

WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

Northampton Presbyterian Church

December 01, 2024

First Sunday in Advent

Commitment Sunday

10:00 AM



PRELUDE

Advent is Here

Trish Conover, Music Director
Lasky

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mission Team meeting. Wednesday, 12/4, 10 am.
- Bible Study for Everyone, Wednesday, 12/2 at 1 pm.
- Project Regeneration Team meeting with Rose Niles, Wednesday, 12/4, 7 pm (Zoom)
- Hanging of the Greens following worship, Sunday, 12/8.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: A voice cries, “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord;
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

**MANY: We are preparing our hearts for the God of hope to come
into the world.**

ONE: God’s love flows into our lives through the gift of the Christ child.

MANY: The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with hope.

ONE: God calls us out of the exile of sin with the good news of restoration. God has built a highway through the wilderness; Immanuel has come into our lives, and we know that God has the power to keep God’s promises

**MANY: God calls us to strengthen our faith and prepare our hearts to glorify
God. We are hopeful people waiting for the return of our God.**

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: THE CANDLE OF HOPE

Reader 1: God's Old Testament story looks forward to the coming Messiah. Many times God's people lost hope, but God was faithful to his promises. Luke records the blossoming of hope through the promised birth of a child to a couple who had long since abandoned all hope of children.

Reader 2: When Zechariah was fulfilling his duties in the temple, an angel appeared to him, and he was very afraid.

Reader1: The angel promised Zechariah and Elizabeth, who were already very old, that they would have a son, whose job would be to prepare the way for the Messiah. "He will make ready a people for the Lord." (Luke 1:17)

Reader 2: After Zechariah expressed doubt, the angel responded, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news.” (Luke 1:19) Just like Abraham and Sarah had to trust in God’s promise for a son, Zechariah and Elizabeth had to hope against all hope. We also are called to put our hope in our promise filling God.

ALL: Lord, fill us with hope as we worship today.

Readers: We light this candle in hope, trusting in God’s promises. We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

HYMN# 137

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

VENI EMMANUEL

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain:

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show;
and teach us in her ways to go.**

**Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.**

**Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.**

**Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**It is never easy for us to confess our sins, Waiting God.
There are the hurts we have caused to our families and friends
that we would like to forget.
There are those we believe are impossible to love,
and so we don't try.
There are people who live on the edge of our society,
and we ignore their cries for help.**

**Forgive us, God who comes near to us.
When we have lost our way, show us yours.
Lead us in humility down the streets of your kingdom.
Teach us your truth,
so we might be able to keep your Word,
revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.**

We pause for a moment of silent personal confession

RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: God does not remember our sins,
but does remember the promises which have been made to us.
God does not shame us but lifts us to new life.

**MANY Lead us in your hope, O God, and teach us your love.
You are the God of our days,
we wait for you to come to us. Amen.**

HYMN #582:

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.**

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.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

ONE: Holy One, healer of the world,

MANY: shed your light upon this world.

ONE: Holy One, healer of brokenness,

MANY: make us bold to share your light with others.

ONE: Through your word, lead us to wholeness

**MANY: and make us shine with your light of healing love.
Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 21:25-36

SERMON

What Are We Waiting For?

Rev. Judith A Dwyer

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Dana Winslow

OFFERING AND PRESENTATION OF OUR PLEDGES FOR 2024

Today we dedicate our pledges for the coming year. You are invited to come forward and place your pledge card and today's offering in the basket provided.

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

2 Corinthians 9:7

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION

Loving God,
we come to you in thanksgiving,
knowing that all we are and all we have is a gift from you.
In faith and love, help us to do your will. We are listening, Lord God.
Speak your words into the depths of our souls, that we may hear
you clearly.

**We offer to you this day all the facets of our lives,
whether it be at home, at work, or at school –
to be patient, to be merciful, to be generous, to be holy.**

Give us the wisdom and insight to understand your will for us
and the fervor to carry out our good intentions.

**We offer our gifts of time, talent and possessions to you
as a true act of faith, to reflect our love for you and our neighbor.
Help us to reach out to others as you, our God, have reached out to
us. Amen.**

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Waiting for Bethlehem's Light

Dale Peterson

COMMUNION

**INVITATION: Hymn #92, verse 1 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.**

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

ADVENT PRAYER OF HOPE

HYMN #105

People, Look East

BESANCON

**Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee,
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

**Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee,
Filled with messages from Thee.**

**Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose,
Every power as Thou shalt choose.**

**Take my will, and make it Thine;
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart; it is Thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne.**

**Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee,
Ever, only, all for Thee.**

•CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Go now and let the Lord steer you in the way of truth.
Be on your guard so that you will not be caught up
in the trivialities and anxieties of the world.
Be alert at all times and pray for strength
to escape the traps that would keep you from God.

And may God make you increase in love for one another;
May Christ Jesus teach you how to live in God's ways;
and may the Holy Spirit strengthen your hearts in holiness,
as you ready yourselves for the coming of the Lord.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
.In the name of Christ. Amen.

•POSTLUDE

Postlude in G

Lasky

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Worship Notes:

The **Advent Candle Liturgy** is written by Rev. Kyle Haack, pastor of Wheaton Reformed Church, Wheaton, IL. Published for use in Reformed Worship, September 2024, Number 153, 41-48.

The **Prayer of Confession** is written by Thom Shuman, and posted on Lectionary Liturgies. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>

The **Prayer of Illumination** is adapted from a prayer found in *Daily Prayer for All Seasons*, posted online at The Deacon's Bench. <http://deaconsbench.wordpress.com/files-and-forms/>

The **Prayer of Commitment and Dedication** is posted on the Generous Giving website. [www.generousgiving](http://www.generousgiving.com)

The **Advent Prayer** is adapted from a prayer found in *Advent Daily Prayers*, posted on http://www.cb-c.org/Advent_office.pdf and a prayer from weekly Advent reflections by Mark Pierson. <http://adventinart.org/>

The **Charge and Benediction** are written by Nathan Nettleton. Copyright © 2000 Nathan Nettleton www.laughingbird.net

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