



NESHAMINY-WARWICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4,, 2022

WELCOME

HYMN NO. 8

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates,
Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here!

2 Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

3 Redeemer, come! I open wide
My heart to Thee: here, Lord, abide.
Let me Thy inner presence feel;
Thy grace and love in me reveal.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Paul, Beth, Cailin, Dylan, & Allyson Augustine

Waiting is hard in a fast-paced society. We want the stoplight to change quickly, the grocery line to move fast, and Christmas morning to arrive soon. We forget that before good things happen, preparations must be made.

[Light two purple candles.]

Today we light the candle of peace, knowing that Jesus alone can make us feel at rest in this chaotic world. He calms our hearts as we await his second coming.

In Philippians 4, Paul writes, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” May God grant us peace as wait for Christ’s glorious return.

Prayer

Dear God, give us the gift of Jesus and the Spirit so that our hearts can be calm and peaceful. Help us to know how close you are to us all the time, and help us to show you and your peace to other people too. **Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Blessed is the Lord God!

People: The Lord has looked favorably upon us and redeemed us.

Leader: By the tender mercy of our God

People: The dawn from on high will break upon us.

Leader: Light will be given to those who sit in darkness,

People: To those who sit in the shadow of death.

Leader: The light will come to us

People: To guide our feet into the way of peace. Come let us worship the triune God!

Leader: Christ, the One who was, and is, and is to come, welcomes you to this place. As one body, with one voice, we honor and glorify the giver of wisdom, counsel, knowledge, and joy.

People: Amen.

WORSHIP SONG

“He Shall Reign Forevermore”

In the bleak mid-winter, all creation groans

For a world in darkness, frozen like a stone

Light is breaking, in a stable

For a throne

And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore

And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore

Unto us a child is born

The King of kings and Lord of lords

And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore

If I were a wise man, I would travel far

And if I were a shepherd, I would do my part

But poor as I am

I will give to Him my heart

Bridge: Contemporary Worship Team

(You may be seated)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Root of Jesse, O Peace, stir up your power within us, that in this time we may await with abundant expectation the fulfillment of your eternal presence in creation, for you live and reign among us, Maker, Savior, and Giver of Life, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORSHIP SONG

“Hymn of Joy”

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee
God of glory, Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee
Opening to the sun above
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness
Drive the dark of doubt away
Giver of immortal gladness
Fill us with the light of day

*Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel
Your love has come
Here to dwell*

All Thy works with joy surround Thee
Earth and heaven reflect thy rays
Stars and angels sing around Thee
Center of unbroken praise
Field and forest, vale and mountain
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea
Singing bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee

Mortals join the happy chorus
Which the morning stars began
Father love is reigning o'er us
Brother love binds man to man
Ever singing march we onward
Victors in the midst of strife
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Donna Mazeika

(We invite all children through 5th grade to come up to the front of the Sanctuary for a special message for them. They will then be dismissed to their Sunday School teacher, or if you prefer they may return to their seats with you.)

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Come Messiah!”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us lay before God and one another the distances between us, the impatience, idolatries, and lack of compassion that form our confessions this day. For if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves. Yet in mercy, God will forgive us and renew us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and welcoming God, have mercy on your people. We confess that we do not believe in your incarnation. We do not heed your word each day in all that we say and do. We do not see our neighbors, families, and friends as beloved children whom you have made. In your mercy, forgive us, for we repent of our ways and look to your power to heal us and raise us up, so that, at the last, you will gather us to you and give us peace. Amen.

(Please take a moment of silent confession)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The reign of God has come near; the repentant will be judged with righteousness. You are forgiven. Be filled with hope, believing in the power of the risen Christ to bring you to new life. Rejoice and believe.

(Please stand if you are able)

RESPONSE TO ASSURANCE

“Gloria Patri”

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

(You may be seated)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

We bear fruit worthy of our repentance when we give our tithes and offerings for the well-being of the poor.

OFFERTORY

Keith Rounds

(Please place your offering in the plate in the Narthex as you enter/exit the Sanctuary.)

(Please stand if you are able)

DOXOLOGY “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We give you thanks, Holy One, for all good things: for this universe and for Earth itself, for creatures and plants, for water and food, for light and darkness; for Jesus, our brother, who enlarged our vision, setting himself before us as the bread and wine of abundant life; and for the Holy Spirit, who comes to us in baptism and moves in our midst with the power to lead us to you. Turn our offerings to your good will, and turn us always to you in gratitude. **Amen.**

(You may be seated)

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered ⁸us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

“A Broken Clay Jar”
Pastor Mark Lyndaker-Studer

(Please stand if you are able)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Page 12 Blue Hymnal)

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.

