



NESHAMINY-WARWICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Melissa, Sophia, Charlotte, and Micah McGovern

Reader: When God's people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah proclaimed, The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit (Isaiah 61:1-3a).

Reader: We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

Reader: We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.

Reader: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Light three candles of the Advent wreath. If your Advent wreath includes a pink or rose candle, light that candle today.

A New & Glorious Morn!

By Lloyd Larson

Narrated by Mark and Chris Davies

Directed by Dr. Suzanne Zak Carver

COME, ADORE THE NEWBORN KING!

Congregation join in: Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning, Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n: Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

PREPARE FOR THE COMING OF THE LORD

THE PROMISED KING OF HEAVEN

HOLY CHILD OF BETHLEHEM

ALL GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH!

OFFERTORY "Joy to the World" arr. by Joseph Martin Bev Fulgham

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.**

SILENT NIGHT/ TWINKLE STAR! Children's Choir lead by Kyle Montgomery
Spencer Bingham, Alexandra Carver, Sawyer Conlon, Sloan Conlon, Naomi Flick,
Livvy Garcia, Charlotte McGovern, Sophia McGovern, Natalee Rounds, Emily Smith,
Aubrey Smith, Annalyn Studer, and Coralie Van Tassel

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:46-55

⁴⁶And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; ⁵⁰indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

SERMON

“The Ultimate Reason to Celebrate”

Pastor Mark Lyndaker-Studer

RISE UP, SHEPHERD, GO TELL IT!

A HOLY, SILENT NIGHT

Congregation join in: Silent night! Holy Night! Son of God, love’s pure light, see the radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

ARISE AND SHINE, YOUR LIGHT HAS COME!

Congregation join in: Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation! Sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above: Glory to God, all glory in the highest! O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

POSTLUDE

Sopranos

Sally Chambers
Jill Clayton
Joanne Cochran
Linda Goodman
Robin Haug
Jennifer Kreischer
Lynn Kreischer
Karen Lodwig
Anna Louderback
Melissa Meade
Sue Rugel
Wendy Uzelac
Christine Van Tassel

Altos

Joan Becker
Lisa Berglund
Maggie Bingham
Chris Davies
Lynne Friedel
Linda King
Judy Lodwig
Marge Louderback
Betty Mason
Dorothy Smith

Tenors

Barb Louderback
Mark Davies
Kyle Montgomery
Ida Zimmer

Basses

Dave Baker
Bob Gronquist
Jack Kreischer
Bo Louderback
Bob Louderback
Paul Rankin
Ron Wallace
Bill Zimmer

Instrumentalists

Carly Lewis, violin
Jessica Tosti, violin
Felicia Hebenstreit, viola
Will Phillips, cello
Steve Kyle, bass
Andrea Levin, flute
Erica Stockton, clarinet
Stephanie Durham, oboe
Bob McNally, trumpet
Micheal Stadelmaier, trumpet
Bev Fulgham, french horn
Patrick McIssac, trombone
Dave Benbow, tuba
Jan Helsel, piano

Suzanne and the choir would like to thank all who have generously supported the NWPC music program over the past year. If you enjoy music, please consider singing with us for next year's cantata. All are welcome! We rehearse on Thursday nights and starting end of September. If you are interested, please feel free to stop a choir member at the brunch after the services. Leave your information with Suzanne or a choir member and we'll be sure to let you know when we start rehearsing next year.



Prayer Concerns: Family of Carol Moyer (sister in law of Debbie Watson)
Family of Bob Maull
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)
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)

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



PULPIT FLOWERS

The pulpit flowers are given in loving memory of Florene Heller from the Hellers; and given in loving memory of Joseph V. Marabito from the Zebley family. The third flower arrangement is given in loving memory of his wife Joan and granddaughter Shaelee from Werner Thiessen. Deacons Jen Kreisler & Doris Rowley 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 January 7th, January 14th, February 11th and February 25th. If you are interested in donating pulpit flowers, please contact Dorothy Smith at 215-343-1142.

MISSION CORNER

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

The total for gift cards is \$4,825 YOU have helped 181 families have a better Christmas. YOU get the reason for the season. Jesus said that whatever you do to the least of my brethren that you do unto me. Your generosity is humbling and much appreciated.

FOOD COLLECTION

The need for assistance is great and you can help! We still collect non-perishable food items for the Coordinating Council of Health and Welfare's Warminster Food Bank. Non-perishable food items can be dropped off in the bin right inside the double-glass doors by the Sanctuary any time. This ongoing mission is coordinated by the Deacons.

For unto
us a
Child
is born



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5 pm Children/Family Worship

7 pm Candlelight Worship



WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Themes of the Bible

Last Bible Study of the year is Dec. 20th

Join us for bible study at 10:00 A.M. Whether you have spent years studying the Bible or the Bible is new to you, this class is for you. Beginning this fall we will be looking at big ideas that are core to the Biblical story. We will look at them from their first appearance through the entire narrative (*Image of God, Justice, Exile, Holiness, Covenants, Sacrifice, Temple, Son of Man, Eternal life, Sabbath, Water of life, Tree of life, Blessing and Curse, Kingdom of God, Anointing, Heaven and Earth*). This will help you to be able to see patterns throughout the Bible and come to understand the entire story of the Bible in a much deeper and greater way.

Newcomers are always welcome!

THIS WEEK AT NESHAMINY

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

MONDAY—Session Meeting 7 pm Sanctuary then Lounge
—Deacon Meeting 7 pm Sanctuary then Auditorium

WEDNESDAY—The Compassionate Friends 6 pm Youth Room

THURSDAY—Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Room

SUNDAY—Prayer Group 8:30 am Lounge
—Worship Service 9 am Sanctuary
—Christmas Eve Children/Family Service 5 pm Sanctuary
—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7 pm Sanctuary

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.