

Joy

LET ALL WHO TAKE REFUGE
IN YOU BE GLAD;
LET THEM EVER SING FOR JOY.

PSALM 5:11 (NIV)



Welcome to New Castle Presbyterian Church!

Whether you are worshiping with us in-person or joining via livestream, we gather today as a community of faith, seeking and serving the God we know in Jesus Christ. May this worship service remind you that you are God's own and that together we are called to live out God's way of love, justice and peace.

For folks joining us for in-person worship,

A little help - Please see an usher to receive any assistance, including a personal seat cushion.

Restrooms are located in the Education Building, at the far end of the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday School and Nursery will be offered today. Children are invited to begin in worship; worship bags are available at the entrance. Following the Scripture Conversation, babies through four-year-olds may go to nursery; children age Kindergarten through 5th grade may go to Sunday School. All children must have an information form on file. Please see an usher for a copy of the form or if you have any questions. If your family needs to step out of the Meeting House for a time, there is a livestream feed and "pray ground" in the Fellowship Hall.

At the end of worship, please join us for Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall.

Worship "code": * = please stand if able **bold** = all speak together

Gentle Reminders:

Please turn off all cell phones.

Parking spaces on 2nd Street in front of the Meeting House are for handicapped parking only.

Please put your bulletins in the blue recycle can at the door as you leave – we recycle!

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Pastor Miriam's day of rest is on Mondays.

**New Castle Presbyterian Church
Third Sunday of Advent**

December 10, 2023

10:30 a.m.

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Bell Prelude Impressions on an Advent Carol Susan Ullom-Berns

**Welcome & Words about The Life and Work of the Church
Greeting of Peace**

As Jesus greeted his disciples, so let us greet one another:
The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

*Please wave at your neighbors and extend Christ's greeting,
"Peace be with you".*

**Steeple Bell
Choral Introit**

Call to Worship

Sunday School & Nursery

God's light of hope shines!

Alleluia! Joy to every heart!

Lighting of the hope candle; children sing Raise a Song of Gladness

God's light of peace shines!

Alleluia! Joy to every heart!

Lighting of the peace candle; children sing Raise a Song of Gladness

God's light of joy shines!

Alleluia! Joy to every heart!

Lighting of the joy candle; everyone sings Raise a Song of Gladness

Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.

Christ will come, bringing peace, joy to every heart.

Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!

Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!

***Hymn #107**

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - man - u -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when all the
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night. Though dark the



her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for soon he is
el comes a - sing - ing; his hum - ble song is qui - et and
world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so qui - et and
win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall crown you with



born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing. Come as a ba - by
near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing; mu - sic to heal the
free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing. Then shall the mute break
light; be strong and lov - ing and fear - less. Love be our song and



weak and poor, to bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens
bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing - kind - ness. The thun - der
forth in song, the lame shall leap in won - der, the weak be
love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill



wide the heaven - ly door and lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
of his an - thems rolls to shat - ter all ha - tred and vio - lence.
raised a - bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
ev - ery day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

After attending a carol concert, the author and composer of this hymn was moved to create a contemporary, accessible carol that drew on the familiar images in a new way. There are echoes here of passages such as Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 7:14/Matthew 1:23, Isaiah 35:5-6, Isaiah 2:4.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God-with-us in light and darkness, you created a world with abundant sources of joy, but we have not always received your good gifts. We turn to cheap thrills which fade away quickly. We use our planet's resources for convenience and selfish entertainment, even when the damage is lasting. We desire cheap technology and low-priced pleasures that harm our neighbors and deny them of justice. And in our pursuit of quick and easy joy, we judge the joy of others.

Forgive us, God. Help us find deep, lasting joy that sustains your creation. Help us begin again today... *(Time for silent prayer.)*

Assurance of Pardon

Let us proclaim the Good News together:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

*Response #582

**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. (sing 3x)

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

Copyright Paul M. Vasile, used by permission

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Anthem

Light A Candle For Peace by Ruth Elaine Schram

Sarah McCann – Soloist / Carolyn Hendrix – Cello / Bethany Faiz – Piano

Light a candle for peace; peace to a world lost in night, waiting, hoping, searching for the light. Say a prayer for peace, and believe that God will provide. He will touch each of us with the light. Light a candle for peace. Dona nobis pacem. Grant us peace. In this prayer for peace lives the faith that peace will begin. May it start in my own heart, as I let Him in. Let His peace come in. Light a candle for peace. Peace.

Scripture Conversation with Children

Prayer for Illumination

Emmanuel, God-with-us in light and darkness, you meet us wherever we gather. Shepherding in fields, connecting online, meeting in buildings, your Spirit finds us, enlivens us, and sustains us. Call our attention to your good news of great joy and open our hearts to discover how we live as co-messengers of your joy. Amen.

Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:1-14

Page: NT 58

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And 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. ⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And 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!”

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Overwhelming Light

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

*Hymn #92

While We Are Waiting, Come

1 While we are wait - ing, come;
2 With power and glo - ry, come;
3 Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come;

while we are wait - ing, come.
with power and glo - ry, come.
come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,

while we are wait - ing, come.

