



NESHAMINY-WARWICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

WELCOME

HYMN NO. 5

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Chris, Linda, and Peter Goodman & Barbara White

Reader: In days when God’s people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, “Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins” (Isaiah 40:1).

Reader: We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

Reader: We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.

Reader: We light these candles as signs of God’s shocking hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. **Amen.**

Light two candles of the Advent wreath.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Comfort, O comfort my people!

People: We welcome God’s tender words to us today.

Leader: Prepare the way for your God!

People: We gather for worship to prepare ourselves for Christ’s coming.

Leader: Christ is coming! The glory of God will be revealed!

People: Thanks be to God for this good news!

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)

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

40 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers; the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers; the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

WORSHIP SONG

“What a Beautiful Name”

You were the Word at the beginning
One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You our Christ

What a beautiful Name it is
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

You wanted earth to know your glory
Jesus, you brought heaven down
Our sin was great Your love is greater
What could separate us now

What a Wonderful Name it is
What a Wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a Wonderful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a Wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Death could not hold You
The veil tore before You
You silence the boast of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring
The praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again
You have no rival You have no equal

Now and forever God You reign
Yours is the kingdom Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name above all names.

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

"Rise Up, Shepherd, Go Tell It!"

The King shall come when morning dawns, the promised King of heaven.

The perfect Light, the holy One, the promised King of heaven.

The night shall pass, He'll come at last, fulfill the prophet's story.

O praise the Lord who reigns on high, the promised King of heaven.

This Gift of God shall come to dwell, the promised King of heaven.

The Word made flesh, Emmanuel, the promised King of heaven.

Rejoice and sing! This perfect King shall come from heaven's glory.

He'll bring to us the gift of life, the promised King of heaven.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given;
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven!

No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him still the King shall enter in.

The promised King of heaven.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God promises forgiveness through Jesus Christ. On this second Sunday of Advent, let us approach God in humility and faith.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, John the Baptist prepares the way by calling upon us to repent. We have failed to share as we should. We have failed to honor the poor and the oppressed. We have failed to bear fruit worthy of your salvation. Have mercy upon us, God. Heal and forgive us so we can welcome Christ with pure and genuine hearts. Amen.

(Please take a moment of silent confession)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

With joy, let us draw water from the springs of salvation. Give thanks to the Lord! Call on God's name.

(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

With joy and gratitude for all we have been given, let us offer our tithes and gifts to God.

OFFERTORY

“Prepare Him Room” Melissa Meade & Pastor Mark

(If you are our guest, please don't feel obligated to participate.

We would be honored if today's service could be our gift to you.)

(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

Gracious God, accept these gifts in grateful response for your generosity. May these gifts bring joy to those most in need of Christ's mission and ministry. **Amen.**

(You may be seated)

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:1-8

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way, ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight,’ ” ⁴so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

“Bold Hope”
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.

HYMN NO. 49

“Once in Royal David’s City”

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 faithfulness spring up from the ground and righteousness look down from heaven as you walk in the way of peace, and may the blessing of God, Eternal Majesty, Living Word, and Holy Comforter, be with you now and always.



Prayer Concerns: Donna Palzer (friend of Debbie Watson)
William McFadden (friend of Wendy Wirsch)
Monty Anderson
Vincent Evans (brother of Sue McOwen)
Liz & Larry Arnold (friends of Sandee Wilson)
Julia Bernanke (friend of Erin Watson)
Family of Maria Escardille (friend of Bill Watson)
Libby Moore
Family of John Roushey
Luca (friend of Jan Millin)
Amy Dietz & family (friend of Sandee Wilson)
Melissa Stokes (cousin of Sandee Wilson)
Jonie Garcia (mother of Dave Garcia)
Malory Mee (friend of Garcia family)
Allan Schrage (friend of Sue Rems)
Sue Ellen Nolan-Greeby (sister of Bill Watson)
Lois Williams (friend of Nina Resavage)
Connie Reisinger (friend of Wendy Wirsch)
Sharon Burrink (friend of Wendy Wirsch)
Rima Mironas (mother of Dalia Lucas)
David Rankin (nephew of Deborah Kapinos & Paul Rankin)

Ongoing Concerns: Charles Sutton
Dorothy Moritz
Karen Meade
Debbie Edwards
Kerry Zimmerman
Debbie Watson
Robin Haug
Rob Salvia

MISSION CORNER

It's That Time Again!!

\$25 Gift Cards from Target & Walmart for
West Kensington Ministries, Crossroads in Hunting Park, Oxford Circle in Frankford

Poverty is a hard cycle to break out of.

The gifts cards are a bright spot for the families for Christmas.

Kensington and North Philadelphia have a bad reputation for violence and drugs
BUT there are hundreds of families just trying to raise their families
and have a better life for their children.

TODAY is the deadline and as always...

Thank You for your generosity!

