

# New Castle Presbyterian Church

25 E 2nd Street, New Castle, DE 19720

Phone: (302) 328-3279 | Email: [office@newcastlepreschurch.org](mailto:office@newcastlepreschurch.org)

[www.newcastlepreschurch.org](http://www.newcastlepreschurch.org)



New Castle Presbyterian Church ~ Built 1707 ~ New Castle, Delaware

## *Our Mission*

New Castle Presbyterian Church offers a nurturing and supportive church community where all are welcomed to join in prayer and song, study and service as all are called to demonstrate understanding, compassion, and acceptance.

By God's Spoken Word and Holy Spirit, we seek to live out the Gospel of the Risen Christ, as we grow spiritually, in strength, and with inclusiveness.

We worship God in simplicity and with clarity; we study God's Word to direct our lives; and we nurture the young and the searchers in our midst.

As a congregation and in cooperation with others, we engage in service and outreach with the local community and the world.

We work to feed, clothe, and shelter our brothers and sisters while sharing the selfless and forgiving love of Jesus Christ.

As we have been blessed, we seek to use all that we have to bless others with this good news of grace and joy.

## Welcome to New Castle Presbyterian Church!

In person and via livestream, we gather as a faith community, 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.

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

**Nametags** – We encourage everyone to use the nametags available in the Meeting House entrance during worship and coffee hour. Please return to their box in Fellowship Hall.

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

**Sunday School and Nursery will be offered today.** Children 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 5<sup>th</sup> grade may go to Sunday School. Please see an usher for a registration form or if you have any questions.

**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 are for handicapped parking only.

### Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 8:30am-12:30pm  
Pastor Miriam's day of rest is Monday.

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### Prayer List:

To place a name on the confidential Prayer Chain, contact Susan Flook, 302-328-7346 [suzieflook@hotmail.com](mailto:suzieflook@hotmail.com) or Fran Ginger, 302-994-5988 [silverfran@aol.com](mailto:silverfran@aol.com)

### *Continuing Care Homes / Hospitals:*

#### **Rod Denison**

Coral Springs Healthcare Ctr.  
505 Greenbank Rd., Room C7  
Wilmington, DE 19808  
(302) 772-5990

#### **Linda Twyford**

ACTS Country House  
4830 Kennett Pike, RG 1  
Wilmington, DE 19807  
(302) 328-2580

#### **Mary Duncan**

HarborChase of Wilmington  
2004 Shipley Road #1107  
Wilmington, DE 19803  
(302) 482-3547

### **At Home:**

#### **Kathy Griffin-Graham**

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

#### **Anita Johnson**

724 Loveville Road,  
HealthCare Rm 2006  
Hockessin, DE 19707

#### **Robert Lindfors**

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

#### **Judy Hentkowski**

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

#### **Sandy Wilson**

53 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
New Castle, DE 19720  
(302) 544-6578

#### **Gene Mayhew**

17 E 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
New Castle, DE 19720

#### **On Assignment with Coast Guard:**

**SN George Spock**  
1425 McFarland Rd. Apt. 506  
Mt. Lebanon, PA 15216

#### **On Assignment with Air Force:**

**James Boyle**  
2525 Date St. Apt. 3804  
Honolulu HI 96826

**New Castle Presbyterian Church  
4th Sunday of Easter**

May 11, 2025

10:30 a.m.

**GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

**Prelude**

**Hymn of Promise**  
Bethany Faiz - Piano

arr. John Carter

**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**

We gather here this morning as the earth revels in springtime glory.

**We hope for renewal and refreshing and newness of life.**

May this be a time of grace

**and may our thirsty souls may be filled with God's abundant love**

as we lift our hearts and voices in praise.

