



## NESHAMINY-WARWICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Christ the King Sunday

November 24, 2024

### WELCOME

HYMN NO. 482

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Grace to you and peace from the one who is and who was and who is to come,

**People: and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.**

Leader: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.

**People: The whole earth is full of God's glory.**

Leader: God established the world from of old.

**People: God's reign shall never end.**

Leader: God delivered us in freedom and truth.

**People: God's love is everlasting.**

Leader: What brings us together in this place?

**People: To worship Christ, who loves us, who freed us from our sins by his blood and who made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father.**

Leader: To him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

**People: Amen.**

Leader: Let's prepare our hearts and minds to worship Jesus Christ, our king.

## WORSHIP SONG

### “Open The Eyes Of My Heart”

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see you, I want to see you (repeat)

*To see you high and lifted up  
Shining in the light of your glory  
Pour out your power and love  
As we sing holy, holy, holy*

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see you, I want to see you (repeat)

Holy, holy, holy (3X)  
I want to see you

*(You may be seated)*

## SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 6:1-8

**6** “Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. **2** “So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. **3** But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, **4** so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. **5** “And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. **6** But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. **7** “When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. **8** Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

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

## WORSHIP SONG

"King Jesus"

All creation shook on that very day  
The Lamb was slain  
Then redemption came to anyone  
Who would call His name

With power and with strength  
You broke these heavy chains  
And salvation reigned  
And with a shout of praise  
And with our voices raised

*King Jesus, You are victorious  
You have conquered death with this life of love  
King Jesus, You are victorious  
You paid the final debt for all of us  
King Jesus, You are victorious*

None can separate the very hope  
And grace that He displayed  
Neither height nor depth  
Or anyone can steal the love He gave  
And with a shout of praise  
And with our voices raised (Chorus)

Bridge: Contemporary Worship Team

**JOYFUL NOISE/SPIRIT CHOIR** "Everyone Give Thanks"

*(Children may now be dismissed to their Sunday School teacher,  
or if you prefer they may return to their seats with you.)*

## CHOIR ANTHEM

"Thanks and Blessings Flow"

("Now Thank We All Our God"/"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow")

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done, in Whom His world rejoices;  
Who, from our mother's arms, hath blest us on our way  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;  
and keep us in His grace and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

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.  
Praise God from Whom all blessings flow. Alle, alleluia!

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,  
The Son, and Him Who reigns with Them in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God Whom earth and heav'n adore;  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Now thank we all our God; now thank we all our God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Christ sympathizes with our weaknesses. The one we call King in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord, however much we call you king, we fail to follow your call to us. We succumb to the political temptations of this temporary world, seeking power and security while you call us to service and hospitality, consuming your creation while you call us to care for it, hating our neighbors, who you call us to love. In our failure to claim you, we identify more with the nations on our passports than with your kingdom. We pray that you reclaim us as your people, forgive us as your children, and continue to be our Lord and our hope for salvation.**

*(Please take a moment of silent confession)*

## **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Hear the good news: Jesus Christ loves us and has set us free from our sins. In the name of Jesus Christ, and by the certainty of God's decree, Know that we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! God has poured out love upon us, and we have received forgiveness for our sins. We can now live in peace! May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance.

*(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**

Holy God, we do not know how to pray, but Jesus invites us into the life he shares with you, and so we keep coming, because we want to live. Receive us now in our frailty, our complacency, our desire. We pray for your church all over the world. May the life we discover in you bind us to each other and to the world you love, for no need is beyond the strength of your call and no child of yours is expendable. Merciful God, give us wisdom and courage beyond our imagining. We pray for each leader who might be an instrument of peace in a troubled land. By the movement of your reconciling spirit, bless your people with the courage to reach past old wounds and persistent fears. God of resurrection, bring life where hope has died. We pray for friends and strangers in the grip of addiction. Make us able companions for each other, and bless us with hope that bears fruit. We pray for unsettled economies and those whose needs are overlooked in the choices of the powerful. May we, who know so much privilege, bear our responsibilities with open eyes and open hands. We pray for all who stand at the thresholds of life: your children who are soon to be born, and your children who are soon to go home. We give thanks for new faces to love, ideas to ponder, work to do—and we marvel at the sturdy friendships and persistent memories that sustain us when the way is hard. May each be a reminder of your love and your provision. We thank you for the gift of song—for notes that speak when words fail, and choirs that practice at the end of long days. Give strength to leaders who call forth the best from us and invite us to breathe together. Holy God, keep calling us into the world—your world—as salt and light. Equip each of us for the challenges we will face until we learn to worship in the most unlikely places, for you are the source of our song and the well from which we pray, wherever we are planted. By the power of your Spirit, we make our prayer with resurrection hope, as we pray silently.

