



NESHAMINY-WARWICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

First Sunday of Christmas
January 1, 2023

PRELUDE

"Pastorale" by Zipoli

WELCOME

HYMN NO. 27

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

Gentle Mary laid her Child
Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the undefiled,
To the world a stranger.
Such a Babe in such a place,
Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race
Who have found His favor.

Angels sang about His birth;
Wise men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth,
Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night,
All the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her Child
Lowly in a manger;
He is still the undefiled,
But no more a stranger.
Son of God, of humble birth,
Beautiful the story;
Praise His Name in all the earth,
Hail the King of glory!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We recount the gracious deeds of God, all the praiseworthy acts the Lord has done for us:

People: Praise God for coming to dwell among us, Immanuel.

Leader: Praise God for the good news of Jesus, the pioneer of our salvation.

People: Praise God for making us brothers and sisters in Christ.

Leader: Praise God who is present with us still, lifting us up and carrying us.

People: God's glory shines in heaven and on earth. Praise the Lord!

WORSHIP SONG

“The First Noel”

The first noel the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep

*Noel, noel, noel, noel,
Born is the king of Israel*

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to thy heavenly lord
That hath made heaven and earth of nought
And with his blood mankind has bought

Bridge: Contemporary Worship Team

(You may be seated)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Exalted God, even as the heavenly host sang of your glory in the night skies over Bethlehem; even as the star shone in the heavens, and sheep and cattle gathered in that light, so we gather, young and old together, to recount all that you have done for us in mercy and steadfast love. No tyrant's threat or deadly act can destroy the dreams and visions you have placed within us, for you have drawn us close. With all creation, we praise you and exalt your name forever and ever. **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

CALL TO CONFESSION

Brothers and sisters, Jesus became like us in every respect so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God. As we confess our sins, we come before One who was also tested by what he suffered, confident that he is able to help us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, in great love you have claimed us as your children. We confess that we have not loved you as we should. We have not participated fully in your purposes and plans; we grow weary and give up when the way is hard. We have not loved our brothers and sisters as you intend. Complacent in the presence of injustice and violence, we fail to recognize our own complicity. Forgive us, especially when we fail to protect children so vulnerable and precious in your sight. Forgive our misuse of power against people, and against your creation. Help us to praise you by living in harmony and peace. Do not be ashamed of us, we pray, but strengthen us in our time of testing. Set us free from fear that we may wholly trust in you. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who shared our flesh and blood. Amen.

(Please take a moment of silent confession)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Children of God, it is clear that Jesus Christ came to help sinners. He is our Savior in all our distress, and it is his presence that saves us. Declare with me the good news of the gospel:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

(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

All creation teems with the abundance of God's provision: mountains and hills, fruit trees and cedars, creeping things and flying birds! Our own lives bear witness to the abundance of God's love and mercy, for God has lifted us up and carried us in our need. In joyful praise, we offer to God a portion of all we have received.

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

In this gifting season, O God, we are grateful for the gift of your dear Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Receive, we pray, these offerings we bring. May they be used in the service of your grace and truth dwelling among us. In Christ's holy name we pray. **Amen.**

(You may be seated)

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:13-23

¹³Now 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." ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." ¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, 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 magi. ¹⁷Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: ¹⁸"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." ¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰"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." ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling 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. ²³There 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 Nazarene."

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

"Seeking Refuge"

Pastor Sameh Shaker

(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.

HYMN NO. 31

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time, behold Him come,
Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that we no more may die.
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.

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 God the Creator, Christ the Savior, and the Holy Spirit, our Advocate, guard your going out and your coming in; and be your strength and help in every time of need.

POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World” by Whitworth



Prayer Concerns: Pauline Bush
Lily Meade
Family of Sara Maull
Family of Joe Mazeika
Dorothy Moritz
Mel and Geremi Freceiro (friends of Sandee Wilson)
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)

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 honor of Audrey Read from Peg Kaelin; and given to the glory of God. Deacons Jen Kreisler & Sandee Wilson 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 donations are needed for January 1, 8, 22, & 29 and February 5 & 12. If you are interested in donating pulpit flowers please contact Dorothy Smith at 215-343-1142.



WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

No Bible Study on December 21st or 28th

Bible Study will resume on January 4, 2023

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.

MISSION CORNER

Once again you have exceeded expectations on the GIFT CARDS mission. We had \$2775.00 to give to Crossroads in North Philadelphia, West Kensington Ministry, Oxford Circle in Frankford and some for Code Blue for Christmas.

Your generosity has put so many smiles on families struggling.

YOU are AWESOME!

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

GIFTS OF STOCK

Gifts of Stock are always welcome as donations toward the Unified Budget, Dedicated and Capitol Campaign Funds. If you are considering a gift of stock or would like more information, please be in touch with Marianne Tierney, our business manager by email at finance-manger@nwpc.net. Marianne is in the office Monday thru Thursday from 9-2:00 if you would like to stop by her office or by phone at ext. 103.

THIS WEEK AT NESHAMINY

TODAY—Worship Service 9 am Sanctuary

TUESDAY—WholyFit 7 pm Auditorium

WEDNESDAY—Bible Study 10 am Auditorium

THURSDAY—Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Room

SUNDAY—Prayer Group 8:30 am Lounge
—Worship Service 9 am Sanctuary
—Food & Fellowship 10 am Auditorium

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

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.