



NESHAMINY-WARWICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2024

If you are visiting with us, we welcome you. We hope you would participate with us in worship, but please do not feel compelled to take part in any aspect of worship which may make you uncomfortable. Much of our worship is call and response. The bold portions in the bulletin are where the congregation responds to the call of the speaker.

PRELUDE

(Please stand if you are able)

HYMN 41

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

OPENING WORDS

Leader: Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

People: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

HYMN 31

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST ADVENT CANDLE Keith, Chelsea & Natalee Rounds

Reader: To a people longing for hope and yearning for deliverance, the prophet Isaiah declared, The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined...For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

Reader: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, the love that transforms us, and Jesus Christ, our wondrous Light. May the Light burning in our hearts guide us, comfort us, protect us, and tend us in all seasons and circumstances, reminding us that day and night, in the light and in the darkness, God is with us. Our salvation has come! Amen.

Light all five candles of the Advent wreath.

WORSHIP SONGS

“The First Noel”

The first noel the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep

*Noel, noel, noel, noel,
Born is the king of Israel*

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to thy heavenly lord
That hath made heaven and earth of nought
And with his blood mankind has bought

Bridge: Contemporary Worship Team

“What Child Is This”

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?

Chorus:

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent word is pleading. (Chorus)

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own Him.

The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him. (Chorus)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you call us to celebrate, yet we struggle to find hope in the suffering and despair of our world. What reason is there to rejoice? We turn from each other and from you, questioning the power of love in the face of the world’s cruelty and hate. Comfort your people, sovereign God. Return us to the faith born this night. Save us from hopelessness. May the promise and possibility of every newborn child remind us of the salvation we have in Jesus Christ. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

“The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.” Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. **Amen.**

CHILDRENS’ CHOIRS

“Joy, Sing and Shout”

(Children ages 8 and under may go

to the Preschool Sunday School room with Miss Lisa & Miss Sue.)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

In gratitude for the gift of Christ our Savior, let us present our tithes and offerings to God.

OFFERTORY

Keith Rounds

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING


Emmanuel, in gratitude for the gift of your presence with and among us, we present these offerings to you. Accept and bless these gifts so that they might spread the joy of Christmas to others. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Savior God, liberate us from the sins which distort our vision and disrupt our hearing as we approach your Word. Standing firm in your love, let us open ourselves to the truth you reveal to us today. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-20

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room. ⁸Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,  praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.

¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

HOMILY

“Stands by Us”

Pastor Mark Lyndaker-Studer

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Child of 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!

HYMN 23

“Angels We Have Heard in High”

*SERVICE OF CANDLELIGHTING

(As "Silent Night" is being sung, the lights will be dimmed, and the minister will light a candle from the Christ candle. The minister will then pass the light to the ushers who will then light the candles of the first worshipper in each pew. Light will then be passed from worshiper to worshiper. Remember that the lighted candle remains upright, and the unlighted candle is tipped to the light. Before leaving the pew, worshipers are requested to extinguish their candles and place them in the container in the narthex after exiting the sanctuary.)

*HYMN:

"Silent Night"

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born."

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

***PRAYER OF SUPPLICATION** (*In unison*)

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***HYMN OF AFFIRMATION** "Joy to the World"

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns:
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

CHARGE

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; That Jesus Christ is born!

BLESSING

May God bless you, keep you, and encourage you this Sunday and forevermore.
Amen.

POSTLUDE

Dear Friends,

As another year draws to a close, we wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge how blessed we feel to be part of this family of faith known as Neshaminy-Warwick. Our thanks to all of you who have contributed so generously of your time, talent, and treasure during the past twelve months.

Special thanks for your kind expressions of love and friendship to staff members by way of cards, notes, and gifts during this holiday season.

May God bless you and your loved ones with comfort, joy, and peace this Christmas and throughout the coming year.

Peace in Christ,

Mark Lyndaker-Studer

Donna Mazeika

Cheryl Overton

Keith Rounds

Marianne Tierney

Suzanne Zak Carver