ITEMS STILL NEEDED FOR CODE BLUE PANTRY

We are still looking for volunteers to help provide items needed to feed our Code Blue guests in December:

- Individual bottles of water
- box of assorted individual bags of chips
- soft granola bars
- individually wrapped cookies
- individually wrapped Tastykakes
- individually wrapped string cheese
- individual cups of yogurt; canned vegetables - corn, green beans, peas, carrots
- individual pudding snack cups
- individual fruit snack cups

Please text/call Jan Helsel (215-715-5146) or email (jjhelsel@yahoo.com) if you can help as I'm keeping a list so we don't have too much of one item and not enough of another.

By the way, thanks to your generosity, we should not need any more casseroles! You're the best!



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5 pm Children/Family Worship

7 pm Candlelight Worship

POINSETTIAS DONATED BY:

Mary-Martha Circle

Sarah Circle

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

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

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

In memory of their parents, May & Warren Friedel and Anne & Henry Weitzmann from Warren and Lynne Friedel.

In memory of Robert, Muriel, and Rick Goodman from the Goodman Family.

In memory of loved ones from the Ludwig Family.

In memory of loved ones from Marge Louderback.

In memory of loved ones from Cheryl & Gary Miller.

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

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

In memory of loved ones from Suzanne Pearce.

In memory of Randy Richter from Kim, Jacqui, Chris, and Meghan.

In memory of John Roushey, Marge Roushey, and Steve Roushey from Jack and Cathy Roushey.

In memory of loved ones from Charlotte Rugel.

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

In memory of loved ones from Eloyce Sturgeon.

Have a beautiful Christmas from Mary and John Whitehead.



MEALS FOR our CODE BLUE GUESTS - DECEMBER 2023

We are once again planning for our Code Blue guests at NWPC in December. Your generosity as a congregation has provided hot and nourishing meals in the past, and the need continues to be great. Please prayerfully consider the information below as you decide how you can help. And many thanks in advance - you are a blessing!

Suggestions for meals:

Some suggestions for meals: LASAGNE; MACARONI & CHEESE; HOT DOGS & BEANS; MEAT LOAF, MASHED POTATOES with GRAVY; PORK & SAUERKRAUT; HAM & SCALLOPED POTATOES; PEROGIES; BAKED ZITI with MEAT BALLS/SAUSAGE; CHICKEN & RICE; or any foods that have protein and are easy to chew. Some of our homeless guests have dental problems and are not able to chew hard or crunchy foods. Also please be moderate with spices and seasonings.

Instructions for providing meals:

PLEASE PREPARE CASSEROLE for **12 people** in disposable covered aluminum casserole-sized pans. (The kitchen crew will be dishing the meal that you bring into individual containers to serve our guests.) Historically, the number of guests starts to increase as we get into the month. We may eventually ask for casseroles to serve 20 or so people, so as the number of our guests increases, we will let you know how many folks we can expect to feed. If you choose to add rolls or dessert, these need to be put into individual sandwich bags. So no pies, puddings, etc. Cakes, cookies, doughnuts, etc are great.

You can drop off the casseroles: 1) "Hot" to the church kitchen at **7 PM**, 2) earlier in the day (attach reheating instructions & call me so I make sure someone is there to receive them), or 3) frozen (again we'll need instructions & phone call).

Because of covid, we will follow the same changes as last year:

1) Everything needs to be disposable.

2) We will be asking for donations of certain items and will be using a **SignUp Genius** for these items and also one for the actual casseroles. (**See links and QR codes below**). The cooks no longer need to provide extra vegetables or salads; these items will be on the SignUp Genius for miscellaneous donated items. We will no longer be serving food cafeteria-style as we used to, but will be packaging the meals in the kitchen for individual distribution to the guests in the auditorium. Therefore, we will need to have a tighter handle on quantity of food so we can avoid waste.

REMINDER: You will only need to cook for that evening **if a Code Blue is called** (usually wind chill factor of 26 degrees or less). If there is **no** Code Blue called, you will receive a call or email in the morning (usually before 10 AM) as soon as we are notified. (If you have prepared the meal ahead of time and a Code Blue is not called, you could always freeze it for possible use later in the month.)

Thank you for your willingness to prepare a meal for our homeless guests.

Your kindness is greatly appreciated by all of us!

If you have any questions, or do not want to use Sign Up Genius, **please contact** Jan Helsel (H#215-343-3778) (email: jjhelsel@yahoo.com).

Dinners link - - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4FABA723A4FA7-45932674-nwpc#1>



Supplies link - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4FABA723A4FA7-46023564-nwpc>



THIS WEEK AT NESHAMINY

SUNDAY—Prayer Group 8:30 am Lounge
—Worship Service 9 am Sanctuary
—Food & Fellowship 10 am Auditorium
—Mission Team Meeting 10 am Lounge
—Cantata Rehearsal 10:30 am Choir Room

MONDAY—Finance & Property Team 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 Dress Rehearsal 10:45am

SUNDAY—Cantata Rehearsal 7:45 am Sanctuary
—Prayer Group 8:30 am Lounge
—Worship Service 9 am Sanctuary
—Food & Fellowship 10 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

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.