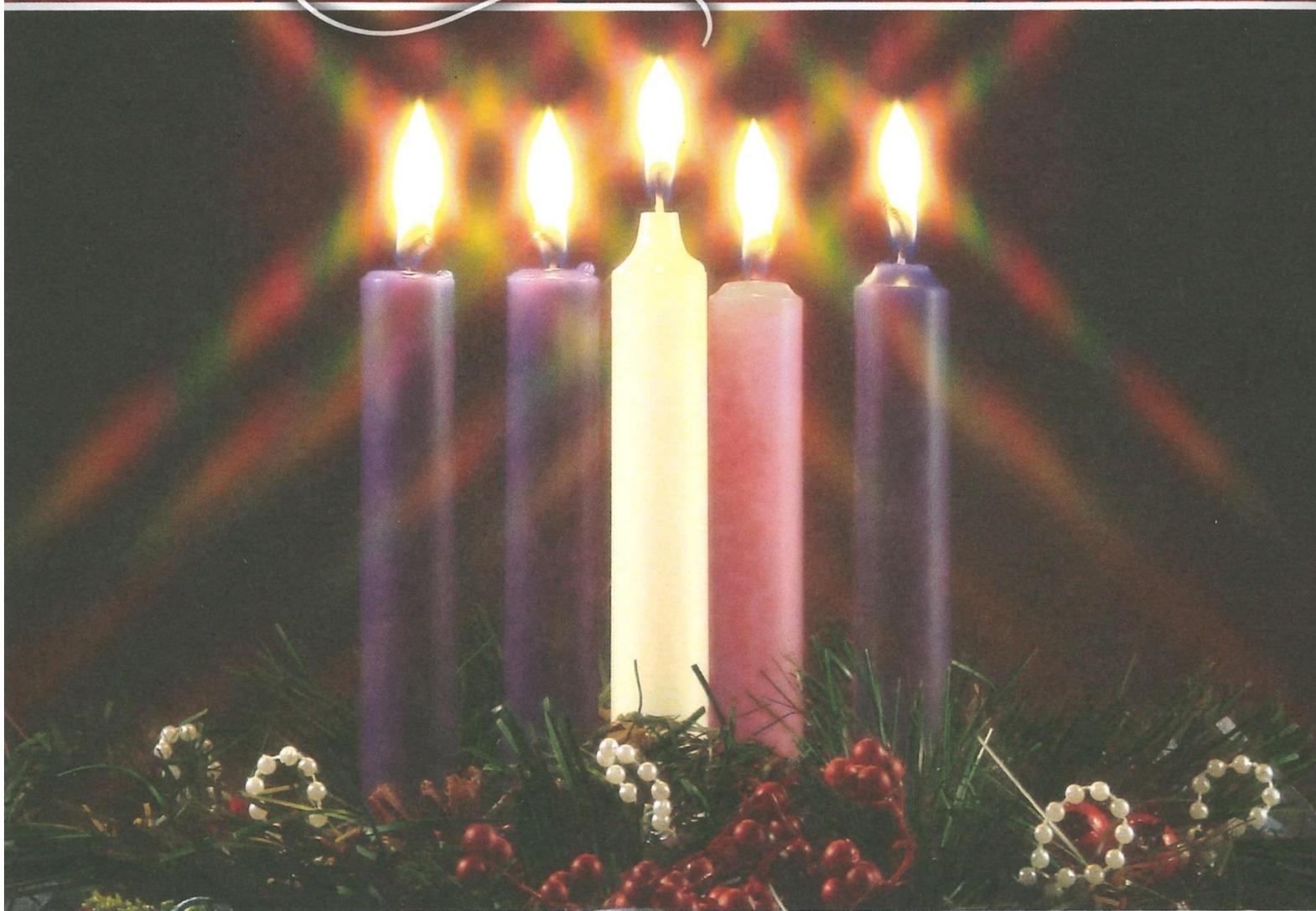


Christ



The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Romans 16:24

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,

Please take basic COVID precautions with us. Masks are required during the whole service, and we ask that you maintain space between yourself and your neighbors.

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

Children are always welcome in worship! If your family needs to step out of the Meeting House for a time, there is a livestream feed available in the Fellowship Hall and a volunteer present to assist you.

Worship Bags are available for children at the back of the Meeting House.

At the end of worship, please exit the building by the Second Street door and gather for fellowship outside.

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

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

Gentle Reminders:

Please turn off all cell phones.

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

Please put your bulletins in the basket 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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2021

7:30 p.m.

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Good Christian Men, Rejoice,
with Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella
Bethany Faiz - Piano

arr. Cindy Berry

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

Lighting the Christ Candle

Spock Family

We light a candle for Christ's good news to shine brightly in our world.

Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

Though we feel unworthy, it is for us a savior is born.

Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

The angel proclaims, "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people!" Emmanuel, God with us, is born this day in Bethlehem. **Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**

As the Christ Candle is lit, join us in singing Verse 1 of #611:

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!

Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.

Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

We light this candle to drive the dark of doubt away.