**Let us worship God.**

\*Hymn #673

Jesus, Light of Joy

1 Je - sus, light of joy, sur - round us; let your splen - did  
2 Now the shad - ows fall a - round us; now the eve - ning  
3 With the saints we lift our voic - es, God of pow - er,

glo - ry shine: source of ev - ery earth - ly bles - sing,  
has be - gun: still your gra - cious light is with us,  
God of might. All cre - a - tion shines with glo - ry,

heav - en's ev - er - last - ing sign. Al - le - lu - ia,  
bright - er than the morn - ing sun. Al - le - lu - ia,  
sing - ing prais - es day and night: al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, we a - dore you, light di - vine.  
al - le - lu - ia, God of glo - ry, Three - in - One.  
al - le - lu - ia, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly light.

The images of light in this text are drawn from the ancient Christian vesper hymn *Phos hilaron*, which dates from at least the 3rd century. (For other versions, see nos. 671 and 672.) That rather brief original hymn is augmented here in the third stanza by language based on the *Sanctus*.

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

Holy One, we seek respite from the exhausting chaos of this world. We confess that we are easily overwhelmed by dire news and strident warnings. In this world propelled by fear and anxiety, we far too often contribute to it with our own anger and blame. In our weariness, we are tempted to hide from your call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. Sometimes, we simply have no words. But help us trust that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, shaping our sighs into powerful prayer. Help us to remember that your love comes first and all good things flow from that inexhaustible supply. In Christ we pray. Amen.... *(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 #240

#### *Refrain:*

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Give praise to his name**

**2. Spread the good news o'er  
all the earth:**

**Jesus has died and has risen.**

*(Repeat refrain)*

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

**Anthem**

**The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want**

**Hal Hopson**

**Bethany Faiz - Piano**

*The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want; in pastures green I lie. The Lord will lead me on my path with quiet waters by. My soul will be restored again; my way the Lord will make. I'll walk the paths of blessedness, e'en for God's own name's sake. Though I may walk through death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill, for you are with me, your rod and staff me comfort still. A table full you will provide in presence of my foes; my head with oil you will anoint, my cup overflows. Your love and mercy all my days will surely follow me. In God's own house forevermore my dwelling place shall be.*

## Scripture Conversation with Children

## Prayer for Illumination

**Gracious God, may this word enter our hearts, take root, and blossom, becoming for us your living word. In Christ we pray. Amen.**

### Scripture Lesson

**Psalm 18:28-33**

**Page: OT 498**

It is you who light my lamp; the Lord, my God, lights up my darkness.

<sup>29</sup> By you I can outrun a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall.

<sup>30</sup> This God—his way is perfect; the promise of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all who take refuge in him.

<sup>31</sup> For who is God except the Lord? And who is a rock besides our God?

<sup>32</sup> The God who has girded me with strength and made my way safe.[a]

<sup>33</sup> He made my feet like the feet of a deer and set me secure on the heights.

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

### Second Scripture Lesson

**Romans 8:18-31**

**Page: NT 158**

<sup>18</sup> I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, <sup>20</sup> for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, <sup>23</sup> and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in[a] hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes[b] with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And God,[c] who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit[d] intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

<sup>28</sup> We know that all things work together[e] for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.[f] <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup> What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

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

### Sermon

***The Luminous Dark***

# GIVE THANKS TO GOD

\*Hymn #470

## There is a Longing in Our Hearts

*Refrain*

*Dm All* *Gm* *C* *F*

There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for

*B♭* *Gm7* *A* *A7*

you to re - veal your - self to us.

*Dm* *Gm* *C* *F*

There is a long-ing in our hearts for love we

*B♭* *Gm7* *A7* *Dm* (*hold last time*) *Fine*

on - ly find in you, our God.

*Leader or All*

*Dm* *Gm* *C7* *F* *B♭* *Gm*

1 For jus - tice, for free - dom, for mer - cy:  
 2 For wis - dom, for cour - age, for com - fort:  
 3 For heal - ing, for whole-ness, for new life:  
 4 Lord save us, take pit - y, Light in our

*A* *A7* *Dm* *Gm7* *C7* *F*

hear our prayer. In sor - row, in grief:  
 hear our prayer. In weak - ness, in fear:  
 hear our prayer. In sick - ness, in death:  
 dark - ness. We call you; we wait:

*B♭* *Gm7* *A* *Dm* *to Refrain*

be near; hear our prayer, O God.

