



NESHAMINY-WARWICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 14, 2024

WELCOME

HYMN NO. 438

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Where can we go from God's spirit?

People: If we ascend to heaven, God is there; if we make our bed in Sheol, God is there.

Leader: If we take the wings of morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

People: Even there God's hand shall lead us, and God's right hand will hold us fast.

Leader: How weighty to us are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

People: We try to count them—they are more than the sand; We come to the end—We are still with you.

WORSHIP SONG

“We All Need Jesus”

These days, we're so divided
Wound up, prone to fighting
Who's right, who's wrong, who gets the blame?
The cure for all the chaos
It's in the hands that made us
Deep down, we're broken all the same

(Chorus)

*We all need love We all need forgiveness
We need the kindness of a friend
By our side no matter what
We all need grace We all need redemption,
We need the mercy of a Savior
Who would take us in His cross
We all need Jesus, Jesus
We all need Jesus, Jesus*

We bleed the same in color
We're all sisters and brothers
God's love is in our DNA
One breath holds us together
One life to make it better
Deep down, we're broken all the same *(Chorus)*

(You may be seated)

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 139:1-12

¹O LORD, you have searched me and known me. ²You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. ³You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely. ⁵You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. ⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. ⁷Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? ⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. ⁹If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, ¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. ¹¹If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and night wraps itself around me,” ¹²even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Leader: The Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God

WORSHIP SONG

“Wonderful King”

We are here because of grace because of love
We are here because of You because of You
We are here because of grace because of love
We are here because of You because of You

You fill out hearts with more than we can hold inside and so we sing

Beautiful Savior Wonderful King
Beautiful Savior Wonderful King

We are here because of grace because of love
We are here because of You because of You

You fill out hearts with more than we can hold inside and so we sing **(Chorus)**

Oh, beautiful sound the joy of Heaven here
Oh, wonderful sound love of Heaven now
Oh, beautiful sound the joy of Heaven here
Oh, wonderful sound love of Heaven now
Oh, beautiful sound the joy of Heaven here
Oh wonderful sound Oh wonderful sound **(Chorus)**

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

“Christ Is Enough”

My sin remained a dirty stain my good could not erase.
Then Jesus came, my sin He claimed and cleansed me by His grace.
To Christ I fly! On Him rely! His grace is all I need.
Unmoved by doubts, my faith cries out, "Christ is enough for me!"

My crippling fears are so severe, I stumble on my way.
Yet Jesus keeps and never sleeps; His right hand holds me safe.
My hurting heart is torn apart by unrelenting pain.
Still Jesus cares, my suff'ring shares; His favor never fades.
To Christ I fly! On Him rely! His grace is all I need.
Unmoved by doubts, my faith cries out, "Christ is enough for me!"

(Continued)

My feeble might will lose the fight against the Devil's schemes.
But Jesus rose to crush my foe and live His life in me.
To Christ I fly! On Him rely! His grace is all I need.
Unmoved by doubts, my faith cries out, "Christ is enough for me!"
Unmoved by doubts, my faith cries out, "Christ is enough for, Christ is enough,
Christ is enough for me!" "Christ is enough for me!"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us approach God with confidence, trusting in God's grace as we humbly confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you know us better than we know ourselves. You know our sins even before we confess. Your knowledge is wonderful, but also challenging. We'd much rather avoid painful truths and deny our role in wrongdoing. Help us face our failings so we can move forward in truth. Amen.

(Please take a moment of silent confession)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

"The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting." Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

(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

Eternal God, just as you called Samuel and the prophets of old, you call us to lives of love and justice: breaking down barriers that divide, building bridges of cooperation, peace, and beloved community. As we remember the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., we pray for the day when all God's children can be free. We pray for the day your children will not be judged by the color of their skin, but the content of their character. We pray for the day when hate and violence and bigotry are overpowered by love and peace and acceptance. Let justice roll down like waters, Holy God, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. For too long, God of justice, oppressed peoples have heard the word, "Wait" — a word that King said almost always meant "Never." God, help us push toward progress on issues of justice and work diligently toward the vision of your kin-dom community. Holy, God, hear the prayers of your people. As global wars rage and gun violence desecrates, protect the innocent, and help us prioritize efforts of peace. In the face of political polarization, help us listen more, seek understanding, and approach those with whom we disagree with curiosity, humility and openness. Help us listen for the story beneath others' stories. In the face of fear and anxiety, pressures and provocation, help us find in you a refuge and strength, a steadfast support in times of trial. Remind us, Holy God, we are not alone. Bless those who are suffering, ill, and grieving. Bless those who feel weak and worn down by our world. United as the Body of Christ we lift these prayers to you, Savior God. Hear us now, as we pray the prayer Christ taught us by saying together:

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

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, who said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

OFFERTORY

Keith Rounds

*(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

Holy God, these offerings are only a portion of all that you have given us. We gratefully present these gifts and entrust them to your work in this world. May our gifts share the good news of the gospel to those who are in need. May these gifts help unburden those with the heaviest of loads. **Amen.**

(You may be seated)

SCRIPTURE READING

Jonah 1:1-3

1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, ²"Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it, for their wickedness has come up before me." ³But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON

“Competing Visions” Pastor Mark Lyndaker-Studer

(Please stand if you are able)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God’s commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God’s condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

HYMN NO. 388

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

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

The peace of Christ, crucified and risen for all, go with you this day and always.



Prayer Concerns: Family of Dan Wolfgang
Jean Byrne (friend of Sandee Wilson)
Yolanda Sisco (sister in law of Bill Sisco)
Dorothy Moritz
Jeanette L. (friend of Jan Millin)
Family of Jollyfisher Ekpe, Jr. (friend of Wendy Wirsch)
Donna Palzer (friend of Debbie Watson)
Soukchay Khounxay (friend of Debbie Watson)
Cathy Shaheen
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)

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



PULPIT FLOWERS

The pulpit flowers are given in honor of Alice Bray from Peg Kaelin; and given in loving memory of their amazing mothers, Lavada Kennedy and Thelma Hammonds from Todd and Ruth. Deacons Beth Haller & 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 February 25th. If you are interested in donating pulpit flowers, please contact Dorothy Smith at 215-343-1142

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Themes of the Bible

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!

MEN'S GROUP

Next Meeting: January 21st from 6PM to 8PM at NWPC (Lounge)

The next Men's Group get together is January 21st (theme Faith & Doubt). We will be meeting every month through May on the third Sunday of the month from 6PM to 8PM. This is your opportunity to get to know other men at NWPC better, and to participate in discussing Bible themes as well as 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 Pastor Mark or Rick Rugel. Please let us know if you plan to join us so we know how many will be coming. See you then. Should be a good time!



Red Cross Blood Drive

Please join our lifesaving mission and schedule an appointment today!

Monday, February 19, 2024 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Coordinator Name: Don Millin

You can sign up online at www.redcrossblood.org, enter NWP

Blood supplies are low and the need is great. If you've donated in the past - THANK YOU and we look forward to seeing you again on November 6. If you haven't ever given blood, PLEASE consider making this your first time. The need is continuous and the satisfaction of helping others with what truly is "the gift of life" is rewarding. If you have questions, you can contact Don at PSU2242@gmail.com or 267-402-0040.

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.

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. Please contact Chelsea Rounds at mrsrounds@gmail.com for more information.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN CODE BLUE

Thank you for your help with Code Blue! Whether you prepared a meal, served a meal, worked in the kitchen, or staffed the shelter, each of you helped to provide our guests with a delicious meal, a safe environment and a bed inside during cold nights. Code Blue, a project of the Coalition to Shelter and Support the Homeless, was with Neshaminy from December 1 through December 28. During the month we were open 12 nights and were closed 16 nights. The number of guests ranged from 8 to 17. Through Neshaminy's generosity we were able to provide a WAWA Christmas \$25 gift card to each guest. The guests were very grateful, both for receiving an actual Christmas card and a gift card. Please keep them in your prayers!

NEW YEAR, NEW VOLUNTEERS FOR CODE BLUE

Even though Code Blue has left our building, it is still active through March at other churches. If you missed the opportunity to attend in-person training, there are 2 sessions scheduled for January. They are:

Wednesday, January 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Doylestown Borough Hall

10 Doyle St,

Doylestown, PA 18901

Each session will last approximately 2 hours.

For more information, go to the website at co2ssh.org
and look under New Volunteer Training.

THIS WEEK AT NESHAMINY

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

MONDAY—Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Office closed)
—Session Meeting 7 pm Sanctuary then Lounge
—Deacon Meeting 7 pm Sanctuary then Auditorium

TUESDAY—WholyFit 7 pm Auditorium

WEDNESDAY—Bible Study 10 am Auditorium
—The Compassionate Friends 7 pm Lounge

THURSDAY—Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Room

SUNDAY—Prayer Group 8:30 am Lounge
—Worship Service 9 am Sanctuary
—Food & Fellowship 10 am Auditorium
—Youth Group 6 pm Youth Room
—Men's Group 6 pm Lounge

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.