

Christ

THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND MADE HIS DWELLING
AMONG US. WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY,
THE GLORY OF THE ONE AND ONLY SON,
WHO CAME FROM THE FATHER.

JOHN 1:14 (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.

Children are always welcome in worship! Worship Bags and children's bulletins are available at the back of the Meeting House. 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. Sunday School and Nursery will return January 7th.

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. She will be out of the office December 25-31.)

The NCPC Office will be closed December 25-26 and January 1-2.

ORDER OF WORSHIP CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2023

7:00 p.m.

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Of the Father's Love Begotten
Bethany Faiz - Piano

arr. Molly Ijames

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

On Christmas Night, Christmas Joy!
The Choir

Dan Forrest

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring; news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth. The King of kings to us is given, the Lord of earth and King of heaven; Heaven and earth with joy may sing all for to see the newborn King. then why should we on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad, when from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty? All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night: "Glory to God and peace to men, now and forevermore. Amen

Lighting the Christ Candle James Ryan Boyle & Mariellen Edinburg-Boyle

In our most desperate times, by day or by night, the hope of Christ may be found. **Come, hope of heaven!**

When we are overwhelmed with conflict within ourselves or out in the world, the peace of Christ may be found. **We lift up our hearts with anticipation.**

In the dark sacred night and the brightness of the noonday, God came to live among us and bring tidings of great joy.

We rejoice at the good news of a baby to be born in Bethlehem.

When all else fails, when hope seems lost, when the night seems eternal, God's love abides in Christ.

Christ, our light of love, shine into our hearts and into our world.

Children of God, where will we find Christ's love this day?

We're surprised by love in a manger, on a cross, and in an empty tomb.

By day or by night, the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love of Christ can be found. We light the Christ candle because God is present for us, in the darkness and in the light, here and now, just as we are.

(Lighting of Christ candle.)

Children of God, where will we find Christ's light this day?

The good news is here. The child has come. Emmanuel, God with us, has been born for us today!

***Hymn #143** Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

God-with-us on this long, dark night, as we approach the holy child, wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger, we are aware of our own frailty. We have been insecure about your plans like Joseph, greedy and demanding like Caesar, afraid of your presence like shepherds, envious of power like Herod, and unprepared for our neighbors like Bethlehem.

But in your abundant grace and love for us all, you sent Jesus anyway to diminish our insecurities, calm our anxieties, and call us to a better way of love and justice. You take our very humanness and create life and love around us. As we look to your Son on this long, dark night, call us to a deeper understanding of what it means to love as you love us.

(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 Hymn #110 Love Has Come, Verse 3**

Love has come and never will leave us!

Love is life everlasting and free.

Love is Jesus within and among us.

Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.

Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.

Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

Offerings of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

O Holy Night

Cappeau/Adams

Sarah McCann – Soprano

Bethany Faiz - Piano

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining, It is the night of the dear Savior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining. Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born! Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand. So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, Here came the wisemen from the Orient land. The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger; In all our trials born to be our friend; He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger; Behold your King! Before the Lowly bend! Truly He taught us to love one another, His law is love and His gospel is peace. Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother. And in his name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, Let all within us praise His holy name. Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we; His power and glory ever-more proclaim!

***Response - #155 Raise a Song of Gladness, sung twice**

Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!

Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!

***Prayer of Dedication**

Emmanuel, God-with-us, like visitors to a newborn baby, we bring our gifts to you this evening. We know new birth gives us a glimpse of heaven, and in our giving, we witness to your way of love and justice. Bless these gifts that Christ's peace would be present throughout our world, even here and even now. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

The Celebration of Light

A candle will be lit from the Christ Candle and spread among us by lighting the candle of the first person in each pew. That person will offer the light to the next. Please always dip the unlighted candle into the lighted one, as we share the light of Christ that has come into the world. As we do, let us sing:

Hymn #122 Silent Night, Holy Night

*Charge and Benediction

***Congregational Response**

**Joy to the word, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

Organ Postlude

Good Christian Men, Rejoice
Bethany Faiz - Piano

arr. Jonathan Reid

Please remain seated through the Postlude.

As you exit the 2nd Street door, you may recycle your bulletin in the basket at the door.

Participants in tonight's service:

Christ Candle Readers/Lighters: James Ryan Boyle & Mariellen Edinburg-Boyle

Worship Leader: Bruce Raker

Greeters/Ushers: The Spock Family

Pastor: Rev. Miriam Foltz

**The Beautiful Christmas Display of Flowers
In the Sanctuary are given to the Glory of God
In Loving Memory and in Honor of:**

Carol & Gene Mayhew	In Memory of Douglas L. Mayhew
The Foltz Family	In Honor of the Fabulous Folks of NCPC
Jean Norvell	In Memory of Ronald Norvell
Joan Appleby	In Memory of Bob Appleby
Dan & Shirley Knox	In Honor of the Children of NCPC In Memory of Loved Loves
Phee Price	In Memory of Phillip Imelda & Christine Price, Don, Peggy, Donald & Will Boos
Beverly Stoudt	In Memory of Jim Stoudt
The Spock Family	In Honor of Loved Ones
Rick, Chris Fagles & Family	In Memory of Our Parents, Doug, Skip, Stevie, Al and Torrie
Gail & C.J. Seitz	In Memory of Corky Viola
Rob & Julie Barry	In Memory of Loved Ones
Conchita Showell	In Hope of World Peace
Ginny Appleby	In Memory of Dick Appleby
Danny & Candy Dunson	In Honor of our Beloved Grandchildren Ryan, Avery & Shane
Pat & Dave Taylor	In Memory of Loved Ones
Connie Reese	In Memory of Don Reese
Sandy & Lindy Ballance	In Memory of Loved Ones
Susan & Jim Flook	In Memory of Our Parents & Grandparents
Scott & Amy Selheimer	In Memory of Our Parents Don, Norma & Charles
Nanette Nichol	In Memory of Jane and MaryAnn
Joanne Viola	In Memory of Corky Viola
Carolyn Briggs	In Memory of Bob Briggs
Peter & Kelly McCurdy	In Memory of Larry and Phyllis Koczak In Honor of Ian and Jane Byrd McCurdy
Monty & Ellie Gerhart	In Memory of Sharon Long