

CANTATA SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

*Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 19, 2021
10:00 AM*

PRELUDE

Christmas Overture

JOSEPH M. MARTIN

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEC 24th — Christmas Eve

7 PM Family-Friendly Candlelight Service

DEC 26th — Casual Christmas Sunday

Wear Your Favorite Ugly Christmas Sweater, Socks or Shirt

10 AM Service of Lessons and Carols (NO CLGs)

CALL TO WORSHIP

While We Are Waiting, Come

WAITING

**While we are waiting, come; While we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, While we are waiting, come.**

**With power and glory, come; With power and glory, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, With power and glory, come.**

**Come, Savior, quickly come. Come, Savior, quickly come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, While we are waiting, come.**

**While we are waiting, come; While we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, While we are waiting, come.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

(The Kauermann Family)

READERS: *Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer. We light this candle in hope. We light this candle for peace. We light this candle in joy! We light this candle with love. Hear again the Word of the Lord drawn from Zephaniah 3:17, "The LORD your God... will rejoice over you with gladness; God will quiet you with divine love like a child upon the breast. The Lord will exult over you with loud singing."*

Let Us Pray...

**ALL: God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, and God of love,
Teach us how to love one another as reflections of your light
in the world. God of promise, God of love, into our darkness
come.**

A CHRISTMAS CANTATA

(Presented by the Choir of NPC)

Let There Be Christmas

BY JOSEPH M. MARTIN

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

SORENSEN

Christian Life Groups

Questions for December 19, 2021

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 2:1-14

Only three questions this week! As we wrap up the Advent season and finish Long and McCray's "*A Surprising God -- Advent: Devotions for An Uncertain Time*," we are reminded to love, and rejoice in God's love for us by sending his only Son to us to die for our sins. With that in mind:

1. Describe a time when you were personally blessed by "God's Affection for the Small", and how it surprised you.
2. If we are loved so much by God, why does God work in "Slow Miracles" instead of making everything right, right now?
3. Finally (and this is probably the 800 lb gorilla of a question), Long and McCray essentially argue that as loving Christians, we should be emulating Jesus' knocking down the barrier between Jew and Gentile and not erecting walls in our lives. And yet, we often believe that there are appropriate barriers to erect, such as prison walls or border fences. How do we justify those beliefs when we are called to knock down those walls?

MINUTE FOR MISSIONS:

Bethany Christian Services

Some of our NPC Mission envelope/online offerings have been designated to support Bethany Christian Services. They are a nonprofit that demonstrates the love and compassion of Jesus Christ by protecting children, empowering youth, and strengthening families through quality social services. At Bethany, they believe that family changes everything. They also know that the children and families they serve have experienced brokenness and pain and seek to offer the hope and healing of Jesus and trauma informed counseling.

Bethany also believes that healthy individuals and families are important for strong communities. Dedicated Christian counselors provide support through topics such as grief and loss, anxiety and depression, marital and relationship difficulties, eating disorders, adoption issues, infertility and pregnancy loss, stress and anger management, childhood trauma and abuse, neglect, and post-pandemic life challenges. Master's level and licensed clinicians, with proven outcomes in their area of expertise, are available. Full and partial Scholarships are available to individuals and families. Visit their website for more information: www.bethany.org/get-help/families/family-counseling-services

“Ways to Help Bethany Christian Services” – Praise God in your prayers and ask him to be a refuge and an ever-present help in times of trouble for those in need of the counseling services at Bethany Christian Services. Another way to help Bethany is to be praying that qualified Christian therapists will be revealed and hired. The increased need is apparent - counseling requests are up 50% from last year.

“I rejoice in the Lord...I will be glad and exult in you, I will sing praise to your name, O Most High,” (Psalm 104:34; 9:2).

White Gift 2021

We have been made aware of a local Bucks County family that is in need of our care. The family has been designated as our White Gift recipient. Thank you for the outpouring of love this Congregation has for meeting need as people face raising their families during the pandemic. We continue to provide a beacon of light in the community during difficult time; sharing the resources we have been so richly blessed with. We are thankful for the community of believers at Northampton Presbyterian Church that have a rich tradition of helping those less fortunate.

Please place your donations in a plain, white envelope labeled “White Gift” and place it in the offering plate or send it to the church office. May the Christmas season bring hope to your heart, grace to your spirit and peace to your life. Merry Christmas from the Mission Committee!

WORSHIP NOTES:

Authorization to livestream this cantata has been given by Hal Leonard-Milwin Music Corporation per the following:

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