...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and God might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna In the highest
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest

...With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

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.

HYMN NO. 554

“Let All Things Now Living”

Let all things now living A song of thanksgiving
To God our Creator triumphantly raise;
Who fashioned and made us, Protected and stayed us.
By guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, Pure light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
Till shadows have vanished, All fearfulness banished,
As forward we travel from light into Light.

By law God enforces. The stars in their courses,
The sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, The rivers and fountains,
The depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We, too, should be voicing Our love and rejoicing
With glad adoration, a song let us raise:
Till all things now living Unite in thanksgiving,
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

CHARGE

Go out into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Hold onto what is good. Render no one evil for evil. Uplift the fainthearted. Support the weak. Laugh with those who laugh and mourn with those who mourn. Do this in a spirit of joy and appreciation for you are God's child. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

BLESSING

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.



Prayer Concerns: Sandee Wilson

Family of Joe Mazeika

Dorothy Moritz

Family of Doris St. John

Joanne Umbrecht (friend of Dorothy Smith)

Susan Cable (friend of Dorothy Smith)

Leslie McCartney (sister of Gail Bilsland)

Helen Murray (mother of Susan Zimmerman)

David Rankin (brother of Deborah Kapinos & Paul Rankin)

Carol Daniels (friend of Bonnie Guenzel)

Trey McFadden (friend of Wendy Wirsch)

Craig Marvill (friend of Sue Rems)

Tim Godfrey (son in law of Sue Rems)

Helene Lyons (friend of Cindy Anderson)

Sheha Ranade (friend of Beth Augustine)

Beth Moffa (friend of Beth Augustine)

Raydon Van Horn (great nephew of Beth Augustine)

David Louderback (nephew of Marge, cousin of Bob)

Christy Lessard (friend of Bill Watson)

Tom Potts (father of Melissa Meade)

Donald Fiedler (cousin of Sandee Wilson)

Ed Bray (brother of Alice Bray)

Ed Larlick (friend of Dorothy Smith)

Rima Mironas (mother of Dalia Lucas)

Bill Reiss (father of Robin Haug)

Ongoing Concerns: Karen Meade

Debbie Edwards

Joan George

Kerry Zimmerman

Debbie Watson

David Rankin (nephew of Deborah Kapinos & Paul Rankin)



PULPIT FLOWERS

The pulpit flowers are given in loving memory of their father Melvin from the Anderson family; and given in loving memory of Betty Lindsay's brother, John J. Fletcher, Jr. The flowers on the communion table are given in loving memory of Tom Haag from his wife Dot and family. Deacons Leslie Bonner & Peg Kaelin will deliver the flowers. Each week the flowers can be a bright moment for someone needing prayers or praise. If anyone in the congregation has a person in mind to give the pulpit flowers to, please contact Cindy Anderson at 215-672-3219. Pulpit flowers are needed for December 25. If you are interested in donating pulpit flowers, please contact Dorothy Smith at 215-343-1142.



WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Join us for bible study at 10:00 A.M. in the Auditorium
Come and go in depth into that week's scripture to learn
not only what the passage is about, but how it is relevant in your life.
You can come and just listen or, ask any questions you would like.
Newcomers are always welcome!

MEN'S GROUP

Next Meeting: **Sunday January 15th from 6pm to 8pm**
At Rick Rugel's 1471 Greenleaf Dr. Warrington, PA

This is your opportunity to get to know other men at NWPC better, and to participate in discussing the challenges we face in living a life of faith today. Please join us! For more information, or any questions you have you can talk to or email Pastor Mark or Rick Rugel Please *RSVP* so that we know how many will be coming. pastormark@nwpc.net.

Thanks for all your contributions to our successful November food drive. Bags of food appeared throughout the month across the stage and last Sunday many hands quickly moved all that food to my SUV filling it to the brim. 770 pounds of food was delivered to the Warminster Food Pantry, which doesn't tell the complete story since many items like cereal, pasta, toilet paper, and coffee weigh very little, The folks at the pantry were thrilled and kept saying AMAZING.

*Thank
you*

The Red Cross would like to thank you for your support and participation in the recent highly successful blood drive on November 7th. This effort will save lives.

