



NESHAMINY-WARWICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024

WELCOME

HYMN NO. 288

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; for God's steadfast love endures forever.

People: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those God redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Leader: Let them thank the Lord for God's steadfast love, for God's wonderful works to humankind.

People: And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of the Lord's deeds with songs of joy.

WORSHIP SONG

“Better is One Day”

How lovely is Your dwelling place, Oh Lord Almighty
My soul longs and even faints for You
For here my heart is satisfied, within Your presence
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings

*Better is one day in Your courts
Better is one day in Your house
Better is one day in Your courts
Than thousands elsewhere*
(repeat)

One thing I ask, and I would seek, to see Your beauty,
To find You in the place Your glory dwells

My heart and flesh cry out
For You, the living God
Your Spirit's water to my soul
I've tasted and I've seen
Come once again to me
I will draw near to You
I will draw near to You (Chorus)

(You may be seated)

SCRIPTURE READING

Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom, but the people became discouraged on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

WORSHIP SONG

“How Can I Keep from Singing”

My life flows on in endless song
Above earth's lamentation
I hear the real though far off hymn
That hails a new creation

*No storm can shake my in-most calm
While to that rock I'm clinging
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth
How can I keep from singing*

Through all the tumult and the strife
I hear the music ringing
It sounds and echoes in my soul
How can I keep from singing

What though the tempest round me roar
I hear the truth it liveth
What though the darkness round me close
Songs in the night it giveth

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

"Clean Heart"

Create in me a clean heart, O God. Create in me a clean heart.
Renew my spirit, renew my spirit. Create in me a clean heart.

Create in me a clean heart, O God. Create in me a clean heart.
Renew my spirit, renew my spirit, create in me a clean heart.

A heart that's free to give as You have giv'n to me, a heart that's free to love as You have loved me,
a heart that really cares, a heart that always shares. Create in me a clean heart.

Create in me a clean heart, O God. Create in me a clean heart.
Renew my spirit, renew my spirit. Create in me a clean heart.

CALL TO CONFESSION

The faithfulness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. The mercies of God are new every morning. Beloved, confession of our sin before God is an act of trust in the goodness of God. In confession, we draw near to our maker in candor, knowing that nothing can be hidden from God. As we are honest with God and with one another about those places in our lives that stand in need of God's healing, we are opened to the mercies of God. So let us confess our sin, first in unison, and then in silence...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, giver of all that is good, we rejoice that you are the source of all that is. The breath of life is a gift from your generous hand. The food we eat is grown in the world you sustain. The community that supports us is called into being by your saving activity. Everything we have is a gift from you. Why, then, do we complain as though the manna, raining down from heaven for us even now, is not enough? Why do we worry that your well of living water will someday run dry? It is surely our sin that causes us live as though we do not trust your goodness. Forgive us, we pray. Teach us again to put all our trust in your promises that never fail. Remind us that we are always in your loving care. Fill us with grace, so that our lives might show forth the fullness of your love for all people...

(Please take a moment of silent confession)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

(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, our story together is one of your unending faithfulness to us, even as we are not always faithful to you. Holy source of all that is good, you have shown us yourself in abundance and mercy, in grace and abiding care. Knowing of your enduring providence, we may come to you with the concerns that weigh heavily on us. We pray to you for world affairs beyond our control. For places in our world where war is raging, we pray for peace, knowing that you alone are the source of true shalom, peaceable kingdom. Where there are those in harm’s way, we pray for protection. Where we ourselves harbor hostility and prejudice, we pray for awareness and grace that we may learn forgiveness. Teach us how we may serve you more fully in ways we cannot imagine. We pray for needs closer to home, for our own community. As we enter the season of Lent, we ask that you open our eyes to the needs on our very doorstep. May we see those whose names are known to you and offer compassion and goodwill. We pray for victims of violence, and gun violence in particular. We offer our prayers for those who seek solutions for intractable problems. Let us not give up hope. Let us not abandon the work of healing the world — we remember that all healing comes from you. We pray as well for ourselves, our own material and spiritual needs. Grant your healing touch, bringing wholeness to our members suffer from illness and affliction. For any in our midst who suffer from depression or addiction, give us understanding and compassion. For those who are lonely, may we be a place of friendship, a warm haven where love is shared. To that end, we pray for the church: Universal, Presbyterian, and our own congregation. Enrich our lives with your grace that we might also be menders of brokenness. We make these and all of our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray 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

From the providence of God, all that we need has been given to us, in sufficient abundance that we might share. Let us return our offerings as a sign of our commitment to follow the one who has loved us, even unto death.

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

Gracious God, from the overflowing of your love, we have been given abundance upon abundance. Receive, we pray, our offerings and bless them. May we be blessed by their work, as we see your reign among us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(You may be seated)

SCRIPTURE READING

John 3:14-21

¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not

believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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

SERMON

“A Healing Image”
Pastor Mark Lyndaker-Studer

(Please stand if you are able)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Confession of 1967)

God’s reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery which the Scriptures describe in various ways. It is called the sacrifice of a lamb, a shepherd’s life given for his sheep, atonement by a priest; again it is ransom of a slave, payment of debt, vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty, and victory over the powers of evil. These are expressions of a truth which remains beyond the reach of all theory in the depths of God’s love for humankind. They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement of God’s reconciling work.