This simple and meditative Advent hymn is so uncomplicated in both text and tune that it can be learned quickly and sung without reference to a book, which might make it effective as a prayer response. It would also lend itself to improvised stanzas on appropriate occasions.

Offerings of Tithes and Gifts

Bell Offertory Go Tell it on the Mountain arr by Brian Middleton

***Response #607**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore.

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Emmanuel, during the bright blessed day and the dark sacred night, we sing your praises because your story is still unfolding. The same good news that inspired shepherds to run to Bethlehem continues to animate your people today. May these gifts of your abundance be a part of your work of love and justice, that your will would be done here on earth. Glory to you, O God! Amen.

Prayers of the People

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, forever. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn #100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



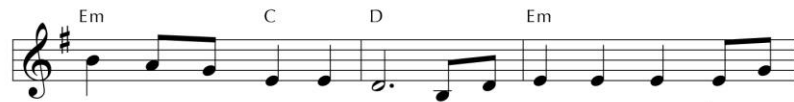
God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

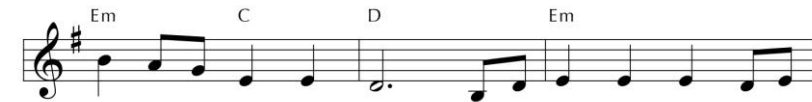


name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

***Charge and Benediction**
Choral Benediction

Steeple Bell
Congregational Meeting
Postlude

What Child is This? arr. Eric L. Carlson
Carolyn Hendrix – Cello / Bethany Faiz - Piano

Please remain seated through the Postlude.
As you exit, you may recycle your bulletin in the basket at the door.

Thank you for serving today:

Worship Leader: Scott Matthews Counters: Melissa Boris/Barbara Whisman
Ushers: Lindy & Sandy Ballance Coffee Hour: Chris Fagles & Connie Reese
Nursery: Jane Fouracre/Molly Shaw Sunday School: Laura Sparrow-Hood/Stephanie Foltz

Today we remember in the Special Gifts Memorial Case:

Donald M. Warren, Jr.
1951-1977

Marcia Quillen
1938-2015



COOKIE DECORATING FOR EMMANUEL DINING ROOM

Thank you to all our cookie decorators last Sunday! Check out pictures of NCPC's creativity in the CE Building entryway display.



SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS - MANY THANKS

Thank you to all the folks who made soup, baked, welcomed, cheered on, sang, rang, and volunteered at yesterday's event in support of Friendship House! We rejoice that this day brought joy to all our visitors and will bring joy to our neighbors at Friendship House.

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - TODAY

The Session has called a Special Congregational Meeting today, for the purpose of reviewing the 2024 Budget as approved by Session at their December meeting and to vote on the pastor's terms of call for next year. The meeting will begin at the conclusion of worship; copies of the docket and budget are available in the narthex.

CHRISTMAS EVE POINSETTIAS

For our Christmas Eve service, the Meeting House will be decorated with poinsettias. Donate a poinsettia for \$15 in memory or in honor of a loved one by returning the order form to the Church Office by **Monday, Dec. 11.**



ADVENT DEVOTIONAL + BOOK STUDY WITH THE PASTOR

Our Advent devotionals – *In Light and Darkness* – come in both adult booklet and family packet form (complete with shadow box storytelling supplies!) Pick up your copy in the CE Building entryway now.

During Advent, to accompany our devotional, we'll be reading Barbara Brown Taylor's *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, and gather for a discussion on Thursday, Dec. 14 from 2-4 p.m. at Connie Reese's house. Please RSVP to Connie or Conchita Showell by December 10.

SPECIAL SEASONAL SERVICES

We'll gather for our Longest Night Service on Wednesday, December 20 at 7 p.m. Our Christmas Eve services (on a Sunday!) will be a 10:30 Family Service and a 7 p.m. Traditional Service.

CAROLING IN NEW CASTLE

Join us on Friday, December 22nd at 7pm for caroling around Old New Castle; we'll begin to walk from the CE Building. We'll provide sheet music, but please bring a flashlight. Christmas lights and other festive attire is encouraged! Come back to the Mayhews home for refreshments at around 8:00pm. You are welcome to come even if you don't participate in the caroling!



SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER ON A SUNDAY MORNING

We are in need of ushers and worship leaders. Please sign up today:

<https://www.newcastlepreschurh.org/on-line-signups> We're also in need of volunteers for First Sunday coffee hours, including January 7. Sign up is in the Fellowship Hall.

YOUNG-ISH WOMEN'S GATHERING – JANUARY 7


Our fellowship group for women between the ages of ~25 and 50 will gather next on January 7 after coffee hour. Let Pastor Miriam know if you're able to attend or would like to be included on the list for future gatherings.

