



NESHAMINY-WARWICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024

WELCOME

HYMN NO. 460

"Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The bread of life opens our eyes.

People: The word of life opens our ears.

Leader: The risen one shows us God's own brokenness,

People: and by those wounds we are healed.

Leader: Peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Into our fears and through our locked doors.

People: Come, Almighty God.

Leader: When we think 'peace be with you,' means no change or disruption,

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: Amidst our lives that confuse religious entertainment with Easter fulfillment.

People: Come, Holy Spirit.

Leader: For the sake of a community meant to be its best during crisis.

People: Come Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

WORSHIP SONG

"Watchmen"

Tell me watchman now what of the morning
Is the end of the night coming soon
I've been waiting and praying and longing
For the One who is faithful and true
But I know He's the hope for the helpless
And a comfort to all those who mourn
Is the song of His glorious returning
Rising up on the wings of the dawn

(Chorus)

*His morning comes and O the sun will rise again
And all of the earth will be filled with His glorious light
And even when the day is short and evening comes
I know in Him even darkness even the darkness is light*

Tell me watchman now what of the morning
For we sing of the light of the world
And we sing of the one they call Jesus
Who is mighty in deed and in word
For I know He's the Son of the Highest
And I know that His victory is won
And the song of His glorious returning
Rises up on the wings of the dawn *(Chorus)*

For I know He's the Son of the Highest
And I know that His victory is won
And the song of His glorious returning
Rises up on the wings of the dawn *(Chorus)*

(You may be seated)

SCRIPTURE READING

1 John 4:1-5

4 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. **2**By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, **3**and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. And this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. **4**Little children, you are from God and have conquered them, for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. **5**They are from the world; therefore what they say is from the world, and the world listens to them.

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

WORSHIP SONG

“Walk by Faith”

I believe you when you say
Your hand will guide my every way
I receive the words you say
Every moment of every day

*I will walk by faith, even when I cannot see
Because this broken road prepares Your will for me* 2X

You help me rid me of my fears
You've been so faithful all my years
With one breath You make me new
Your grace covers all I do

I'm broken, but I still see Your face
You've spoken, pouring your words of grace

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

"Goliath"

CALL TO CONFESSION

To repent is to turn away from sin and turn toward Christ Jesus. Scripture promises that when we confess, God hears our cries and wipes away our sin. Trusting in God's promises of new life, let us confess our sins and the sin of this world.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Risen Christ, we are often troubled by our doubts. But you are not troubled by them. You do not require perfect understanding. Instead, you reveal yourself to us again and again that we might come to know you. Forgive us when our doubts keep us stuck, when fear prevents us from loving all creation as you call us to do. Help us to accept the peace you so graciously offer to us. Have mercy on us when we hoard or hide it, when we fail to offer it to others. Renew us and make us whole that in this world of strife we may be bearers of your peace. In resurrection hope we pray, Amen.

(Please take a moment of silent confession)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are". Children of God, we are claimed by God, forgiven of our sins, and set free for love. Alleluia! 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

God of abundant grace, we gather today just as your first disciples gathered in the wake of the resurrection: in joy, wonder and disbelief. We remember that whenever we gather in your name, you appear in our midst, offering us the comfort of your presence and the assurance of your love. And we give you thanks that like those first disciples, you give us a community to practice our faith. Grant us grace to hold space for one another's doubts and questions. Give us courage to admit that we do not have all the answers. Make this community where we explore what it means to receive your forgiveness and dedicate our lives to you. We remember that when the risen Christ first appeared to his disciples, he offered them peace. Our world is deeply in need of your peace, O God: a peace that is not only the absence of conflict but the presence of wholeness for all people. We pray for innocent victims of war in Ukraine and Gaza and around the world. Put an end to violence, Lord. Teach us to recognize our shared humanity, our shared status as your beloved children, each of us created in your image. Lead each of us to prioritize peace, both in our homes and communities and in the wider world. We pray for all who sit in seats of power: fill their hearts with compassion and their decisions with wisdom, that all may have the chance not only to survive, but to flourish. Most of all, God, save us from despair. Open our eyes to see the signs of resurrection life that are all around us. Plant hope within us, and help us to nurture its tender shoots, that it may grow more robust each day. May we begin to imagine the future of your shalom. Loving Lord, we pray for members of our community who need your care. Ease the suffering of the sick and speed the healing of those in recovery. Comfort all those who mourn and bring rest to all who are worn down. Surround the isolated with love and soothe the troubled minds of the anxious. We especially pray for all we name now in the quiet of our hearts.... Lord of life, remind us of our call to love one another as you have loved us, with a love that casts out fear and creates community. Grant us energy to serve one another with humility and hope. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes again and all things are made new. We pray in his name and as he taught us:

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

In response to God's abundant grace at work in our lives, let us present with gratitude our gifts of time, talent and treasure, for the building up of God's kingdom.