**FILL THE TRUCK
FOOD DRIVE - SHOP RITE**

Next Saturday, December 10th 11:00am to 2:00pm

The NWPC Mission Team is supporting the Warminster Food Bank by hosting a "Fill the Truck" event. NWPC has had a long relationship of sponsoring community food drives for the Warminster Food Bank and area pantries. We are neighbors called to serve those in need.

We are so thankful to Shop Rite of Warminster for their support of the "Fill the Truck" event at their store. There continues to be urgent need for food in our community. Please consider coming out and making a food donation. We do need volunteers to help with the collection so if you are able, please contact Barb Louderback (215)962-4386.



GIFT CARD MISSION

It's that time again!!! We will be collecting 25.00 Gift Certificates from TARGET & WALMART for:

Crossroads in North Philadelphia
West Kensington Ministry in Kensington
Oxford Circle in Frankford

The need is even greater this year and the Gift Cards bring just a bit of Christmas cheer to struggling families Your generosity puts a Smile on so many families trying to get some Christmas cheer. We will be collecting them through December 18th.

As always THANK YOU for your generosity!

**December 1st is just around the corner;
Neshaminy needs volunteers to work at the Cold Blue shelter for the Homeless in December**

To become a volunteer you must be trained. You can do this by **training online** by going to the CSSH website. Go to www.co2ssh.org, pull down the menu and click on "New Volunteer Training." This training is approximately 50 minutes.

You may also take the **van driver or attendant training** online.

If you are not sure what the shelter is all about,
you may shadow or drop by the shelter from 7 – 10.

If you have any questions, please call Joanne Cochran at 215 - 290 -0079.
We hope to see you in December at the Neshaminy shelter in the auditorium!

CHRISTMAS PARTY & NATIVITY NIGHT



On Saturday, December 10th, at 4:00pm we will hold a catered dinner, decorate the Christmas tree, and enjoy a visit from Santa. Following the dinner, at 5:30pm, the Sunday school kids perform in a LIVE Nativity complete with LIVE sheep, goats, and a donkey. It is a night full of fellowship as well as a great opportunity to reach out and share the gift of Christmas with the community around us. Please sign up on one of the sheets in the Narthex or Auditorium.

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX MISSION

Our Christmas shoeboxes will be delivered to Crossroads Community Center by Santa on December 14th. If you would like to pack a shoebox please sign up in the outer narthex and take a list of gift suggestions. Please pack your shoebox to match the age and gender you signed up for as these match the children who attend the after-school program at Crossroads. Bring them to the church wrapped and labeled by December 4th. If you have any questions contact Donna Mazeika: donna.mazeika@nwpc.net

POINSETTIAS

All those interested in making donations for poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary at Christmas time please notify Dorothy Smith (215-343-1142) by the end of today. Please fill out the form below indicating which option you prefer:

- I am interested in making a donation (any dollar amount). I understand the poinsettias will be delivered to shut-ins.
- I prefer to make a donation for a poinsettia (\$10). I understand I can pick up this poinsettia after the 7:00 service on December 24.

As all donations will be noted in the Sunday, December 11 bulletin, please designate what the wording should be for you:

(In memory of, from Mr. & Mrs. Smith, etc.)

All checks should be made payable to Neshaminy-Warwick Presbyterian Church, Attn: Poinsettias and forwarded to the church at 1401 Meetinghouse Road, Hartsville, Warminster, PA 18974.

(Signature)

THIS WEEK AT NESHAMINY

TODAY—Prayer Group 8:30 am Lounge
—Worship Service 9 am Sanctuary
—Sunday Food & Fellowship 10:15 am Auditorium
—Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am Choir Room
—Youth Group 6 pm Youth Room

WEDNESDAY—Bible Study 10 am Auditorium

THURSDAY—Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Room

SATURDAY—Christmas Party & Nativity Night 4 pm Auditorium

SUNDAY—Prayer Group 8:30 am Lounge
—Worship Service 9 am Sanctuary
—Sunday Food & Fellowship 10:15 am Auditorium
—Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am Choir Room

Church Staff

Rev. Mark Lyndaker-Studer, Pastor
Donna Mazeika, Director of Children & Youth
Rev. Sameh Shaker, Pastor of Visitation
Dr. Suzanne Zak Carver, Director of Music
Keith Rounds, Contemporary Music
Marianne Tierney, Business Manager
Cheryl Overton, Church Administrator
Website: www.nwpc.net
215-343-6060

Remembering that the members of Neshaminy-Warwick Presbyterian Church are the ministers and missionaries of our faith community, our Pastoral Staff and Support Team provide leadership and specialized ministries.