



NESHAMINY-WARWICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

WELCOME

HYMN NO. 559

"We Gather Together"

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,
Sing praises to His name; He forgets not His own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;
Thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be Thine!

We all do extol Thee, Thou leader triumphant,
And pray that Thou still our defender will be.
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

John, Debbie, Emily & Aubrey Smith

Jesus is coming; shout for joy! In a world that finds pleasure in the abundance of material possessions, we find our true joy in Jesus Christ. We take joy this Christmas season as we look forward to his glorious return, when he will set us free from this godless age. Joy to the world is the message of the season.

[Light two purple candles and one pink candle.]

Today we light the candle of joy because the good news of Jesus' birth brings us and all people the greatest joy.

In Luke 2:10, the angel told the shepherds, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord." May we experience the joy of God as we wait for Christ to return.

PRAYER

Dear God, give us joy in our hearts now and forever. Help us to tell other people about this joy too. **Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord;

People: my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Leader: The Mighty One has done great things.

People: Holy is God's name!

WORSHIP SONG

“My Soul Magnifies the Lord”

Good news of great joy
For every woman, every man
This will be a sign to you
A baby born in Bethlehem
Come and worship, Do not be afraid

A company of angels
Glory in the highest
And on the earth peace among
Those of whom His favor rests
Come and worship, Do not be afraid

*My soul, my soul magnifies the Lord
My soul magnifies the Lord
He has done great things for me
Great things for me*

Unto you a child is born
Unto us a Son is given
Let every heart prepare His throne
And every nation under Heaven
Come and worship, Do not be afraid (Chorus)

Bridge: Contemporary Worship Team

(You may be seated)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, your prophets have long spoken of the one who would come to save us. Now the promise is fulfilled; now your kingdom has come near. Send us as messengers of your way, to go and tell all the world of the wonders we have seen and the good news we have heard; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

WORSHIP SONG

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

In the bleak midwinter, icy wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow on snow had fallen, snow on snow on snow
In the bleak midwinter, long and long ago.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim rising in the air;
Oh the Holy Mary, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a mothers kiss.

Heaven cannot hold Him, nor can earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall fall away when He comes to reign.

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 know my part;
Yet what I can, I give Him: I must give my heart.

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

“The Journey”

Where is He, O where is He? His star blazes in the night;
as we trace the changing skies, He is hiding from our sight.
Can you tell us where He lies? We would worship Him tonight,
We will journey 'til we find, and our search is turned to sight.
Your guiding light shows us the way; we see Your Morning Star ascend!
To You, dear Christ, all searchers come, in You our journey finds its end;
our journey finds its end.

The star beams its golden ray over sleepy Bethlehem,
Where with joy we find the Child, and with gifts we worship Him.

While we thought we came to You in a little starlit place,
it was You who came to us, You came to us,
Christ, the glory of God's face.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let the desert rejoice, and let the dry land be glad, for God has come to save us. Let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.

(Please take a moment of silent confession)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness. Sing a song of redemption! Let sorrow and sighing be no more. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

(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)

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

As a farmer plants the seeds and waits for the rains to come, let us entrust our gifts to the Lord as we await the coming of God’s reign.

(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

Thanks be to you, O God, maker of heaven and earth—giver of justice, lover of righteousness, hope of the afflicted, and friend of the poor. Your faithfulness never fails. Take and use these gifts we offer to further your purpose in the world and to fulfill the promise of the world to come; through Christ our Lord we pray. **Amen.**

(You may be seated)

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 11:2-11

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ ¹¹“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

“A Shocking Question” Pastor Mark Lyndaker-Studer

(Please stand if you are able)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Nicene Creed

We Believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN NO. 49

“Once in Royal David’s City”

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.

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, oppressed, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus 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 feels for all our sadness,
And He shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love,
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

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

Bless the Lord with all your soul, and may the blessing of God be with you.