## **Time of Silence**

We lift these prayers to the God who is, who was, and who is to come saying, “Our Father...”

## 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

The Lord God is Alpha and Omega, the one who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty. All that is, all that was, and all there will be belongs to God. Let us now return to God in part what is God's in whole.

## 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, we pray that you take these gifts of our labor, our wealth, our time, and our lives and use them to express your everlasting kingdom of love in this world. **Amen.**

*(You may be seated)*

## SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 6:16-18

<sup>16</sup>"And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: **Thanks be to God**

## SERMON

“Between You and God”

Donna Mazeika, Director of Children & Youth

*(Please stand if you are able)*

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (excerpts from The Theological Declaration of Barmen)

**Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death. The Christian Church is the congregation of the brethren in which Jesus Christ acts presently as the Lord in Word and Sacrament through the Holy Spirit. As the Church of pardoned sinners, it has to testify in the midst of a sinful world, with its faith as with its obedience, with its message as with its order, that it is solely his property, and that it lives and wants to live solely from his comfort and from his direction in the expectation of his appearance.**

**HYMN NO. 357**

“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”

## 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 blessing of God, the One who creates, redeems, and restores, be with you now and always.

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*For unto  
us a  
Child  
is born*



**CHRISTMAS EVE  
WORSHIP SERVICE  
6:00 PM**

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**Prayer Concerns:** John Rousis

Kim Roberts (sister of Laura Stillonovich)  
John Gravel (friend of Laura Stillonovich)  
Tom Murt (friend of Laura Stillonovich)  
Geraldine Schultz (friend of Sue McOwen)  
Faith Vernon (friend of Bill Watson)  
Rich McNeeley (cousin of Sally Traubel)  
Gloria Long (sister of Charlotte Rugel)  
Ethan Chow (friend of Jen Kreisler)  
Cindy Ogle (friend of Wendy Wirsch)  
Ian Smith (nephew of Dorothy Moritz)  
Sheila Law (sister of Dorothy Moritz)  
Family of Bill Reiss (father of Robin Haug)  
Pete Davis (friend of Mike O'Neill)  
Sally Ault (family of Melissa Meade)  
Thomas Ceneviva (friend of Laura Stillonovich)  
Cyndee Carr (sister of Laura Stillonovich)  
Karin Hart (sister of Laura Stillonovich)  
Debbie and Bob Stokes (friends of Sandee Wilson)  
Gloria Rossi (friend of Lisa Pearsall)  
Michele Rousseau (friend of Wendy Wirsch)  
Swarling Aguero (friend of Dalia Lucas)

**Ongoing Concerns:** Cathy Roushey

Leslie Bonner  
Rina Mironas  
Cathy Shaheen  
David Rankin  
Charles Sutton  
Debbie Edwards  
Kerry Zimmerman  
Debbie Watson



## PULPIT FLOWERS

The pulpit flowers are given in memory of loved ones from Leslie Bonner; and given in honor of David & Darlene Baker's 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Deacons Patrick Van Tassel & Sandee Wilson will deliver the flowers. Pulpit flowers are needed for December 29<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in donating pulpit flowers please contact Dorothy Smith at 215-343-1142.

## CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX MISSION 2024

This year we are going to assemble shoebox gifts once again, for the children at Crossroads Christian Community Center in North Philadelphia.

If you would like to be a part of this mission, there are three options:

1. **Sponsor a child/fill a shoebox:** Take a tag with a child's name on it. These tags include their specific wish list. Please buy their wish list items and then use the suggested items list on the reverse side of the tag to finish filling a shoebox. Return the shoebox to the church unwrapped with the child's name tag taped to the box by **December 8<sup>th</sup>**.
2. **Donate a specific item:** Choose a tag that lists items needed and return each unwrapped item by **December 1<sup>st</sup>** so that we can assemble boxes.
3. Make a cash donation for us to purchase additional items to fill boxes.