Childcare can be available; RSVP to Pastor Miriam for more information.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

NCPC will offer a six-week grief support group this winter. Beginning on Tuesday, January 9 and running through February 13, gather in the library at 2 p.m. with Minerva Lermond and Toni Marley to discuss *Your Particular Grief* (Oates). Some copies will be available for purchase for \$15 from the church office, or order your copy through pcusastore.com.

JANUARY 21 SPEAKER ON SUICIDE AWARENESS

 Mark your calendars for a Coffee Hour talk on January 21 by New Castle neighbor Leah Reynolds. Beyond her day job running Kennett Area Community Service, Leah is a passionate campaigner for suicide prevention, awareness, and change. Recognizing the intersectionality of suicide, we will provide information about different resources in our area. In Christ's name, we are called to remove the stigma around mental illness and addiction, encouraging compassionate support for individuals and their families. This event is co-sponsored by the Deacons and Congregational Life.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS – SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

Anyone considering joining NCPC - or- liking what they observe and wanting to learn more is encouraged to meet other newbies after Coffee Hour on January 28. Join members of the Congregational Life committee in the Fellowship Hall around 12:15 for additional lunch fare and conversation.

Prayer List:

To place a name on the confidential Prayer Chain, contact Susan Flook, 302-328-7346 suzieflook@hotmail.com

Continuing Care Homes / Hospitals:

Joan Smith

Kentmere Rehab & HC
1900 Lovering Avenue
Wilmington, DE 19806

Rod Denison

Coral Springs Healthcare Ctr.
505 Greenbank Rd.
Room D14
Wilmington, DE 19808

At Home:

Kathy Griffin-Graham

323 Oregon Avenue
New Castle, DE 19720
(302) 324-9944

Anita Johnson

Cokesbury
724 Loveville Road,
HealthCare Rm 2006
Hockessin, DE 19707

Janet Reed

106 Colesbery Drive
New Castle, DE 19720
(302) 328-6749

Mary Duncan

1323 Richard's Alley
Wilmington, DE 19806
(302) 888-0282

Linda Twyford

New Castle Nursing & Rehab
32 Buena Vista Dr,
New Castle, DE 19720
(302) 328-2580

Judy Hentkowski

128 E. 2nd Street
New Castle, DE 19720
(302) 328-8266

Robert Lindfors

202 Brylgon Ave.
New Castle, DE 19720
(302) 328-5369

David Lioi

201 Natalia Drive
New Castle, DE 19720

On Assignment with the Coast Guard:

George Spock

USCGC Scheuerman
PSC 851 P.O. Box 11620
FPO AE, 09834

On Assignment with the Air Force:

James Boyle

1150 Bole Street, Unit 54
JBPHH, HI 96860

This Week's Schedule

SUNDAY	12/10		THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
		10:30am	In-Person & Live Stream Worship
		10:50am	Sunday School
		11:30am	Annual Congregational Meeting
		11:45am	Coffee Hour
Tuesday	12/12	3:00pm	Mission & Outreach Meeting
		7:00pm	Christian Education Meeting
Wednesday	12/13	7:30pm	Choir
Thursday	12/14	2:00pm	Advent Book Study at Connie Reese's house
		7:00pm	Celebration Ringers
Saturday	12/16	8:00am	Tai Chi
SUNDAY	12/17		FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
		10:30am	In-Person & Live Stream Worship
		10:50am	Sunday School
		11:30am	Coffee Hour

All printed music & performances are covered under

OneLicense #A-720755 Used by permission

*Today's liturgy draws from Illustrated Ministry's In Light and Darkness Worship Liturgy, copyright 2022.
NCPC holds a limited license for its use this Advent season.*

New Castle Presbyterian Church

25 E. 2nd Street
New Castle, DE 19720

Phone: (302) 328-3279

Fax: (302) 328-5670

E-mail: office@newcastlepreschurch.org

Pastor E-mail: pastor@newcastlepreschurch.org

Website: www.newcastlepreschurch.org

Rev. Miriam Foltz, Pastor

Kris Krawczyk, Admin. Assistant

Eileen Larkin, Dir. of Music

Dan Knox, Treasurer

Minerva Lermond, Dir. of Handbells

Shirley Knox, Recording Secretary

Bethany Faiz, Accompanist

SESSION

2024	2025	2026
Rob Barry	Melissa Boris	Cynthia Beam
Chris Fagles	Jennifer Dunham	Peter McCurdy
Greg Fogarty	Connie Reese	Walt Sparrow-Hood
Scott Selheimer		

Session meets the 1st Tuesday of the month

DEACONS

2024	2025	2026
Susan Fogarty	Toni Marley	Lindy Ballance
Julia Spock	Janet Spring	Liz Toto
Sandy Wilson		
Miranda Matthews		

Deacons meet the 2nd Sunday of the month

TRUSTEES

2024	2025	2026
Lyn Briggs	Marshall Freund	Mary Fontinha
Gary Graham	Mike Smith	Gail Seitz
Barbara Whisman		

Trustees meet the 3rd Monday every other month (Sept/Nov/Jan/Mar/May)

