

Hope

THE PEOPLE WALKING IN DARKNESS
HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT;
ON THOSE LIVING IN THE LAND
OF DEEP DARKNESS A LIGHT HAS DAWNED.

ISAIAH 9:2 (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 next week.

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
First Sunday of Advent**

November 26, 2023

10:30 a.m.

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

As the Deer arr. Douglas E. Wagner
Bethany Faiz - Piano

**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 (*from Psalm 78*)

The Matthews / Murray Family

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

Come, hope of heaven!

We watch and we wait to witness the hope of heaven making a place
here on earth.

We lift up our hearts with anticipation.

Today we light the candle of hope, because hope has come to us.

Christ, our light of hope, shine into our hearts and into the world.

(Lighting of Advent candle)

Come, children of God, where will we find Christ's hope this day?

We hope in the name of the one who was and is and is to come!

***Hymn #102**

Savior of the Nations Come

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's
2 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds; back to
3 Now your man - ger, shin - ing bright, hal - lows
4 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, vir - gin's

son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
God his path - way leads; out to van - quish
night with new - born light. Night can - not this
son, in - car - nate Word! To the ho - ly

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.
light sub - due; let our faith shine ev - er new.
Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

Though some hymns attributed to Ambrose are doubtful, this one seems rather surely to be by him. Luther's German version (commemorated in the tune name) dropped one syllable from each line of the Latin text, giving the hymn its characteristically declarative Lutheran form.

TEXT: Attr. Ambrose of Milan, 4th cent.; German para. Martin Luther, 1523;
English trans. stanza 1, William Morton Reynolds, 1850, alt.;
English trans. stanzas 2-4, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 2006
MUSIC: Erfurt *Enchiridion*, 1524; harm. Sethus Calvisius, 1594
English Trans. St. 2-4 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND
7.7.7.7

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Light of the World and Shadow of Safety, we draw close to you in prayer this day. You created us to be reflections of your love and justice, but we often reflect our own fears and prejudices. We trample over our neighbors and block out their cries for help.

Forgive us, O God. Deliver us from our wayward ways and restore to use the joy of your salvation. Help us to mirror your great brilliance and shine your light of hope through our lives...

(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.

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PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Anthem **Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain** Carolyn Jennings
Bethany Faiz - Piano

Climb to the top of the highest mountain, joyous tidings proclaim to the world; lift up your voice, shout the good news: Behold, your Lord comes to you. He will feed his flock like a shepherd, He will carry the lambs in his arms. He will ever keep them safe from harm. Behold, your Lord comes to you. He who made the stars in the heaven, He who fashioned the earth and the sea, from time eternal He was God, the Alpha and the Omega, He. Behold, your Lord! He will come in power and glory, He will rule with mercy and truth. Hope of the nations, light of the world, light of all. He will love the little children; He will hold them in his arms. Love and trust Him as a little child, your Lord comes to you. Love Him, trust Him as a child.

Scripture Conversation with Children

Prayer for Illumination

Almighty God, you led the Israelites through the wilderness by day and by night. We pray that you would show up and be our pillar of cloud and fire. Send your Holy Spirit to open our minds to the brilliance of your Word today. Illuminate our paths and heal our hurting hearts. We pray in Christ's name, Amen.

Scripture Lesson

John 1:1-5

Page: NT 91

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

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

Sermon

The Darkness Did Not Overcome

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

Offertory

A Thanksgiving Prayer

arr. Donna N. Robertson

Bethany Faiz - Piano

***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**

O Lord, in the bright blessed day and in the dark sacred night, we sing your praises. Surround us with your light of joy and help us rest in the peace of twilight. In the vastness of your creation, we marvel at your generosity. We bring our humble offerings to you in thanksgiving, knowing that our many gifts come from you. Guide us in wisdom and understanding, that our lives would be a beacon of Christ's love. 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 # 314**