Donated items should be put in the container in the outer narthex.

We will be delivering these boxes to Crossroads with Santa on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

## ADVENT CHRISTMAS PARTY

We will celebrate our annual Advent Christmas Party on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. There will be crafts, tree decorating, a catered dinner, a Christmas skit and singing by our children and youth, and SANTA CLAUS!! The dinner for this special event will be catered. To help cover the cost of dinner we ask that each family make a donation and bring Christmas cookies to share! We hope to see everyone there for this festive and fun occasion!

## MEN'S GROUP NEXT MEETING

**December 15, 6:00 PM**

At NWPC (Lounge)

The next Men's Group meeting will be on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. We will be discussing Eugene Peterson's book *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction – Discipleship In An Instant Society*. There is no need to read the book for the Men's Group meetings. The Men's Group is a great 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.

## MISSION CORNER

3 of our mission projects are in PHILADELPHIA:

West Kensington Ministries--Crossroads in North Philadelphia--Oxford Circle in Frankford All of these missions are God centered and reach out to help the children in the neighborhood. They all have after school programs to keep the children safe. They also reach out to the elderly who are really struggling to make ends meet. They each have a food program and give out weekly food to the most vulnerable. There are programs for the teenagers who are the most vulnerable because of gun violence. Their programs give a safe place to be. We all know and feel the rise in prices on everything. It is twice as hard in the city. Poverty is on the rise for lots of the families. Your \$25.00 gift certificate mean so much to families who are struggling. It means gifts for their children or a Christmas dinner. We are a caring and giving congregation and have always been so generous and I know this year you will do the same. We will be collecting the gift certificates from Walmart and Target on DEC 1 and Dec 8 the deadline is the 8TH.

## POINSETTIAS

All those interested in making donations for poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary at Christmas time please notify Dorothy Smith (215-343-1142) by Sunday, December 1. Please fill out the form below indicating which option you prefer.

- I am interested in making a donation (any dollar amount). I understand the poinsettias will be delivered to shut-ins.
- I prefer to make a donation for a poinsettia (\$10). I understand I can pick up this poinsettia after the 7:00 service on December 24.

As all donations will be noted in the Sunday, December 8 bulletin, please designate what the wording should be for you.

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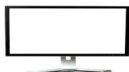
In memory of from Mr. & Mrs. Smith, etc.

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

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(Signature)

### WAYS TO GIVE



**ONLINE:**  
[www.nwpc.net](http://www.nwpc.net)



**ON YOUR PHONE:**

- Open the camera on your phone
- Point the camera at the QR code
- Follow phone prompts to give via credit card



**ENVELOPE:**

1401 Meetinghouse Road,  
Warminster PA 18974

## MEALS for our CODE BLUE GUESTS - DECEMBER 2024

December is around the corner and we are preparing for hosting our Code Blue guests. Your generosity as a congregation has provided hot and nourishing meals in the past, and the need continues to be great. Please prayerfully consider the information below as you decide how you can help next month. And many thanks in advance - you are a blessing!

### Suggestions for meals:

Some suggestions for meals: LASAGNE; MACARONI & CHEESE; HOT DOGS & BEANS; MEAT LOAF, MASHED POTATOES with GRAVY; PORK & SAUERKRAUT; HAM & SCALLOPED POTATOES; PIEROGIES; BAKED ZITI with MEAT BALLS/ SAUSAGE; CHICKEN & RICE; or any foods that have protein and are easy to chew. Some of our homeless guests have dental problems and are not able to chew hard or crunchy foods. Also please be moderate with spices and seasonings.

### Instructions for providing meals:

As our guests do not sign up ahead of time, we never know how many there will be each evening that we're open. This year, we will be open every evening where the temperature/wind chill is 28 degrees or less. We will also be open every Wednesday, regardless of the weather, and we are always open Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

PLEASE PREPARE CASSEROLE for **12 people** in disposable covered aluminum casserole-sized pan as we begin the month. Historically, the number of guests starts to increase as we go along. We may eventually ask for casseroles to serve 20 people or more, so as the number of our guests increases, we will let you know how many folks we can expect to feed.

Because of covid the past few years, everything has been disposable.

You can drop off the casseroles: 1) "Hot" to the church kitchen at **7 PM**; 2) earlier in the day (attach reheating instructions & call me so I make sure someone is there to receive them); or 3) frozen (again we'll need heating instructions & a phone call so we have enough time to reheat casserole).

You do not need to provide extra vegetables, as these will be on the SignUp Genius for miscellaneous "pantry" items. If you choose to add rolls or a dessert, that would be lovely but not necessary each night.

We will be asking for donations of certain items and will be using a **SignUp Genius** for these items and also one for the actual casseroles. (See links and QR codes below).

REMINDER: You will only need to cook for that evening **if a Code Blue is called** (usually wind chill factor of 28 degrees or less or a Wednesday). If there is no Code Blue called, you will receive a call, text or email in the morning (usually before 10 AM) as soon as we are notified. (If you have prepared the meal ahead of time and a Code Blue is not called, you could always freeze it for possible use later in the month.)

Thank you for your willingness to prepare a meal for our homeless guests.

**Your kindness is greatly appreciated by all of us!**

If you have any questions or are uncomfortable using Sign Up Genius, **please contact** Jan Helsel (H#215-343-3778/C#215-715-5146) (email: jjhelsel@yahoo.com). I will be glad to add you to the SignUp Genius list.



## THE LEGACY OF WILLIAM PENN

The William Tennent House Association will hold its annual banquet at Giuseppe's Restaurant on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. Our guest presenter is Debbie Chychota who is an expert on William Penn. She was involved in the making of a documentary film on him and addressed the Pennsylvania House of Representatives when William Penn was honored. We will enjoy a delicious buffet featuring hot Roast Beef with Rolls and Chicken Parm. For dessert we will have a buffet of sweets with little Cannoli's. The cost is \$50 per person. Wendy Wirsch will be available during Coffee Hour to take your reservations and answer questions. You may also contact her at [wbw42451@gmail.com](mailto:wbw42451@gmail.com) or 267-268-1274.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

Please consider catching up on or increasing your 2024 contribution. Our giving for 2024 is lower than this time in 2023 and our expenses (as expected) are higher this year. The Session made the decision to reduce our personnel budget for 2025. We are hopeful we will not have to make any further reductions to our personnel or mission giving in 2025.

	<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Net Result</b>
As of 10/31/24	Member Contributions	Total Income		
<b>YTD 2024</b>	<b>385,993</b>	<b>497,620</b>	<b>552,897</b>	<b>(55,277)</b>
<b>YTD 2023</b>	<b>419,095</b>	<b>522,149</b>	<b>518,792</b>	<b>3,357</b>

### CHOIR/CANTATA REHEARSALS

**Nov 24-** Sunday, 10:30

**Dec 12-** Thursday, 7:00

**Dec 1 -** Sunday, 10:30

**Dec 14 -** Saturday DRESS REHEARSAL

**Dec 5 -** Thursday, 7:00

- 10:45-1:00pm - lunch included

**Dec 8-** Sunday, 10:30

**DEC 15 CANTATA SUNDAY -** 7:45 am

## THIS WEEK AT NESHAMINY

SUNDAY—Prayer Group 8:30 am Lounge

—Worship Service 9 am Sanctuary

—Food & Fellowship 10:15 am Auditorium

—Cantata Rehearsal 10:30 am Choir Room

MONDAY—Session Meeting 7 pm Lounge

TUESDAY—WholyFit 7 pm Auditorium

—Code Blue Moving In

WEDNESDAY—Bible Study 10 am Auditorium

THURSDAY— Happy Thanksgiving

FRIDAY—Office Closed

SUNDAY—Prayer Group 8:30 am Lounge

—Worship Service 9 am Sanctuary

—Food & Fellowship 10:15 am Auditorium

—Cantata Rehearsal 10:30 am Choir Room

—Code Blue Orientation 11 am Auditorium

—Youth Group 6 pm Youth Room