HYMN NO. 85

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

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 the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the light of the Spirit bless you and keep you in the way of truth.



Prayer Concerns: Liz Sculli (Friend of Eloyce Sturgeon)
Milt Haupt (friend of Sandee Wilson)
Karin Hart (sister of Laura Stilonovich)
Sherry Gretzsula (friend of Laura Stilonovich)
Tom Ceneviva (friend of Laura Stilonovich)
Family of Sharon Moritz (sister in law of Dorothy Moritz)
Nancy Tuggle (friend of Sandee Wilson)
Sherri Shaffer (niece of Faye Wolfgang)
Jamal & Arielle Jackson (friends of Wendy Wirsch)
Nichole Trollman (daughter in law of Sandee Wilson)
Yolanda Sisco (sister in law of Bill Sisco)
Donna Palzer (friend of Debbie Watson)
Soukchay Khounxay (friend of Debbie Watson)
Vincent Evans (brother of Sue McOwen)
Liz & Larry Arnold (friends of Sandee Wilson)
Julia Bernanke (friend of Erin Watson)
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)

Ongoing Concerns: Connie Reisinger
Dorothy Moritz
Cathy Shaheen
David Rankin
Charles Sutton
Karen Meade
Debbie Edwards
Kerry Zimmerman
Debbie Watson



PULPIT FLOWERS

The pulpit flowers are given by Mr. and Mrs. Meade in memory of her father, Francis Almstead; and given in loving memory of his wife, and mother of their three children, Patty Danihel by Rick, Matt, Kevin, and Brian Danihel. Deacons Cindy Anderson & Leslie Bonner 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.

MEN'S GROUP NEXT MEETING

Sunday March 17th, 6:00 PM

At NWPC (Lounge)

The next Men's Group get together is March 17th (subject: Easter). We will be meeting every month through May on the third Sunday of the month at 6PM. 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!



Sunday Morning April 7th

In the Lounge: 10:30-11:30 a.m.

What does it mean to belong to a church? Whether you have worshiped with us in person or you have met us through online worship, we invite you to consider uniting with our congregation through membership. We'd be delighted to include you in our family of faith. If you have additional questions, please reach out to Pastor Mark. Even if you are not sure about membership, you are welcome to come and learn more about the church. Pastor Mark can be reached at 215-343-6060 or pastormark@nwpc.net.



EASTER EGG HUNT

Palm Sunday, March 24th

at 2pm for children ages 2 – grade 5.

Children will be divided into age groups.

If you would like to help we are in need of the following donations: Plastic Eggs, Individually wrapped candy(NO NUTS OR NUT BUTTER!!!), prizes (i.e.,chocolate bunnies, small stuffed animals, children's books, bubbles, balls, coloring books, small board games, fast food, Dairy Queen or coffee shop gift cards {\$5})

Please bring all donations by Sunday, March 17th.

Bring you children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, neighbors!!

All are welcome!



NWPC MUSICFEST

Saturday, April 13, 2024, 6:00pm

At NWPC, we have been blessed with a wide variety of musical talent. We would like to give our musicians an opportunity to showcase their talent. This program culminates in tasty desserts and is designed to benefit the music program at NWPC.

If you sing or play an instrument, we would love to have you participate! Accompanists available. Please register with Suzanne Zak Carver to obtain your spot. Call (215) 343-6060 ext. 104 or email Suzanne.zak@nwpc.net to sign up today!

ADULT MISSION TEAM

There will be an Adult Mission Team meeting next Sunday, March 17th at 10:30 am in the Book Lounge. Please join us.

EASTER LILIES

All those interested in making donations for lilies to decorate the sanctuary at Easter please notify Dorothy Smith (215-343-1142) no later than Friday, March 22. Please fill out the form below indicating which option you prefer:

I am interested in making a donation (any dollar amount). I understand the lilies will be delivered to shut-ins.

I prefer to make a donation for a lily (\$10). I understand I can pick up this lily after the 9 o'clock service.

As all donations will be noted in the Sunday, March 31 bulletin, please designate what the wording should be for you:

(In memory of, from Mr. & Mrs. Smith, etc.)

All checks should be made payable to Neshaminy-Warwick Presbyterian Church, Attn: Easter Lilies and forwarded to the church at 1401 Meetinghouse Road, Warminster, PA 18974.



THIS WEEK AT NESHAMINY

SUNDAY—Prayer Group 8:30 am Lounge
—Worship Service 9 am Sanctuary
—Food & Fellowship 10:15 am Auditorium
—Mission Team Meeting 10:30 am Lounge

MONDAY—Finance/Property Team Meeting 7 pm Lounge

TUESDAY—WholyFit 7 pm Auditorium

WEDNESDAY—Sarah Circle 9:15 am Lounge
—Bible Study 10 am Auditorium
—Outreach Team Meeting 11:30 am Lounge

THURSDAY—Private history tour 10 am Sanctuary
—Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Room

SATURDAY—Private Function Auditorium 11 am

SUNDAY—Prayer Group 8:30 am Lounge
—Worship Service 9 am Sanctuary
—Food & Fellowship Auditorium 10:15 am Auditorium
—Deacon Meeting 10:30 am Lounge
—Adult Mission Team Meeting 10:30 am Book Lounge
—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.