

LORD'S DAY OF CELEBRATION

December 3, 2023

Prelude

Sleeper Awake, BWV 645
Jinhee Shim, organist

Bach

*Hymn #136

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Puer Nobis

Welcome and Family News

Call to Worship

Isaiah 40: 3-5

Caitlin Henry

Prayer of Invocation

Pastor Debbie

Scripture Reading

John 1:19-27

Alexandra & William Higgins

*Prayer of Confession

Father, you know how we seek comfort. We sometimes ignore strangers in need. We do only enough good to keep us from feeling guilty. We treat the church as our possession rather than letting Christ rule as head of the body. O God, we pray we have not wandered beyond your reach. Amen.

*Silent Prayer and the Assurance of Pardon

When we allow God to touch us, our malice is melted down, our fears are defeated, our failures are forgiven. God raises us from death to new life, from helplessness to hope, from arrogant self-seeking to humble service. Enter into the joy of true worship! Amen

*The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Lighting the 1st Advent Candle (Hope)

The Hawthorn Family
Daniel, Jamie, Liam, Maggie, Bowie,

Lamentations 3:17-26

Declaration of Hope:

As we wait expectantly for the coming of Christ, we light the Candle of Hope. Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Amen.

The Peace

As God has given us peace through Christ, let us pass the peace to one another. The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Worship Song

*Nothing But the Blood
Mighty to Save*
NPC Worship Band

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Debbie

Passing of Friendship Pads & Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Trust and Obey
Dean Pappas, vocals & guitar

Arr. Pappas

*Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Reading

Luke 3:1-6

Pastor Farrar

Sermon

Preparing the Way of the Lord

Pastor Farrar

*Hymn #479

O How He Loves You and Me!

Greenwell

The Invitation to the Lord's Table

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God, the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O holy God, creator and ruler of the universe. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and called us to love and serve you.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Born in humility, he came to rule over all. Helpless as an infant, he showed the power of your love. Poor in things of the world, he brought the wealth of your grace. Rejected by many, he welcomed all who sought him.

In his death and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us people of hope.

You are holy, O God of majesty,
Blessed is Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord.

Born as king in David's line, he lived with the lowly, and cared for the least of your children.

From the grave you raised him to your right hand where he rules again from heaven.

**We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection.
We await his coming in glory.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. Send us out as the body of Christ in the world.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which 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

The Breaking of the Bread

The Communion of the People Invitation

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer after Communion

Heavenly Father, as we remember your death, and proclaim your resurrection, help to seek our true calling as God's people; to embrace your creation; to love our neighbor and in all things, to be your faithful disciples. Amen

*Hymn #679

When We All Get to Heaven

Heaven

Benediction

Pastor Farrar

Postlude

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying
Jinhee Shim, organist

Arr. Hobby

Prayer Ministry

Jim Hornung

* Please stand as you are able

The Altar Flowers this week are dedicated to the Glory of God and in loving memory of our parents by Jay & Tina Field.

December 10th is Music Sunday! The music ministry team presents “Great Joy,” a truly intergenerational event to glorify God in this season of Advent. Join us to hear the Sanctuary Choir, the Bell Choir, the Worship Band, and the Children’s Sunday School Choir present inspiring musical selections interspersed with scripture. This will take place during our usual 9:30am service. Children and Youth will be dismissed to Sunday School as usual. We hope to see everyone there!

NPC’s Annual Meeting: Join us on December 10th directly following the worship service as we will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting. All are invited to participate, especially members. Childcare and extended Sunday School are provided through 5th grade.

Our meeting will include a time of memorial remembrance for members and loved ones who have entered the Church Triumphant in the last year. We will also elect new Elders and Deacons, give an overview of our ministries and mission causes, and discuss the budget for 2023.

