



NESHAMINY-WARWICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Andrew, Jenna, Brielle, and Owen Ritting

Reader: When God's people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah proclaimed, The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit (Isaiah 61:1-3a).

Reader: We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

Reader: We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.

Reader: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Light three candles of the Advent wreath (include the pink candle today).

AND IT CAME TO PASS, EMMANUEL

By Jay Rouse & Rose Aspinall

Directed by

Dr. Suzanne Zak Carver

Neshaminy-Warwick Sanctuary Choir

Narrators: Kim Richter, Mark Davies

PRELUDE

Jubilant Brass

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels.
O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Highest, most holy Light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal He comes.
Son of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation.
O sing, all ye citizens of Heav'n above.
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.
Worship Christ the Lord!

AND IT CAME TO PASS

A Child has been born in our darkest night, the Word of God, Incarnate One, Redeemer, Holy Light.

God's own Son in humble birth leaves His throne in Heav'n to dwell with men on Earth.

And it came to pass that in those days we saw the Savior face to face.

The Word of God has come among us now!

And it came to pass! Emmanuel, the Word of God among us now on earth.

It came to pass! Emmanuel!

Come now, you rich and poor, hear the Baby's cry.
The Prince of Peace, the Lamb of God here in a stable lies.
Joyful news on earth today! The bright and morning star has come to light the way!
And it came to pass that in those days we saw the Savior face to face.
The Word of God has come among us now!
And it came to pass! Emmanuel, the Word of God among us now on earth.
It came to pass! Emmanuel!

Rejoice! O come, Emmanuel.
Rejoice! O come, Emmanuel! Emmanuel!

And it came to pass that in those days we saw the Savior face to face.
The Word of God has come among us now!
And it came to pass! Emmanuel, the Word of God among us now on earth
It came to pass! Emmanuel! Rejoice! He's come to earth, Emmanuel!

JOSEPH'S SONG

Soloist: Keith Rounds

Now the angel's gone away and the silent night has come,
will my peace return to stay and my fears be overcome?
Will I tremble at this task? Will I place in Him my trust?
Will this journey prove too long for me to be the man I must?

Should I help Him count the stars? Or should I help Him carve a piece of wood?
Can I teach Him what He needs to know? Oh, how I wish I could!
You see, I'm falling on my knees and I'm crying out to You.
O God, please help me now. Won't You?

How did You come to choose me? I'm not sure I understand.
The Son of God, Incarnate One, can He be the Son of Man?
Still I trust You have a plan, though a mystery to me.
I will set my feet upon Your path, so You can set us free, set us free!

Should I help Him count the stars? Or should I help Him carve a piece of wood?
Can I teach Him what He needs to know? Oh, how I wish I could!
You see, I'm falling on my knees, falling on my knees, and I'm crying out to You.
O God, please help me now. Won't You, won't You?
I am crying out to You. O God, please help me now. Won't You?

JESUS, WHAT A WONDERFUL CHILD

Soloist: Christine Van Tassel

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful Child! Oh Jesus, my Jesus, so lowly, meek and mild.
New life, new hope, new joy He brings. Won't you listen to the angels sing?
Glory, glory, glory to the newborn King! *(Repeat)*

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down and glory shone around.
"Fear not," "Fear not!" for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind.
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind."

His name is Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful Child!
Oh Jesus, my Jesus, so lowly, meek and mild.
New life, new hope, new joy He brings. Won't you listen to the angels sing?
Glory, glory, glory to the newborn King!

His name is Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God!
Oh! Jesus, King of kings! Lord of lords! Prince of peace!
Oh! Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful Child!

His name is Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, so lowly, meek and mild.
New life, new hope, new joy He brings. Won't you listen to the angels sing?
Glory, glory, glory to the newborn King!

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, oh what a wonderful Child! Jesus, Jesus so lowly, meek and mild.
New life, new hope, new joy He brings. Won't you listen to the angels sing?
Glory, glory, glory to the newborn King!

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful Child! Jesus, Jesus, so lowly, meek and mild.
New life, new hope, new joy He brings. Won't you listen to the angels sing?
Glory, glory, glory. Singin' glory, glory, glory.
Singin' glory, glory, glory to the newborn King, newborn King!

JOY, SING AND SHOUT IT!

Children's Choirs

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1: 1-5, 10-14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

"A Divine Plan"

Pastor Mark Lyndaker-Studer

OFFERING

Jubilant Brass

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.**

JESUS, PRINCE OF PEACE

Jesus, Prince of Peace, come here from Heaven our darkness to cease,
Infant Redeemer secures our release, Jesus Messiah, Jesus, Prince of Peace.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Jesus, Prince of Peace, come here from Heaven our darkness to cease.
Infant Redeemer secures our release, Jesus Messiah, Jesus, Prince of, Prince of Peace.

