

# COMMUNION SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

*Second Sunday of Advent*

*December 4, 2022*

*10:00 AM*

# **PRELUDE**

*The First Nowell*

Hughes

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Please join us following this morning's worship service for the Hanging of the Greens.
- ADVENT "Bible Study for Everyone," Monday (12/4) at 11 AM.
- Women's "Digging Deeper" Study, Wednesday (12/7) at 4 PM.
- Sharing Session "Cooking with Jes & Andy", next Sunday (12/11) following the worship service, please RSVP - [npchurch@comcast.net](mailto:npchurch@comcast.net).



## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROJECT:

This year NPC will be providing Christmas gifts for 20 children in foster care through the local Christian Organization Bethanna. If you would like to help, please select an ornament from our Christmas tree in the narthex with the age and gender of a particular child. Children up to 4 can receive a gift of donor's choice, children

5-11 can receive a gift from their wish list, and children 11 and up will receive a gift card from Target or Walmart. Bethanna is requesting gifts worth about \$30, if possible. Gifts should be unwrapped, and placed in a gift bag with a Christmas message. Gifts must be returned no later than **December 11th**.

Thanks for your continuing generosity, NPC!



## SHARING SESSION: “Cooking with Jes & Andy”

Sunday, December 11th at 11:30 AM

*Fellowship Hall / Kitchen*

Jes and Andy love to eat well and love to cook to eat well! Just in time for the holidays —come join Jes and Andy as they demonstrate how they make slow roasted rack of lamb with mint herb sauce. Paprika potatoes will be the side dish. Those in attendance will receive a taste of each (note - not a full lunch).

**\*\* Please RSVP** to Jessica Stehr or Andrew Chen

(or to the church office at [npchurch@comcast.net](mailto:npchurch@comcast.net) / 215-357-8282)

to help them know how much food to prepare.

Participants only need to bring their curiosity. There is no charge for this event.

# RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We come to prepare the way, the way for Christ –

**MANY: The hope of Christ, the peace of Christ – to enter our world,  
to enter our hearts.**

ONE: We cry out together in the wilderness:

**MANY: The kingdom of heaven has come near.**

ONE: We come to be part of the light –

**MANY: The light that shines in the darkness.**

# LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

*(Florence Houseman & Gloria Kampf)*

Reader 1: Because of war, because of violence in our communities, because there is still so much unrest in our hearts, we light a candle of hope...

Reader 2: Because hatred is still so strong, because so many swords have not yet been remade into ploughshares, we light a candle of peace...

Reader 1: May the light from this candle overwhelm the world.

Reader 2: May the light from this candle say to all that God's peace is coming, on earth as it already is in heaven.

Reader 1: Friends, be not afraid, God's peace is at hand!

# **HYMN**

*While We Are Waiting, Come*

*WAITING (CASON)*

**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,  
While we are waiting, come.**

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

# UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

How many times, Lord Jesus, have you come to us unwelcomed? How often have you visited yet we have been too busy to notice, spoken yet we have been too full of ourselves. Change all our insensitive habits and help us to do better during this Advent. Make us so sensitive to your immediate comings in the ups and downs of each ordinary day that we shall be well prepared to welcome your Final Coming as a consummation of love and joy. For your love's sake. Amen!

*(We pause for a moment of silent, personal confession.)*

# **RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The good news of Advent is Christ's love and forgiveness. Thanks be to Christ who sets us free to love and to serve! **AMEN!**

# HYMN

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

*GLORY TO GOD*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,**

**And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,**

**And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

# PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 11:1-10*

## READER'S THEATER AND CHORAL READING

*Matthew 3:1-12 (John the Baptist)*

PASTOR JUDY: In those days John the Baptist came

**ALL: Preaching in the wilderness of Judea.**

JOHN: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

PASTOR JUDY: Isaiah prophesied about him

**ALL: A voice of one calling in the wilderness**

JOHN: Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.

PASTOR JUDY: John's clothes were made of camel's hair

**ALL: He had a leather belt around his waist.**

JOHN: My food was locusts and wild honey.

PASTOR JUDY: People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan.

**ALL: Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.**

JOHN: Produce fruit in keeping with repentance!