Surviving the Holidays – Help and hope as you navigate the Christmas season without your loved one. Are you wondering how you will survive the weeks surrounding Christmas? Are you dreading this holiday, knowing that everything has changed and that happy memories from past years can’t be recreated? The *Surviving the Holidays* seminar is for people who are grieving a loved one’s death. You’ll learn:

- How to deal with the many emotions you’ll face during the holidays
- What to do about traditions and other coming changes
- Helpful tips for surviving social events
- How to discover hope for your future

Our *Surviving the Holidays* event is scheduled for **Sunday, December 10 at 3:00pm** and lasts approximately two hours. Light snacks and dessert will be provided. For more information, please contact Alice Antonelli (arichardson1@gmail.com) or Gerri Wismer (geewis46@gmail.com).

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND EVENTS

Sunday December 3 First Sunday in Advent

9:30am Worship Service: Join us as we celebrate communion and light the candle of Hope.

Sunday December 10 Second Sunday in Advent

9:30am Worship Service: Join us as the Choir presents “Great Joy,” an intergenerational presentation of music and scripture. We will also light the candle of Peace. Stay for the NPC **Annual Meeting following the service** with childcare provided.

3:00pm Surviving the Holidays Seminar (see p 5).

Sunday December 17 Third Sunday in Advent

9:30am Worship Service: Join us as we celebrate the season with our Children’s Christmas Pageant at the end of the service. We will light the candle of Joy this week.

7:00pm Found Wandering Concert: a fun and festive concert to benefit one of our mission causes, **Well-Rooted**.

Thursday December 14

10:00am Pre-School Christmas Pageant, Sanctuary

Friday December 16

1:30pm Adult Christmas Carol Sing and Tea: All ages are welcome to join us in the Parlor for this annual event which is sure to get you in the Christmas spirit!

Sunday December 24 Fourth Sunday in Advent & Christmas Eve!

9:30am Worship Service: Join us as we light the candle of Love.

4:00pm Children’s Candlelight Service This shorter service is designed for families with young children. Battery-operated candles will be used to conclude the service.

5:30pm Family Candlelight Service (live streamed)

8:00pm Traditional Candlelight Service



ANNOUNCEMENTS



The journey of grief is a painful process; you do not need to walk it alone. We encourage you to come to the video and support group, GriefShare. The sessions address topics and issues for those who are grieving the death of a loved one. GriefShare meets weekly, the content is Christ-centered and biblical. You will find this to be a place with people who understand the pain of your loss. GriefShare sessions meet on **Monday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00pm in the Chapel** through December 11th (note that you can join at any time). It is important to register on the GriefShare website. Contact Alice Antonelli (arichardson1@gmail.com) or Gerri Wismer (geewis46@gmail.com) for more information about the group.

Job Opportunity: Many of you know that our beloved weekend custodian, Mike Ochal moved out of the area and resigned from his position at NPC. The Weekend Cleaner is an essential and appreciated role that performs cleaning and setup duties over 14 hours weekly on Saturdays and Sundays. We are actively recruiting for this position but would love to consider any friends or members that have an interest. Please contact Linda Behmke, (lindabehmke@gmail.com).

November Giving Update: Ministries at NPC were busy in November, however, the pace of giving slowed. Through last Sunday, we have received gifts and tithes covering just over 70% of our budget for the year, for which we are grateful. This means we need just short of \$350,000 by the end of the year to meet our 2023 budgeted expenses. In the past NPC members and friends have given a larger percentage of their gifts and tithes in December, but this is a larger gap than we usually see. *What can you do?* Please remember that gifts made through December 31st help to cover our expenses already incurred in 2023; gifts made later are still appreciated but do not help to meet the 2023 budget. Please prayerfully consider if you can help meet this gap and allow NPC to finish the year strongly. -NPC Finance Committee

Notes From Justice and Mercy On November 18th Redeemed for a Cause held their annual Thanksgiving dinner event but this year was a Friendsgiving Community Feeding. Traditional Thanksgiving food was served not only to the circle of people touched by human trafficking but to everyone in the community. As usual they had a great turnout and served many people. All the donations and volunteers were endlessly appreciated. Please pray for the ministry of Redeemed for a Cause as they seek to build up the community with positive messages that shield them from a vulnerable mindset that makes people more susceptible to being trafficked. To this end, they are always happy to receive donations of grooming and personal hygiene products. See Sally Kapner to help.