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness

***Charge and Benediction**

Choral Benediction

Steeple Bell

Postlude

Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy arr. Molly Ijames
(with "Our Great Savior")
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: Carol Mayhew
Ushers: Lindy & Sandy Ballance
Nursery: No Nursery

Counters: Greg Fogarty/Mike Smith
Coffee Hour: Gail Seitz & Barbara Whisman
Sunday School: No Sunday School

Today we remember in the Special Gifts Memorial Case:

Arthur J. Matteson
1891-1977

Elsie B. Clark
1924-2015



STEWARDSHIP SEASON – GIFTS OF GRATEFUL PRAISE

Extra copies of 2024 Pledge Cards are available in the CE Building. If you haven't had a chance to return your pledge form, please mail it to the church office or leave them in Recording Secretary Shirley Knox's office box at your earliest convenience. This enables our Session to set a faithful 2024 budget!

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER ON A SUNDAY MORNING

We are in need of ushers and worship leaders. Please sign up today: <https://www.newcastlepreschurch.org/on-line-signups> We're also in need of volunteers for First Sunday coffee hours. Sign up is in the Fellowship Hall.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

The Season of Advent will begin on Sunday, Nov. 26! 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.

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.**



NCPC FALL CHURCH GROUNDS CLEANUP – DEC 2

The Trustees have scheduled our annual Fall Church Grounds Cleanup on Saturday, December 2nd at 10 a.m. Bring your gloves, rakes, leaf blowers and favorite yard tools. No need to sign up – just show up! Any questions, please call or text Gary Graham at 302-588-7372.

DECEMBER 3 – HOLIDAY COOKIE KICK-OFF

Fun and fellowship during coffee hour next Sunday as we decorate hundreds of Christmas Cookies for the Emmanuel Dining Room! Donations of cookie icing and sprinkles are appreciated to the box in the kitchen. Decorators of all ages are welcome. Any questions, contact Deacon Liz Toto - lizart8409@gmail.com.



SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS AT NCPC, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

Help NCPC welcome guests and support Friendship House. Friendship House's mission is to unite people facing homelessness with loving, supportive communities they can call home. Friendship House provides programs such as the Clothing Bank, Empowerment Centers, Winter Shelters, Financial Assistance, and Transitional Housing.

NCPC will be providing music in our Meeting House and selling soups and baked goods in our CE Building. We will also be welcoming guests with our free cookie and coffee/hot chocolate table. Please volunteer your time and cooking talents by signing up on the posted sheets in the CE Building.

*Christmas is the Season for Kindling the Fire for Hospitality in the Hall,
and the Flame of Charity in the Heart. - Washington Irving*

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - DECEMBER 10

The Session has called a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Dec. 10, 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 will be available.

ADVENT BOOK STUDY WITH THE PASTOR

Our weekly Bible study will resume in early January 2024. 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 outside a round 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! Refreshments will be coordinated by the Mayhews, and will be at their home from 8-8:30pm. The best way to spread Christmas Cheer is singing loud for all to hear!



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 at

<https://www.pcusastore.com/Products/0664243762/your-particular-grief.aspx> If you are struggling with grief, but can't attend the in-person sessions, go ahead and read the book, then reach out to Pastor Miriam or a Deacon for further conversation.

JANUARY 21 SPEAKER ON SUICIDE AWARENESS



Mark your calendars for a Coffee Hour talk on January 21 by New Castle resident 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.

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 Road
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	11/26		FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
		10:30am	In-Person & Live Stream Worship
		11:30am	Coffee Hour
Tuesday	11/28	4:00pm	Presbytery Meeting @ Ocean View Presbyterian
Wednesday	11/29		<i>Bible Study paused thru Advent</i>
		6:00pm	Worship Committee Meeting
		7:30pm	Choir
Thursday	11/30	7:00pm	Celebration Ringers
Saturday	12/02	8:00am	Tai Chi
SUNDAY	12/03		SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
		10:30am	In-Person & Live Stream Worship
		10:50am	Sunday School
		11:30am	Coffee Hour

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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

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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)