Prayer Concerns: Sandee Wilson
Family of Sara Maull
Family of Joe Mazeika
Dorothy Moritz
Family of Doris St. John
Jeff Smith (friend of the Darreffs)
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)

Ongoing Concerns: Karen Meade
Debbie Edwards
Joan George
Kerry Zimmerman
Debbie Watson
David Rankin (nephew of Deborah Kapinos & Paul Rankin)

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!



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!

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A memorial service for Sara Maull will be held on Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at 11:00 am.

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.

WHOLYFIT

WholyFit is a women's ministry for your mind, body and soul. We use gentle stretching and holding poses to increase stability, strength and flexibility as we grow closer in worship. We meet every Tuesday at 7:00 - 8:00 pm in the auditorium. Live music from Keith Rounds every first Tuesday of the month. We will not meet in the month of December so the auditorium can be used for Code Blue. Please contact Chelsea Rounds at mrsrounds@gmail.com for more information

POINSETTIAS DONATED BY:

Mary-Martha Circle

Sarah Circle



In loving memory of our parents from Gordon and Gail Bilsland and Family.

In memory of Bill Bohn and loved ones and and many happy Christmas times by Carolyn Bohn and children.

In memory of my parents, John and Sylvia Widman, who taught me the meaning of Christmas by Carolyn Bohn and children.

In loving memory of my son, Michael from Leslie Bonner.

In memory of my parents, Earl and Florence Bray, from Alice Bray.

In memory of my dear friend, Teresa Tecce, from Alice Bray.

In loving memory of our parents from Warren & Lynne Friedel.

In memory of Jack and Phyllis Mekel from Laureen Gallagher.

Christmas blessings to all the Neshaminy Family from Carolyn and Howard Gilson.

In memory of our parents; Robert & Muriel Goodman and our brother; Richard from the combined Goodman Families.

In loving memory of her mother, Virginia B. Haller, and in honor of Lydia V. Dodd from Beth Haller.

In memory of Ed & Virginia Helsel, and Frank & Sue Henderson from Jan & Jim Helsel.

In memory of loved ones from Karen Lodwig.

In memory of loved ones from Marge Louderback.

In loving memory of Sean Mazeika from Donna, Chris, Jacki, Brenton, and Nolan.

In memory of Joe Mazeika from Donna, Chris, Jacki, Brenton, and Nolan.

In memory of Esther Miller by Daughter, Linda Mesh.

In memory of loved ones from the Miller Family.

In celebration of our granddaughters, Emma and Izzy from Don and Jan Millin.

In memory of our daughter, Krissy from Don and Jan Millin.

With gratitude for the families we grow up with & the ones we make along the way from Dorothy Moritz.

In honor of all the pets who give us their unconditional love from Dorothy Moritz.

With gratitude for the peace & beauty of our church property from Dorothy Moritz.

In memory of May & Ernie Moritz from Dorothy Moritz.

With gratitude for the work & inspiration of our Missions Committee from Dorothy Moritz.

In memory of Pete Obst from his wife, Barbara.

In memory of Adam Paterson, loving husband, father, and grandfather from his wife Judy.

In memory of loved ones from Charlotte Rugel.

In loving memory of Gertrude, Louis, Marian, Warren, and Samuel Smith from their family.

In memory of loved ones from Eloyce Sturgeon.

Have a beautiful Christmas from Mary Whitehead.

In memory of my David, with Love, Sandee Wilson.



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

MONDAY—Admin/Finance Meeting 7 pm Lounge

WEDNESDAY—Sarah Circle 9:15 am Lounge
—Bible Study 10 am Auditorium

THURSDAY—Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Room

SATURDAY—Cantata Rehearsal 10:45 am Sanctuary then Auditorium

SUNDAY—Prayer Group 8:30 am Lounge
—Cantata Worship Service 9 am Sanctuary
—Sunday Food & Fellowship 10:15 am Auditorium
—Youth Group 6 pm Youth 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.