

# **WORSHIP SERVICE**

*Northampton Presbyterian Church*

*First Sunday of Advent*

*November 27, 2022*

*10:00 AM*

# **PRELUDE**

*Meditation on Advent*

arr. Marilyn Ham

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- ADVENT “Bible Study for Everyone,” Monday (11/28) at 11 AM.
- Hanging of the Greens, next Sunday (12/4) following the worship service.



## 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: The day is near.

**MANY: And so we wait.**

ONE: We wait with hope,

**MANY: for the brokenhearted to be healed,**

ONE: for the downtrodden to be lifted up.

**MANY: We wait for the coming of the Christ child.**

ONE: In this meantime, we will sing into the silence.

**MANY: We will light a candle against the darkness.**

# LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

*(Helen Mercer & Kathy Hurwitz)*

Reader 1: When I look around, I see shadows of hunger. So many neighbors, nearby and around the world, will go to bed hungry tonight...

Reader 2: When I look around, I see shadows of injustice, the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer — and someone somewhere will fall asleep under a bridge tonight...

Reader 1: In the face of hunger, we light a candle of hope...

Reader 2: In the face of injustice, in the face of despair, we light a candle of hope...

*(Light the first candle in the Advent wreath.)*

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 hope is coming, on earth as it already is in heaven.

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

## HYMN

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

*(vss. 1, 2, 6, 7)*

*VENI EMMANUEL*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
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.  
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.  
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.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

# RESPONSIVE 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 2:1-5*

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

*Matthew 24:36-44*

**SERMON**

*Straw in the Wind*

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

# HYMN

*Here's a Promise We Can Count On*

*W ZLOBIE LEZY*

**Here's a promise we can count on!**

**It's the word Isaiah saw:**

**One day coming, God's own mountain**

**Will be highest of them all.**

**All the nations will be yearning**

**For God's teaching, and returning,**

**They'll find guidance in God's law.**

**On that day of celebration,  
All will listen to the Lord.  
God will judge between the nations  
Till all justice is restored.  
Out of weapons made for harming  
They will fashion tools for farming  
And they'll put aside the sword.**

**One great day, the prophet told us,  
God will triumph! It is true.  
Lord, we trust this word of promise  
As we hear your word anew.  
When we're lost among the mountains  
Of the world's ways that confound us,  
Show the path that leads to you.**



# OFFERING SENTENCE

*(Scan the QR Code to give online →)*



# OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

*Genevan*

# DOXOLOGY

*OLD HUNDREDTH*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

# PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## RESPONSIVE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER:

ONE: Silently and gently, falling and failing changing and resting, seeking you, Lord...

**MANY: We watch, we wait, we dream, we pray...**

ONE: for the earth to renew; for our hearts to soften; for your grace to cover us; for your justice to pour out; for time and space to listen; for courage to act. On the edge of Advent,

**MANY: We sit with you... we pause... we hurt... we repent... we rage...**

ONE: When will it be? Will it ever be? Come quickly, Lord Jesus.

*(The pastor lifts our joys and concerns to God...)*

**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

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus**

**Born to set thy people free;**

**From our fears and sins release us;**

**Let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,**

**Hope of all the earth thou art;**

**Dear desire of every nation,**

**Joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all sufficient merit,  
Raise us to thy glorious throne.**



# RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

ONE: Go out in love, reconciled to one another in Christ. Lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Live honorably, fulfilling the law through love for all. And may God mark you out for salvation; May Christ Jesus be present among you always, And may the Holy Spirit reconcile you to one another and fulfil the law of love among you.

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

# POSTLUDE

*How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*

Buxtehude

## 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 use with permission. Advent Candle Lighting Litanies ([saltproject.org](http://saltproject.org))

The **Prayer for Illumination** is posted on the Jonny Baker Blog.

<http://jonnybaker.blogs.com/jonnybaker/2012/07/wake-up.html>

The **Prayers for the People** are adapted from a prayer written by Rev. Deborah Vaughn, who blogs at An Unfinished Symphony. This prayer was posted on RevGalBlogPals.

<https://revgalblogpals.org/2017/12/01/friday-prayer-on-the-edge-of-advent>

The **Charge and Benediction** are written by Nathan Nettleton LaughingBird.net Copyright © 2002.

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