OFFERTORY*“Siyahamba” piano duet*

Chris Davies & Suzanne Zak Carver

*(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**

Living Lord, we give you thanks for the bounty of your grace: you create us in your image, shower us with your love, forgive us when we turn away from you, and give us a future with hope. Bless these gifts we offer you today, and make us good stewards of the resources you have entrusted to us. May our gifts bring joy and peace in our church and in our community. In Christ's holy name we pray, **Amen.**

*(You may be seated)***SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 24:36-49

³⁶While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering, and he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence. ⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

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

SERMON

“Matter Matters”
Pastor Mark Lyndaker-Studer

(Please stand if you are able)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39)

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God’s purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

HYMN NO. 387

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

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 Lord bless and keep you, shine upon you with grace and mercy, and give you what is needed for each new day.



Prayer Concerns: Family of Helen Stever (aunt of Debbie Watson)
Joe Cooney & family (friends of Cailin Augustine)
Bill Chicoski (former member)
Joyce & Jan Conover (friends of Wendy Wirsch)
Liz Sculli (Friend of Eloyce Sturgeon)
Milt Haupt (friend of Sandee Wilson)
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)
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 both given to the glory of God! 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.

GREETERS

We are looking for one person to sign up each week to greet those arriving at our Sunday service. You are also welcome to bring your family or a friend to join you as greeters. It's a one-time commitment to stand at the entrance to the narthex and greet those coming in to the service from about 8:45 am until 9 am. This is a wonderful chance to reestablish our practice of ensuring that everyone coming to the service starts off with a warm welcome. We have a "sign-up genius" set up where you can sign up on-line at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A4DA9A92FABFF2-greeter>. If you are interested, but don't have access to a computer, please reach out to Jen Kreischer at 610-952-5319.

Many thanks for considering signed up as a greeter!



Next Meeting Sunday April 21st, 6:00 PM

At NWPC (Lounge)

The next Men's Group get together is April 21st. 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!

MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Do you ever feel that you'd like to help out people less fortunate than yourself but not really sure how to go about it? This year Hong and Kyle are returning to Honduras for a week of medical missions aided by the Good Samaritan Baptist Mission. This ministry has many different ministries including teaching aspiring pastors, running a Christian school for grades K-12, and running over 30 kitchens to feed the needy all across Honduras. You can read all about their history, ministries, and vision on their website: www.goodsamaritan.ms.

Two of the specific ways you can help the needy are to either sponsor a child or to donate money for food bags. If you'd like to sponsor a child – just click on the “Opportunity of a Lifetime” box. They have 3 different levels of monthly sponsorship to help a child get an education they would never get otherwise. If you'd like to donate money for food for the hungry – just click on the “Feed the Hungry” box. There you can donate as little as \$10 to supply food for those in need.

PHILLIES VS. HOUSTON ASTROS BUS TRIP Tuesday, August 27, 2024



A bus trip has been planned to go see the Phillies play the Houston Astros at Citizens Bank Park on Tuesday, August 27. We will leave the church at 3:30 p.m. All are welcome to go, young and old alike. Ask your extended family members as well as friends. Thirty-five (35) tickets have been reserved so it's on a first-come first-serve basis. Cost is \$54.00, which includes your ticket as well as the motor coach, and gratuities. We are sitting in Section 419, Rows 5 thru 9.

Deadline is July 1. If you have any questions, please contact Dorothy Smith at 215-343-1142.



6th Annual WKM Golf Outing

(Benefiting, West Kensington Ministry, a faith community supporting the human potential of an inner-city community)



Monday, May 13, 2024
~ Five Ponds Golf Club ~

9:45 a.m. Shot-Gun Start

Best Ball / Scramble Format

(Sign-In starting at 8:45 AM)

Donation: \$180.00 per player

Includes:

Lunch
Greens Fees and Cart
Putting Contest
Hole Prizes, Door Prizes
Post-Tournament Reception
A fun day to benefit a Critical Urban Ministry

Support Opportunities:

Sponsor a Hole - \$300
Sponsor or Donate a Prize - \$400 or prize value
Sponsor WKM logo Golf Balls - \$900
Sponsor or Co-Sponsor Lunch - \$1500
Sponsor or Co-Sponsor Reception - \$2500
Sponsor or Co-Sponsor Beverage Cart - \$1000
Sponsor or Co-Sponsor the Golf Outing - \$5000
Silent Auction - Bid or Donate an Auction Item
Purchase Mulligans, 50/50 Raffle

To Register: go to www.westkensingtonministry.com

Click on the GREEN "Golfer Registration" icon

It's near the bottom of the home page

More info? Contact: Chad Pilling – pillingcb@gmail.com

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
—Deacon Meeting 10:30 am Book Lounge

MONDAY—Session Meeting 7 pm Lounge

TUESDAY—WholyFit 7 pm Auditorium

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

THURSDAY—Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Room

FRIDAY—Wedding Rehearsal 3:30 pm Sanctuary

SATURDAY—Wedding 2 pm Sanctuary

SUNDAY—Prayer Group 8:30 am Lounge
—Worship Service 9 am Sanctuary
—Food & Fellowship 10:15 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.