

New Castle Presbyterian Church



AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING

Go, Tell it on the Mountain

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 5th 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.

Prayer List:

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

Continuing Care Homes / Hospitals:

Linda Twyford
ACTS Country House
4830 Kennett Pike, DW15
Wilmington, DE 19807
(302) 328-2580

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

Fran Gingher
Cadia Rehab
3540 Three Little Bakers Blvd
Wilmington, DE 19808
(302) 533-2952

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 Avenue
New Castle, DE 19720
(302) 220-7161

Jo Viola
Lodge Lane Assisted Living
[1221 Lodge Ln, Studio 119](http://1221LodgeLn.Studio119)
Wilmington, DE 19809

Ringo Keka
358 Ailsa Drive
Rising Sun, MD 21911
(410) 658-7639

Carol Mayhew
17 E. 5th 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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

10:30 a.m.

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Bell Prelude

The King Shall Come

arr. Cathy Moklebust

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

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

People Who Lunch

Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing!

We journey to Bethlehem, with love in our hearts and praise on our lips.

Down in a lowly manger, the humble Christ was born,

And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

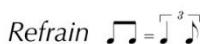
Over the hills and everywhere, **Christ's light of love shines.** (*Candle is lit.*)

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;

Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

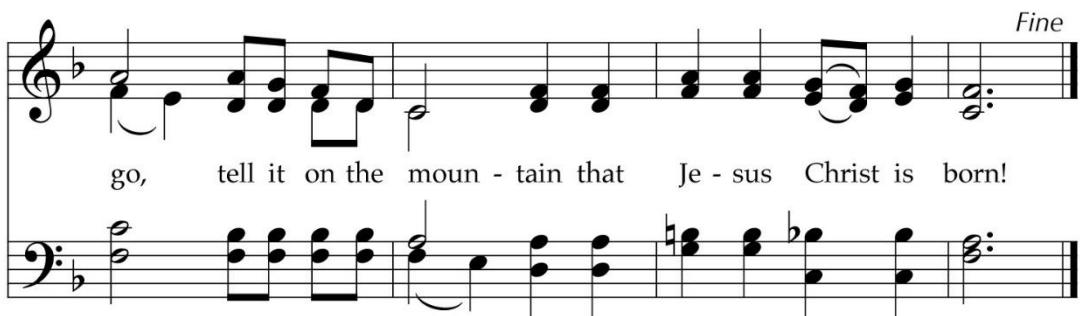
*Hymn #136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

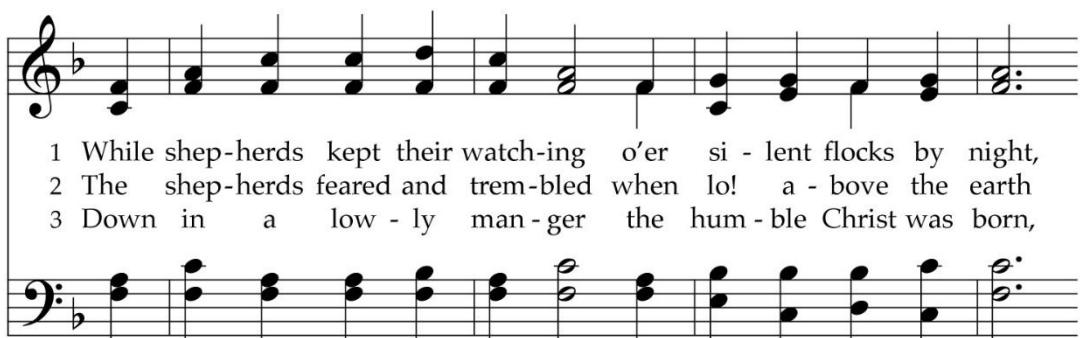
Refrain 



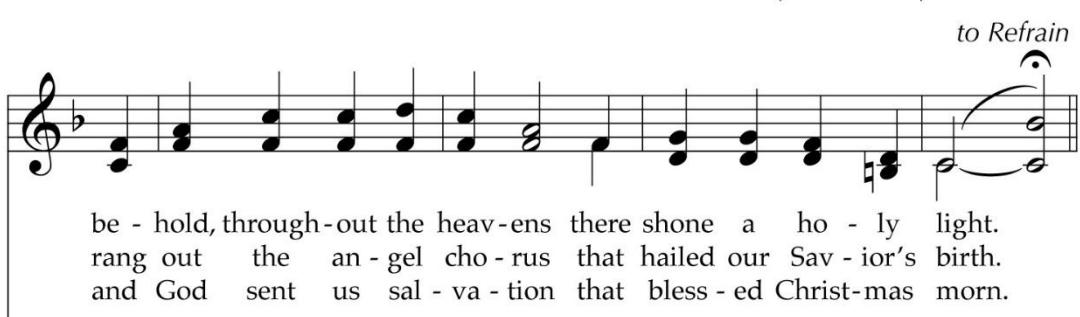
Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
 3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

