



NESHAMINY-WARWICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve 7 pm
December 24, 2023

If you are visiting with us, we welcome you. We hope you would participate with us in worship, but please do not feel compelled to take part in any aspect of worship which may make you uncomfortable. Much of our worship is call and response. The bold portions in the bulletin are where the congregation responds to the call of the speaker.

PRELUDE

(Please stand if you are able)

HYMN 22

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

OPENING WORDS

Liturgist-Donna Mazeika

Leader: Good news of great joy!

People: People who walked in darkness now live in great light.

Leader: Good news of great joy!

People: Oppression and war will not have the last word.

Leader: Good news of great joy!

**People: A savior is born, who is the Messiah, the Lord. Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth, peace.**

HYMN 38

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST ADVENT CANDLE Keith, Chelsea & Natalee Rounds

Reader: To a people longing for hope and yearning for deliverance, the prophet Isaiah declared, The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined...For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

Reader: Tonight, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love, and we find these things in a child. God made flesh as a baby in a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the end of our salvation, who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us.

Reader: We live as people in the in-between who celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God's kingdom.

Reader: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, the love that transforms us, and Jesus Christ, our wondrous Light. May the Light burning in our hearts guide us, comfort us, protect us, and tend us in all seasons and circumstances, reminding us that day and night, in the light and in the darkness, God is with us. Our salvation has come! Amen.

Light all five candles of the Advent wreath.

WORSHIP SONGS

"He Shall Reign"

In the bleak mid-winter, all creation groans
For a world in darkness, frozen like a stone
Light is breaking, in a stable
For a throne

*And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore
Unto us a child is born
The King of kings and Lord of lords
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore*

If I were a wise man, I would travel far
And if I were a shepherd, I would do my part
But poor as I am
I will give to Him my heart

Here within a manger lies
The One who made the starry skies
This baby born for sacrifice
Christ, the Messiah
Into our hopes, into our fears
The Savior of the world appears
The promise of eternal years

“What Child Is This”

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?

Chorus:

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent word is pleading. (Chorus)

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him. (Chorus)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Great and glorious God, through Jesus Christ our Savior you have shown us that the blessed age of grace has appeared and the hoped-for time of salvation has come. Yet we cling to the glories of the present age—worldly passions and impious pursuits, self-indulgent, crooked, and ungodly ways. Redeem us from evil and cleanse us from sin, through Christ, who gave himself for us, so that we might be your people, holy and whole. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Good News! Great Joy! In Jesus Christ that grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all! Glory to God in heaven, and on earth, peace.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Because God so loved the world, God sent His Son into the world. In response to this good news of great joy, we offer songs of praise, tithes and offerings, and acts of service.

OFFERTORY

Keith Rounds

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Great God, accept these gifts we offer as we wait in hope for your coming again.

HYMN 25

“Away in a Manger”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let your word be born in us anew so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, your splendor shines in and through us. In Jesus' Name we pray. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18-23

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name

him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³“Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Rise Up Shepherd and Follow”

SERMON

“God is With Us”

Pastor Mark Lyndaker-Studer

HYMN 23

“Angels We Have Heard in High”

***SERVICE OF CANDLELIGHTING**

(As “Silent Night” is being sung, the lights will be dimmed, and the minister will light a candle from the Christ candle. The minister will then pass the light to the ushers who will then light the candles of the first worshipper in each pew. Light will then be passed from worshiper to worshiper. Remember that the lighted candle remains upright, and the unlighted candle is tipped to the light. Before leaving the pew, worshipers are requested to extinguish their candles and place them in the container in the narthex after exiting the sanctuary.)

***HYMN:**

“Silent Night”

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: “Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.”

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

***PRAYER OF SUPPLICATION** *(In unison)*

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***HYMN OF AFFIRMATION** “Joy to the World”

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns:
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

CHARGE

Go in peace to bring comfort and healing and to announce good news in the name of Christ.

BLESSING

The blessing of God, the One who creates, redeems, and sustains eternally, be with you now and always.

POSTLUDE

Dear Friends,

As another year draws to a close, we wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge how blessed we feel to be part of this family of faith known as Neshaminy-Warwick. Our thanks to all of you who have contributed so generously of your time, talent, and treasure during the past twelve months.

Special thanks for your kind expressions of love and friendship to staff members by way of cards, notes, and gifts during this holiday season.

May God bless you and your loved ones with comfort, joy, and peace this Christmas and throughout the coming year.

Peace in Christ,

Mark Lyndaker-Studer

Donna Mazaeika

Cheryl Overton

Keith Rounds

Sameh Shaker

Marianne Tierney

Suzanne Zak Carver