The refrain that frames this sung prayer describes why we pray, and the stanzas indicate what we pray for. These requests are not for possessions but for qualities and conditions we hope for in the world around us, and they emerge from the changing circumstances of our lives.

Offerings of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

**In the Garden**

arr. Martha Mier

Bethany Faiz - Piano

**\*Response #245**

**Christ the Lord is risen today! Al-le-lu-ia!**

**All creation, join to say: Al-le-lu-ia!**

**Raise your joys and triumphs high, Al-le-lu-ia!**

**Sing, O heavens and earth reply, Al-le-lu-ia!**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Holy God, all that we have comes from you. Bless these our gifts,  
and these our lives, that they may be used to shine the light of your  
love in a grim world. In Christ we pray. 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 #230

### Joyful is the Dark

Capo 1: (C) (F) (Dm7) (G) (C)  
 D<sup>b</sup> G<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>m7 A<sup>b</sup> D<sup>b</sup>

1 Joy - ful is the dark, ho - ly, hid - den God,  
 2 Joy - ful is the dark Spir - it of the deep,  
 3 Joy - ful is the dark, shad - owed sta - ble floor;  
 4 Joy - ful is the dark cool - ness of the tomb,  
 5 Joy - ful is the dark depth of love di - vine,

(Dm) (Dm7) (Em) (Gsus) (G)  
 E<sup>b</sup>m E<sup>b</sup>m7 Fm A<sup>b</sup>sus A<sup>b</sup>

roll - ing cloud of night be - yond all nam - ing:  
 wing - ing wild - ly o'er the world's cre - a - tion,  
 an - gels flick - er, God on earth con - fess - ing,  
 wait - ing for the won - der of the morn - ing;  
 roar - ing, loom - ing thun - der - cloud of glo - ry,

(Dm) (C) (F) (Dm) (G) (C)  
 E<sup>b</sup>m D<sup>b</sup> G<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>m A<sup>b</sup> D<sup>b</sup>

maj - es - ty in dark - ness, en - er - gy of love,  
 silk - en sheen of mid - night plum - age black and bright,  
 as with ex - ul - ta - tion, Mar - y, giv - ing birth,  
 nev - er was that mid - night touched by dread and gloom:  
 ho - ly, haunt - ing beau - ty, liv - ing, lov - ing God.

(Dm) (Em7) (Dm) (Gsus) (G) (C)  
 E<sup>b</sup>m Fm7 E<sup>b</sup>m A<sup>b</sup>sus A<sup>b</sup> D<sup>b</sup>

1-4 5

Word - in - flesh, the mys - ter - y pro - claim - ing.  
 swoop - ing with the beau - ty of a ra - ven.  
 hails the in - fant cry of need and bless - ing.  
 dark - ness was the cra - dle of the dawn - ing.  
 Hal - le - lu - jah! Sing and tell the sto - ry!

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This text opens each stanza with a line inspired by the phrase "joyful darkness far beyond our seeing," which the author used in another text about the same time (see no. 760). Its numerous biblical images include Genesis 1:2, Exodus 20:18-21, 1 Kings 8:10-13, and Psalm 18:8-12.

## **\*Charge and Benediction**

### **Choral Benediction**

### **Steeple Bell**

### **Postlude**

**How Firm a Foundation** arr. Ruth Elaine Schram  
Bethany Faiz - Piano

*Please remain seated through the Postlude. As you exit, you may recycle your bulletin in the basket at the door. Join us after worship for Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall*

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### **Thank you for serving today:**

*Worship Leader:* Jane Fouracre

*Counters:* Gail Seitz/Connie Reese

*Ushers:* Toni Marley

*Fellowship Hour:* Session

*Nursery:* Lynn Smith/Teisha Fooks

*Sunday School:* Mallory Mackie/Melissa Boris

Today we remember in the Special Gifts Memorial Case:

***Marian B. Sullivan***  
***1897-1979***

***Alice M. McCallion***  
***1920 - 1998***



### *This Week's Schedule*

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>5/11</b>		<b>MOTHER'S DAY</b>
		<b>10:30am</b>	<b>In-Person &amp; Live Stream Worship</b>
		<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>
		<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Deacon's Meeting</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>5/12</b>		<b>Meals on Wheels</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>5/13</b>		<b>Meals on Wheels</b>
		<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Mission &amp; Outreach Meeting</b>
		<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Session Meeting</b>
		<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Promises of AA Meeting</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>5/14</b>		<b>Meals on Wheels</b>
		<b>3:00pm</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>
		<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Choir</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>5/15</b>		<b>Meals on Wheels</b>
		<b>9-3pm</b>	<b>VAF possibly in Meeting House for tour</b>
		<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Funeral Service</b>
			<b>– Dave Taylor at Our Lady of Fatima</b>
		<b>6:30pm</b>	<b>Christian Education Committee Mtg</b>
		<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>VBS Meeting via Zoom</b>
		<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Celebration Ringers</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>5/16</b>		<b>Meals on Wheels</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>5/17</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>Tai Chi</b>
		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Presbytery Meeting – Ocean City, MD</b>
		<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Day in Old New Castle</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>5/18</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>In-Person &amp; Live Stream Worship/Baptism</b>
		<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>All Ages Sunday School</b>
		<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Community Open Mic Night</b>

### **SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER ON A SUNDAY MORNING**

Please sign up to usher and serve as worship leader:

<https://www.newcastlepreschurch.org/on-line-signups>

### **BIBLE STUDY WITH THE PASTOR**

Gather on Wednesdays at 3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall with Pastor Miriam for a weekly Bible Study. We'll read and discuss the upcoming Sunday's Scripture passages. No need to RSVP; come and join the conversation

## **ALL-AGES SUNDAY SCHOOL – MAY 18**

Join us from 11:30 to 12:30 for our last All-Ages gathering for the school year. Over lunch, we'll learn about Praying in Color from members of our CE Committee.

## **COLLECTION FOR BAYLOR**

Mission and Outreach will be collecting gently used and/or new women's clothing for the Baylor Correctional Facility. These clothes are needed for when the women leave the facility or for colder temperatures where they need to wear layers to stay warm. You can drop off your donations to the CE Building - with the final collection date of Sunday, May 11 - Mother's Day.

## **SYMPATHY**

Dave Taylor died to this life on Friday, May 2, at the age of 78. Dave was the husband of Pat. His obituary can be found at <https://spicermullikin.com/david-mattocks-dave-taylor/> We pray for the Holy Spirit to comfort Pat, their children, and all of Dave's loved ones through these days.

## **WELCOME TO REV. TRACY KEENAN**

The Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan is the Missional Presbyterian of New Castle Presbytery. After having pastored four churches in both Pittsburgh, PA and Columbus, OH, she came to New Castle Presbytery because she was inspired by our emphasis on helping churches live courageously into their calling. As the primary staff person for the Ignite team and presbytery mission partnerships, she believes that the purpose of church is to equip people for loving the world well. She cherishes friendships among a wide variety of people from various traditions, conditions, religions, and opinions. Tracy and her husband, the Rev. Jim Mehler, have two grown daughters. She plays the piano, writes music and stories, and looks for the joy.

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**Fax: (302) 328-5670**

**Rev. Miriam Foltz, Pastor - [pastor@newcastlepreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@newcastlepreschurch.org)**

**Kris Krawczyk, Admin. Assistant - [office@newcastlepreschurch.org](mailto:office@newcastlepreschurch.org)**

**Mallory Mackie, Sunday School Coord.**

**Eileen Larkin, Dir. of Music**

**Dan Knox, Treasurer**

**Minerva Lermond, Dir. of Handbells**

**Lyn Briggs, Recording Secretary**

**Bethany Faiz, Accompanist**