TEXT: African American spiritual; stanzas, John W. Work II, 1940

MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. John W. Work III, 1940; harm. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987

Music Harm. © 1989 Melva Wilson Costen

GO TELL IT

7.6.7.6 with refrain

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Good Shepherd, we're in the last week of Advent, the final countdown of preparation and anticipation. Do we have all the gifts? No, because you are the gift we await. Are all the lights up? No, because your light of the world is still on the way. Is our home ready for visitors? Only if our home is ready for your arrival, O God. Even as we wait for you to come, we know that you are already with us, Emmanuel. Forgive our self-centered efforts and open us to your miraculous, world-changing love... (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 #134 Joy to the World, verse 1**

**Joy to the world, 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.**

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Choral Anthem

Advent Jubilate!

Larry Shackley

Bethany Faiz - Piano

What a day is coming, what a day is near, when our burdens are lifted and our hearts fill with cheer. For the time is approaching when our eyes see his face, and with joy we will greet him in his beauty and grace! Christ is coming, Jubilate! Christ is coming, Hallelujah! Sing glory to God, Jubilate Deo! Christ is coming, Jubilate! Christ is coming, Hallelujah! Sing glory to God! Glory to God! Glory to God! Jubilate Deo!

What a grand celebration, what a day there will be, when our merciful Savior in love sets us free. Every girl, every woman, every boy, every man, will be gathered together at his gracious command! Christ is coming, Jubilate! Christ is coming, Hallelujah! Sing glory to God, Jubilate Deo! Christ is coming, Jubilate! Christ is coming, Hallelujah! Sing glory to God! Glory to God! Jubilate Deo! Christ is coming! Jubilate Deo!

Scripture Conversation with Children

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, you come among us to lead us in paths of righteousness. Guide our feet to the mountains and beyond, spreading your Word so that all may live as your freed and forgiven children. Enlighten us and enliven us so that we would treasure and share the love of Christ, Savior of the world. Amen!

Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:8-15

Page: NT 58

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!” ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” *This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

Over the Hills and Everywhere

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

*Hymn #105

People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
 5 An - gels, an-nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

Peo - ple, look

a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

east and sing to - day:

Peo-ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Love, the Bird, is on the way.
 Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.)

Peo-ple, look east: (Love is on the way.)

This text was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing carol tune, here named for the city in eastern France where it originated. The author has imaginatively expressed the cosmic implications of Christ's coming by addressing each stanza to a part of creation.

Offerings of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

arr. Stan Pethel

Bethany Faiz - Piano

*Response #134 Joy to the World, verse 2

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while
fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

*Prayer of Dedication

**God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, as we journey through Advent, we
remember that your time is different from our time. We do not know the
hour or the day of your coming, but we know that we can hold fast to the
hope that you are with us even now. Bless these offerings to your work of
peace. Come, Lord Jesus, 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 #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 - them 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.

TEXT: Marty Haugen, 1983, alt.

MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1983

Text and Music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

REJOICE, REJOICE
9.8.9.8.8.7.8.9

***Charge and Benediction**

Choral Benediction

Steeple Bell

Special Congregational Meeting

Bell Postlude

Hark the Herald

arr. Lloyd Larson

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.

