



NESHAMINY-WARWICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

WELCOME

HYMN NO. 16

"The Angel Gabriel for Heaven Came"

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Brian, Jessica, Sawyer, and Sloane Conlon

Reader: When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God's plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, "Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'" (Luke 1:34) And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth,

Reader: My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.

Reader: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, and the love that transforms us. May Love grow within us, transforming us into bold witnesses of God's salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.

(Light the four outer candles of the Advent wreath)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

People: With Mary, our spirits rejoice, and we sing God's praise.

Leader: Let us honor God with our worship this fourth Sunday of Advent.

WORSHIP SONG

“My Soul Magnifies the Lord”
Good news of great joy
For every woman, every man
This will be a sign to you
A baby born in Bethlehem
Come and worship, Do not be afraid

A company of angels
Glory in the highest
And on the earth peace among
Those of whom His favor rests
Come and worship, Do not be afraid

My soul, my soul magnifies the Lord
My soul magnifies the Lord
He has done great things for me
Great things for me

Unto you a child is born
Unto us a Son is given
Let every heart prepare His throne
And every nation under Heaven
Come and worship, Do not be afraid (Chorus)

Bridge: Contemporary Worship Team

(You may be seated)

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 46:1-3

¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, ³though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

WORSHIP SONG

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

In the bleak midwinter, icy wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow on snow had fallen, snow on snow on snow
In the bleak midwinter, long and long ago.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim rising in the air;
Oh the Holy Mary, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a mothers kiss.

Heaven cannot hold Him, nor can earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall fall away when He comes to reign.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would know my part;
Yet what I can, I give Him: I must give my heart.

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.)

SPECIAL MUSIC

"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!

(Continued)

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!

CALL TO CONFESSION

The prophet Micah tells us that the “one of peace” will come from Bethlehem. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, let us confess our sins and set ourselves on Christ’s path.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Soon we will celebrate the Prince of Peace, but we are not a people at peace. We glorify violence and dismiss the pacifist as weak. We dominate and demean turning dialogue into debate. We wage war with enemies and invest in self-defense before giving non-violent strategies a chance. Lord, forgive us. Help us work towards your peaceable kingdom, where swords will be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. Amen.

(Please take a moment of silent confession)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

“And he will stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord ... And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.” In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

(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

Come, O Come, Emmanuel ... Come to bring peace to those at war with themselves, their families, their enemies. May those who govern do so with good will and justice, breaking down barriers, fostering understanding, and drawing our communities and our nations together in peace.

Come, O Come, Emmanuel ... Come to bring comfort to those in pain, those who grieve, those in need of healing and restoration. May those who suffer be assured of your extravagant grace and comforted by the hope that nothing shall separate them from your love.

Come, O Come, Emmanuel ... Come to bring compassion to those who are weak and weary, those who stumble through their days unable to recognize the beauty and meaning of life. May those who are unemployed, those who are struggling financially, those suffering under the crushing weight of debt, find your way out of no way. Grant them options, God. Grant them hope. Come, O Key of David, O Radiant Dawn, O Root of Jesse, O Emmanuel. Come to us again this Christmas. Fill the world with your grace and peace.

Time of Silence

Finally, hear us now, as we pray the prayer Christ taught us by saying together: "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

In this season of generosity, let us remember from whom all our blessings flow. Let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

OFFERTORY

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

Holy God, with Mary we seek to magnify you in our worship and in our deeds. Accept these gifts and bless them for Christ's ministry. May they lift the lowly and fill the hungry. May they reveal your glory present with us today and still yet to come. **Amen.**

(You may be seated)

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:46-55

⁴⁶ And Mary^[a] said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; ⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. ⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

"Inward or Outward?"

Pastor Mark Lyndaker-Studer

(Please stand if you are able)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from Book of Common Worship, Colossians 1:15–20)

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

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 God of justice be your path, the Lord of mercy be your guide, and the Spirit of love be your light, this day and forevermore.



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

PULPIT FLOWERS

The pulpit flowers are given to wish their “Neshaminy family” a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year from Jill and Peter; and given in honor of the love and generosity shown by NWPC members to those in need from Alma Griffith. Deacons Dottie Kieffer & Sandee Wilson will deliver the flowers.

Pulpit flowers are needed for January 5 & 12, and February 2 & 13. If you are interested in donating pulpit flowers please contact Dorothy Smith at 215-343-1142.



**CHRISTMAS EVE
WORSHIP SERVICE**
6:00 PM
(Childcare is available)

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!

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29TH

Please note that today 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.

Childcare will be available for children 8 and under. They may go to the Preschool Sunday School room with Miss Lisa and Miss Sue or there will be worship bags available if children stay in the Sanctuary for worship.

WHOLYFIT™

WholyFit is a women's ministry for mind, body and soul. We use gentle stretching and static poses to increase stability, strength and flexibility all while worshipping our Lord and Savior. All ladies, from youth to youth at heart are welcome. All body types and abilities are welcome. Even if you can only raise an arm, it would be a pleasure to worship with you. We meet every Tuesday in the Auditorium from 7:00 - 8:00 pm. Our last meeting for 2024 was Tuesday, November 26 and we take the month of December off. We will resume class on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 and will be held from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm going forward. Please contact Chelsea Rounds, certified WholyFit instructor, at Mrscrounds@gmail.com if you have any questions. Bless you and your family during this blessed season.

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

The Compassionate Friends is a support group for grieving parents and grandparents. The purpose of the group is to provide support to grieving parents through this extremely difficult time. A co leader, who has also lost a child, facilitates the meeting. The group will meet the third Wednesday of every month in the lounge from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm. For additional information please contact Jan Millin at 215-820-3506 or janmke12@gmail.com.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



Please join our lifesaving mission and schedule an appointment today!

Monday, February 3, 2025 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Coordinator Name: Patrick Van Tassel

You can sign up online at www.redcrossblood.org, enter NWP

Blood supplies are low and the need is great. If you've donated in the past - THANK YOU and we look forward to seeing you again on February 3rd. If you haven't ever given blood, PLEASE consider making this your first time. The need is continuous and the satisfaction of helping others with what truly is "the gift of life" is rewarding. If you have questions, you can contact Patrick at patrick.vantassel@gmail.com or 610-585-3701.

Be a Hero and sign up to give blood. Every donation saves three lives!

FOOD COLLECTION

The need for assistance is great and you can help! We continually collect non-perishable food items for the Coordinating Council of Health and Welfare's Warminster Food Bank. Non-perishable food items can be dropped off in the bin right inside the double-glass doors by the Sanctuary any time. This ongoing mission is coordinated by the Deacons.

There is a current need for:

Food:

- Beef Stew
- Chicken Breast (canned)
- Pancake Mix
- Syrup
- Gravy Packets
- Saltines
- Taco Shells
- Salsa
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Juice
- Peanut Butter

Non Food:

- Store Gift Cards
- Laundry Detergent Pods / or Liquid
- Household Cleaning Supplies
- Toothpaste/ Toothbrushes/ Oral Care
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- ALSO: Gently Used Grocery Size Paper Bags

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

TUESDAY—Christmas Eve Worship Service 6 pm Sanctuary
—Office Closed

WEDNESDAY—Merry Christmas!
—Office Closed

THURSDAY— NO Choir Rehearsal
—Office Closed

Friday—Office Closed

SUNDAY—Prayer Group 8:30 am Lounge
—Worship Service 9 am Sanctuary

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.