Gloria, sing gloria, sing gloria, sing gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, sing gloria, sing gloria, sing gloria.

Jesus, Prince of Peace, come here from Heaven our darkness to cease.
Infant Redeemer secures our release, Jesus Messiah, Jesus, Prince of Peace.
Jesus, Prince of Peace. Jesus, Prince of Peace.

CHILD OF THE PROMISE

Under the stars sleeps a Child of the promise. Common made holy, our God come to earth.

Glory residing here in a poor manger, come to redeem us and show us our worth.

Glory to God in the highest. Peace and good will to all men.

Glory to God in the highest. Forever and ever, amen! Forever and ever, amen!

Fall on your knees here beside the Lord's cradle. Come now to worship on this silent night.

In love, He has come here to bear all our sorrows,

to end all our darkness and make all things right.

Glory to God in the highest. Peace and good will to all men.

Glory to God in the highest. Forever and ever, amen! Forever and ever, amen!

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born!

O night divine! O night, O night divine!

Glory to God in the highest. Peace and good will to all men. Glory to God in the highest.

Forever and ever, amen! Forever and ever, amen!

Forever and ever, forever and ever, forever and ever, amen! Forever, amen!

FIRE IN THE SKY

Gloria! Gloria! Glory to God in the heavens above.

He's coming to earth to show us His love.

Gloria! Gloria! Peace on earth; good will to all men. The Savior is born in Bethlehem.

Shepherds awaken to a glorious sight, stars in the heavens, a radiant light.

Angels rejoicing, they sing from on high. The glow overwhelming like fire in the sky

Gloria! Gloria! Glory to God in the heavens above.

He's coming to earth to show us His love.

Gloria! Gloria! Peace on earth; good will to all men. The Savior is born in Bethlehem.

Peace on the earth, their heavenly song. The Savior descending; we've waited so long.
Fear not, they comfort; redemption draws nigh. The glory of Heaven like fire in the sky!

Gloria! Gloria! Glory to God in the heavens above.

He's coming to earth to show us His love.

Gloria! Gloria! Peace on earth; good will to all men. The Savior is born in Bethlehem.

Oh. Gloria! Gloria! Glory to God in the heavens above.

He's coming to earth to show us His love.

Gloria! Gloria! Peace on earth; good will to all men. The Savior is born in Bethlehem.

Gloria! Gloria! Gloria!

AND IT CAME TO PASS FINALE

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning; O Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.
Worship Christ the Lord!

And it came to pass that in those days we saw the Savior face to face.
The Word of God has come among us now!
And it came to pass! Emmanuel, the Word of God among us now on earth,
It came to pass! Emmanuel! Rejoice! He's come to earth, Emmanuel!

POSTLUDE

Jubilant Brass

Thank you for worshipping with us today.
The Christmas celebration continues.
Please join us for a Food & Fellowship in the auditorium

Suzanne and the Sanctuary choir would like to extend a big “thank you” to all who have generously supported the NWPC music program through their hard work and financial contributions over the past year. Programs like these require the support of many people and we are blessed to have those who are committed with their time and talents.

If you enjoy music, please consider singing with us for next year’s cantata. All are welcome! We rehearse on Thursday nights, starting late September. If you are interested, please feel free to leave your information with a choir member or Suzanne after the service. We’ll contact you in the fall with more information.

NESHAMINY WARWICK SANCTUARY CHOIR

SOPRANOS:

Sally Chambers
Joanne Cochran
Marianne Dobbins
Linda Goodman
Robin Haug
Lynn Kreischer
Jennifer Kreischer
Karen Lodwig
Anna Louderback
Sue Rems
Sue Rugel
Wendy Uzelac
Christine Van Tassel
Barbara White

ALTOS:

Joan Becker
Maggie Bingham
Lisa Berglund
Lynne Friedel
Jan Helsel
Linda King
Marge Louderback
Beth Madden
Betty Mason
Sandy McKeown
Melissa Meade
Dorothy Smith

TENORS:

Mark Davies
Jim Helsel
Barb Louderback
Kyle Montgomery
Jack Roushey
Ida Zimmer

BASSES:

Dave Baker
Bob Gronquist
Jack Kreischer
Bo Louderback
Jim McKeown
Paul Rankin
Ron Wallace
Bill Zimmer

INSTRUMENTALISTS:

Carly Lewis, violin
Jessica Tosti, violin
Felicia Hebenstreit, viola
Michael Newman, cello
Steve Kyle, string bass
Andrea Levin, flute
Erica Stockton Cherry, clarinet
Stephanie Durham, oboe
Bob McNally, trumpet
Michael Stadelmaier, trumpet
Patrick McIssac, trombone
Jim McIlvaine, French horn
Bev Fulgham, French horn
Dave Benbow, tuba
Chris Davies, piano



Prayer Concerns: Bob Gill (friend of Bill Watson)
Family of Iris Brown (mother of Lynne VanFossen)
Debbie & Bill Watson
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 Kreischer)
Ian Smith (nephew of Dorothy Moritz)
Sheila Law (sister of Dorothy Moritz)
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)

Ongoing Concerns: Cathy Roushey
Leslie Bonner
Rina Mironas
Cathy Shaheen
David Rankin
Charles Sutton
Debbie Edwards
Kerry Zimmerman

POINSETTIAS DONATED BY:

Mary-Martha Circle

Sarah Circle



In loving memory of their parents from Gordon and Gail Bilsland and Family.

In memory of Sherry Ann Bordner from Brian Bordner.

In memory of her parents Earl & Florence Bray from Alice Ellen Bray.

In memory of Robert, Muriel, and Rick Goodman from the Goodman Family.

In memory of Mark Hennessy from his family.

Remembering their loving parents from Lynn & Jack Kreischer.

In memory of loved ones from the Lodwig Family.

In memory of loved ones from Marge Louderback.

In loving memory of Joe Mazeika from Donna, Chris, Jacki and Brent.

In loving memory of Karen Meade from her husband, Robert.

Merry Christmas from the Miller Family.

In memory of their daughter, Krissy and other family members from Jan & Don Millin.

In honor of their granddaughters, Emma and Izzy DeChristopher from Jan & Don Millin.

In memory of Pete Obst from Barbara Obst.

In memory of loved ones from Suzanne Pearce.

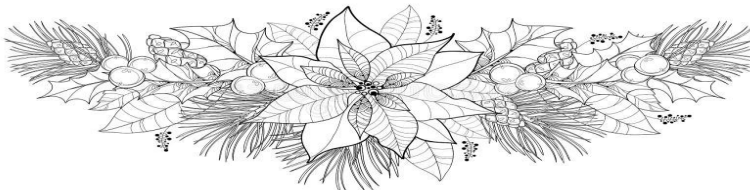
In memory of John Roushey, Marge Roushey, and Steve Roushey from Jack and Cathy Roushey.

In memory of loved ones from Charlotte Rugel.

In memory of Gertrude, Louis, Marian, Sam, and Warren Smith from their family.

In memory of loved ones from Eloyce Sturgeon.

Have a beautiful Christmas from Mary Whitehead.





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

PASTOR'S FUND

Throughout the year people turn to the church in emergencies, especially during the cold months of winter. We have already begun to have requests for help. Your contributions could make the difference for a local family in need. Please make your checks out to NWPC with a memo "Pastor's Fund" and either put it in the offering plate or send it to the office. Thank you for making a difference!

MEN'S GROUP NEXT MEETING TODAY, 6:00 PM (Lounge)

The next Men's Group meeting will be on Sunday, December 15th. 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.

WATSON FAMILY INFORMATION

If you would like to send a card to the Watson family, cards may be sent to their mailing address of 202 Broadway Ave., Horsham, PA 19044. Their daughter is picking up their mail.

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Please note that next Sunday, December 22nd will be our last time for food and fellowship until the new year. We will resume our Food & Fellowship time on Sunday, January 5, 2025.

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.

	<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Net Result</u>
	<i>Member Contributions</i>	<i>Total Income</i>		
Anticipated 2024 Year End	500,000	625,526	664,339	(38,813)
YTD 2024 as of 11/30/24	429,242	548,765	602,137	(53,372)

THIS WEEK AT NESHAMINY

SUNDAY—Cantata Rehearsal 7:45 am Sanctuary
—Prayer Group 8:30 am Lounge
—Cantata Worship Service 9 am Sanctuary
—Food & Fellowship 10:15 am Auditorium
—Deacons Meeting 10:30 am Lounge
—Youth Group 6 pm Youth Room
—Men’s Group 6 pm Lounge

MONDAY—Session Meeting 7 pm Lounge

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

THURSDAY— **NO** Choir Rehearsal

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

WAYS TO GIVE



ONLINE:
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

Church Staff

Rev. Mark Lyndaker-Studer, Pastor
Donna Mazeika, Director of Children & Youth
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.