All printed music & performances are covered under: OneLicense #A-720755

Thank you for serving today:

Worship Leader: Nancy Kersey

Coffee Hour: Deacons

Ushers: Marshall Freund

Counters: Ray Snyder/Peter McCurdy

Nursery: Mariellen Edinburg/Julie Barry

Sunday School: Mallory Mackie/Julia Bechtel

Today we remember in the Special Gifts Memorial Case:

Richard M. Appleby
1895 - 1973

Frances Gebhart Dunlap
1920 - 2005



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Our special offerings are the single, largest way that Presbyterians join together to make a lasting impact on the world. We will collect our [Christmas Joy Offering](#) this morning.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – TODAY

At the end of worship on today, the Session has called a Special Congregational Meeting for the purpose of reviewing the 2026 Budget as approved by Session at their December meeting and to vote on the pastor's terms of call for next year.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING – TONIGHT

Join us on Sunday, Dec. 21 at 6 p.m. 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 festive attire is encouraged! We'll end at the CE Building for refreshments around 7:00pm. You are welcome to come even if you don't go caroling! If you would like to bring a dessert, contact Gina Kouma - ina.kouma@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Our Christmas Eve Services on Wednesday, December 24th are a Family Service at 5 p.m. and a Traditional Service at 7:30pm.

ALL-AGES SUNDAY SCHOOL

On December 28, everyone is encouraged to wear their best Christmas sweater. After worship, Pastor Miriam's family and the CE Committee will host Coffee Hour in the Manse. As part of our Open House, we will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Meeting House's renovation! If you have any photos to lend for a display during our Open House, reach out to Pastor Miriam.

NCPC GRIEF GROUP

Sign up for a four-week grief group led by Teisha Fooks, a licensed clinical social worker. Meetings will be Monday afternoons at 1:30 from January 12 through February 2. Cost is \$50 for the series. To sign up or for more information, contact Teisha at (302)883-7167.

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER ON A SUNDAY MORNING

Sign up to usher and serve as worship leader: <https://www.newcastlepreschurch.org/on-line-signups>
We are greatly in need of ushers throughout the month of January and upcoming months!

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.

GUATEMALAN ADVENT PROJECT

It's time again to help with the Guatemalan Advent Project. This year you can buy fuel-efficient stoves for an indigenous family in Guatemala. The full cost of the stove is \$250, of which \$200 is covered by donations. The recipient family contributes \$50 of their own money. (And the stoves are manufactured in Guatemala, by Guatemalans, using local materials!) So many of our neighbors benefit from this project. Check out the table during Coffee Hour and consider buying a stove in honor of a friend or family member who is hard to buy for. Questions? See Scott or Amy Selheimer.

WINTER SANCTUARY

Each Saturday, from 6:00 - 10:00 am, First & Central Presbyterian Church in Wilmington opens their doors to people experiencing homelessness. They may come in for a rest, warmth, a hot meal, coffee & snacks, a place to charge their phones, and even a shower. Here is the link if you'd like to sign up. Questions? Please reach out to Amy Selheimer (302-584-0982)



Signup Genius
to volunteer

This Week's Schedule

SUNDAY	12/21		FOURTH DAY OF ADVENT In-Person & Live Stream Worship Congregational Special Meeting Coffee Hour 6:00pm Caroling in Old New Castle
Monday	12/22	9:15am 2:00-5:00pm	Emmanuel Dining Room Prep Private Counseling – Library
Tuesday	12/23	7:00pm	Promises of AA Meeting
Wednesday	12/24	2:00-5:00pm 5:00pm 7:30pm	CHRISTMAS EVE Office closed Family Service Traditional Service
Thursday	12/25		CHRISTMAS DAY Office Closed
Friday	12/26		Office Closed
Saturday	12/27	8:00am	Tai Chi
SUNDAY	12/28	10:30am 11:30am	In-Person & Live Stream Worship All-Ages Sunday School: Manse Open House

New Castle Presbyterian Church

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New Castle, DE 19720

Phone: (302) 328-3279

www.newcastlepreschurcho.org

Fax: (302) 328-5670

Rev. Miriam Foltz, Pastor - pastor@newcastlepreschurcho.org

Kris Krawczyk, Admin. Assistant - office@newcastlepreschurcho.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

SESSION

2026	2027	2028
Cynthia Beam	Julie Barry	Jennifer Dunham
Peter McCurdy	Sarah McCann	Chris Fagles
Ray Snyder	Amy Selheimer	Gina Kouma
Clerk of Session: Scott Selheimer		

Session meets the 1st Tuesday of the month

DEACONS

2026	2027	2028
Lindy Ballance	Julia Spock	Mary Anne Brundage
Liz Toto	Beverly Stoudt	Teisha Fooks
		Nan Wallace

Deacons meet the 2nd Sunday of the month

TRUSTEES

2026	2027	2028
Mary Fontinha	Gary Graham	Marshall Freund
Gail Seitz	Kelly McCurdy	Mike Smith

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



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS