centuries of skill and science span the past from which we move, yet experience questions whether, with such progress, we improve. While the human lot we ponder, lest our hopes and humor fray, God surprises earth with heaven, coming here on Christmas Day.

**Prayers**

**\*Hymn** *Lift Up Your Heads, Eternal Gates!*

Lift up your heads, eternal gates, Alleluia!

See how the King of glory waits, Alleluia!

The Lord of Hosts is drawing near, the Saviour of the world is here.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

But not in arms or battle dress, Alleluia!

God comes, a child amidst distress, Alleluia!

No mighty armies shield the way, only coarse linen, wool, and hay.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

God brings a new face to the brave, Alleluia!

God redefines who best can save: Alleluia!

Not those whose power relies on threat, terror or torture, destruction or debt.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

God matchless and majestic strength, Alleluia!

In all its height, depth, breadth, and length, Alleluia!

Now is revealed, its power to prove, by Christ protesting “God is love!”

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

\* Please stand, if able.

***A huge thank you to everyone who has taken part in our***

***advent community choir!***

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT TENAFLY**

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**UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR . . . .**

**Wednesdays November 30th, December 7th, 14th and 21st 7-7.30pm Reflective Advent Space in the Chapel.**

**Wednesdays November 30th, December 7th and 14th - *The Art of Advent* study at 12noon and 7.30pm** (choose either session). Our advent study series explores the themes of the Prophets, Mary, and the Nativity in visual art.

**Sunday December 4th - Communion at 10.30am Please remember your shelf staple food donations for the Center for Food Action.**

**Sunday December 4th- Community Carol Singing and lighting of the Christmas Tree at 5pm,** followed by a **Fish and Chips dinner catered by Argyle Fish and Chips** at around 6pm in Jim Henry Hall.

**Sunday December 11th -** Worship at 10.30am featuring our bell choir and with a farewell presentation to Anna Lim, our retiring Director of Music.

**Sunday December 11th - Carol Singing at homes of seniors.** Late afternoon, time tbc.

**Sunday December 18th - Christmas Pageant at 10.30am**

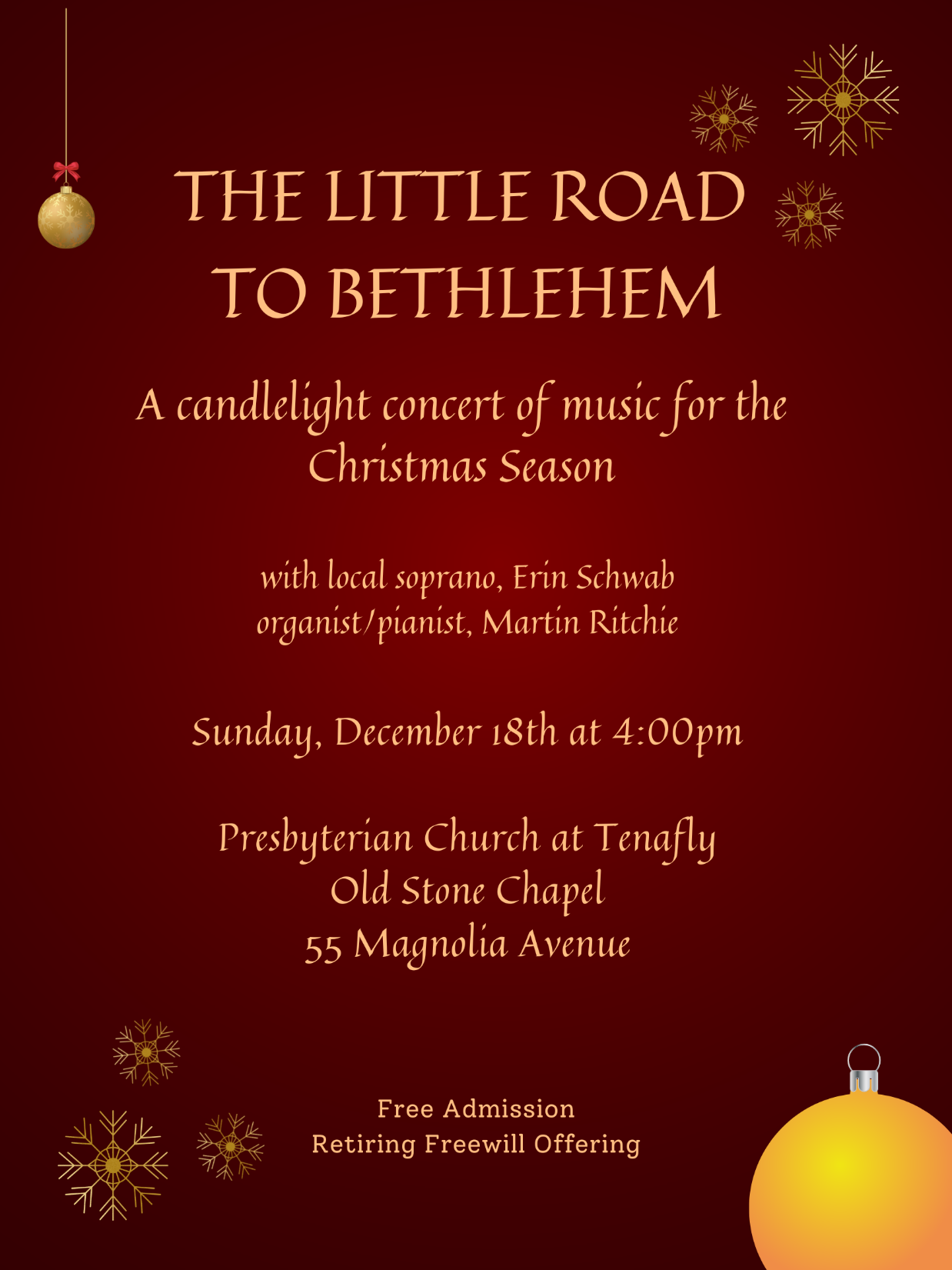
**Sunday December 18th – Candlelit Christmas Concert in our beautiful chapel at 4pm**, featuring soprano Erin Schwab and Pastor Martin on organ/piano.

**Saturday December 24th - Christmas Eve worship at 5pm and 9pm in the Sanctuary. Come celebrate with family at the 5pm service and later at 9pm with beautiful choral music and readings.**

**Sunday January 1st, 2023** - The Gate of the Year is a service of music and readings to say farewell to the old year and welcome in the new with hope. In the Sanctuary at 10.30am with guest artists!

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