Hold fast to faith; the Christ Child is born!

*Hymn #133(vs 1-3) O Come, All Ye Faithful

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Holy God, you have come among us in Jesus Christ, hallowing our humanity and embodying love. We confess that we have turned from the path Jesus has marked, failing to claim all you intend for us, withholding love from our neighbors and ourselves. Forgive us. Be born anew in us, that our lives might reflect Christ's radiant light.

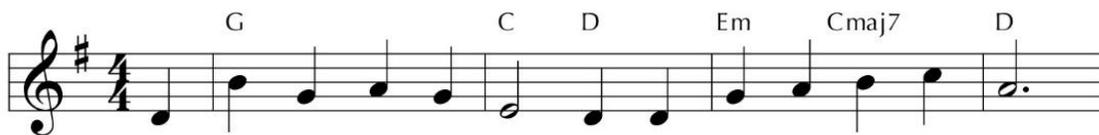
(Time for silent prayer...)

Assurance of Pardon

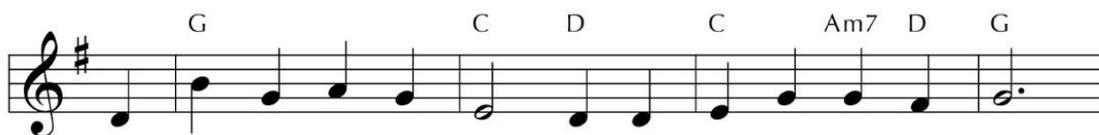
Let us proclaim the Good News together:

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

*Response Hymn #109 Song of Zechariah, verse 1



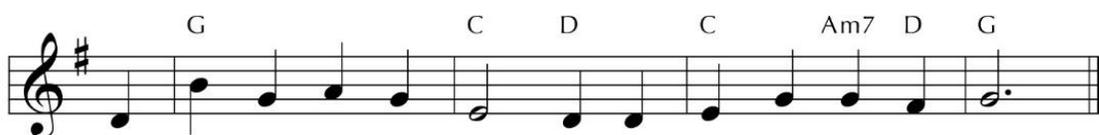
1 Blest be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free;
2 God from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has given;
3 On those who sit in dark - ness the sun be - gins to rise,



who vis - its and re - deems us, who grants us lib - er - ty.
a Sav - ior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heaven.
the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes.



The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
God guides the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace.



God shall ful - fill that prom - ise and bring the peo - ple peace.
the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Anthem In Bethlehem Composed by Michael Larkin
Bethany Faiz – Piano

Mary and Joseph found no room, in excelsis Deo. Yet the babe to deliver soon, in excelsis Deo. Found their rest in a stable bare, in excelsis Deo. Ox and ass saw the wonder there, in excelsis Deo. Shepherds watching flocks all night long in excelsis Deo.

Angels appeared and sang this song, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Wise men journeyed from afar, in excelsis Deo. Led by God and the brightest star, in excelsis Deo. Praise we now with one accord, in excelsis Deo. The Babe in the manger our newborn Lord, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

First Lesson The Promise is Given Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Hymn #86 vs 1&4 The People Who Walked in Darkness

Second Lesson The Decree and Journey Luke 2:1-7

Hymn #121 vs 1&2 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Third Lesson The Birth is Proclaimed Luke 2:8-14

Hymn #113 vs 1&3 Angels We Have Heard on High

Fourth Lesson The Christ Child is Found Luke 2:15-20

Meditation

***Hymn #119** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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**

Let us pray:

God of love, may these gifts of our lives and offerings proclaim your good news to all the world. The holy child of Bethlehem brings us the gift of salvation and offers us hope everlasting. Send us as your messengers of peace to bring joy to all your children. 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 A Festive Christmastide arr. Patti Drennan
Bethany Faiz - Piano

Please remain seated through the Postlude.

*As you exit the 2nd Street door, you may recycle your bulletin in the basket at the door.
And join us for worship on the First Sunday of Christmas – December 26 – at 10:30 a.m!*

Participants in tonight's service:

Christ Candle Readers/Lighters: The Spock Family

Readers: Salina Brett

Greeters/Ushers: Mary Fontinha & Connie Reese

Pastor: Rev. Miriam Foltz

New Castle Presbyterian Church

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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

2022	2023	2024
Kim Beebe	Candy Dunson	Rob Barry
Melissa Boris	Steve Martin	Chris Fagles
Connie Reese	Beverly Stoudt	Greg Fogarty
Ray Snyder	Jim Whisman	Scott Selheimer

Session meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month

DEACONS

2022	2023	2024
Connie Bell	Lindy Ballance	Salina Brett
Jane Fouracre	Liz Parziale	Susan Fogarty
Nanette Nichol	Conchita Showell	Sandy Wilson

Deacons meets the 2nd Sunday of the month

TRUSTEES

2022	2023	2024
Steve Handy	Dan Dunson	Lyn Briggs
Joan Lioi	Mary Fontinha	Gary Graham
Peter McCurdy	Gail Seitz	Barbara Whisman

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