**ALL: Why? We have Abraham as our father.**

JOHN: Out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.

PASTOR JUDY: Every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

JOHN: I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry.

**ALL: He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**

## **SERMON**

*The Rabble Rouser*

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

# HYMN

*When John the Baptist Preached*

*VENITE ADOREMUS*

**When John the Baptist preached for all to hear,  
He said, "Repent! The kingdom has come near!"  
His rough, prophetic manner caused surprise,  
But people heard his words and were baptized.  
Prepare the Lord's own way! Make his paths straight!  
It's time to change! We can no longer wait!**

**Among the crowds that day were mighty men  
Who proudly traced their line to Abraham.  
But John proclaimed that they should change their ways —  
For trees that don't bear fruit are set ablaze.  
Prepare the Lord's own way! Make his paths straight!  
It's time to change! We can no longer wait!**

**O God, we harm creation by our greed;  
We overlook our neighbors in their need.  
We let our lives be ruled by hate and fear;  
Your call to change is one we need to hear:  
Prepare the Lord's own way! Make his paths straight!  
It's time to change! We can no longer wait!**

**And Lord, you call for change in your church, too,  
For even here we've wandered far from you.  
Renew in us a vision of your Way,  
And give us strength and courage to obey.  
Prepare the Lord's own way! Make his paths straight!  
It's time to change! We can no longer wait!**

## **OFFERING SENTENCE**

*(Scan the QR Code to give online →)*



## **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

*Genevan*

# **SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

*Invitation to the Table and the Words of Institution*

*Sharing of Bread and Wine*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and the 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, for ever and ever. Amen**

# HYMN

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

*BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN*

**Prepare the way, O Zion,  
Your Christ is drawing near!  
Let every hill and valley  
A level way appear.  
Greet One who comes in glory,  
Foretold in sacred story.  
O blest is Christ who came  
In God's most holy name.**

**He brings God's rule, O Zion;  
He comes from heaven above.  
His rule is peace and freedom,  
And justice, truth, and love.  
Lift high your praise resounding,  
For grace and joy abounding.  
O blest is Christ who came  
In God's most holy name.**

**Fling wide your gates, O Zion;  
Your Savior's rule embrace,  
And tidings of salvation  
Proclaim in every place.  
All lands will bow rejoicing,  
Their adoration voicing.  
O blest is Christ who came  
In God's most holy name.**

# RESPONSIVE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

ONE: Can you be a voice crying in the wilderness? Can you proclaim that God is active in the world?

**MANY: Maybe?**

ONE: The time is near, of the crowning of the year.

**MANY: We sing with angels, setting the roadways and the buildings humming.**

ONE: As people who are being changed, we go into a world that is being changed.

**MANY: Ready to share the Good News that the long expected Jesus is coming, that we are being freed from whatever binds us.**

ONE: Glory be to God!

MANY: Who walks with us, sings with us, and struggles with us, each and every day. Amen.

## **POSTLUDE**

*Festive Piece*

Eliot

## WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Call to Worship** is written by Joanna Harader, and posted on Spacious Faith. <http://spaciousfaith.com>

The **Advent Candle Lighting Prayer** is posted on SALT and used with permission.

The **Prayer of Confession** is posted on the Ministry Matters website.

The **Prayer of Illumination** is found in *From Valleys to Mountains, Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Advent* and was written by the Rev. Penny L. Lowes. Posted on the Worship Ways website of the United Church of Christ.

Our **Reader's Theater** for today is written by Kathy Applebee and posted on her Fools for Christ website at [www.foolsforchrist.net](http://www.foolsforchrist.net).

The **Invitation to Communion** is from Richard Bott's "Communion Liturgy for Advent." Posted on the Liturgy Alive website. [http://www.bibleclaret.org/liturgy/CycleA/june05/26\\_hugh.htm](http://www.bibleclaret.org/liturgy/CycleA/june05/26_hugh.htm)

The **Prayer of Thanksgiving** is written by John Birch, and posted on Faith and Worship. <http://www.faithandworship.com>

The **Charge and Benediction** is posted by Rev Gord on his blog, Worship Offerings. <http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca>

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