PRAYER INFORMATION

Please pray for patience and discernment for the PNC. Please also pray for the person that God is calling to be our next Senior Pastor.

Missions: Next week we will gather for our Annual Meeting, to take stock of the past year in the life of NPC and look ahead to the next. As we consider how God in his mercy has led, protected, and generously provided for (and through) us throughout our history, including in this momentous year of pastoral change, would you please take some time each day this week to thank the Lord for his reliable mercy, grace, and provision, then ask how you and we together might follow his leading and trust his provision in 2024.

Redemption Housing Bike Drive Do you have a bike that takes up space in your garage or shed? Want a good cause to donate it to? I am happy to pick up your bike and deliver it to Redemption Housing which houses men that are re-entering society from prison. As you can imagine, they don't have any wheels to get around, and a bicycle is a good first step. Just let Alice Antonelli know at arichardson1@gmail.com.

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY NEWS: CHILDREN

Sunday, December 3rd is Family Worship – All children and youth (K-12th) are encouraged to worship with their church family and participate in Communion. Children are invited to sit with Miss Danielle in the first two pews. Worship bags will be available too! As always, the NPC Nursery is excited to welcome younger children there (RM 107 in the preschool wing).

Kids Praise – Join us on Wednesday Nights for music fun! Mrs. Pilacik, NPC's Minister of Music, will be joining us each week for an exciting time of music. Get ready to make a joyful noise! We will meet in the Choir Room from 7:00 – 8:00pm. This program is best for PreK through 5th grade.

Special Rehearsal for Christmas Concert is Saturday, December 9th – Sunday School children are encouraged to attend rehearsal for the Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 9th from 9:30 – 10:30am. Kids are also invited to stay following rehearsal for hot chocolate, cookies, and kickball in the gym with Miss Danielle. Parents can pick up their children in the gym at 11:30am.

“Great Joy” - NPC Choir Christmas Concert is Sunday, December 10th – Our children will be singing a few selections with the choir! And yes, we will have Sunday School too.

Children's Christmas Pageant is Sunday, December 17th – Come celebrate the joy of Christ's birth in a Nativity story told from the innkeeper's perspective. Our pageant will take place at the end of worship in the sanctuary.

Save the Date for the 2024 All-Church Retreat! Get out your calendar and mark the dates for the All-Church Retreat taking place on Friday, May 10th through Sunday, May 12th in beautiful Sandy Cove, MD. ***Rev. Jane Filkin will be our speaker!*** To register please contact Danielle Kauffman with your \$100 deposit. Full payment is due April 1, 2024.



INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY: YOUTH

Teen Girls' Ministry – Sunday, December 3rd we will meet in the gym directly following service and walk to the McGrew's home for food, fellowship, and a devotional. Please reach out to Danielle Kauffman (dkauffman@narberthpres.org) or Lisa Hoffman (Lisa.hoffman1@verizon.net) with any questions. All are welcome!

Cooking Baking is Sunday, December 10th – Directly following service, teens are invited to the gym kitchen for cookie baking! The is open to guys and gals and sampling is allowed. Please note: those who have been confirmed and are members of NPC are encouraged to stay for the Annual Meeting and then come down for baking.

Teen Girls' Service Project – Teen Girls' Ministry is helping to support the Parkway Christmas Shop and you can get involved by donating new or gently used toys for children and babies. Contact Mia Rogers (mkuniholm@gmail.com) to learn more!

Thanks for all your wonderful donations! We are still in particular need of:

- Racially/culturally diverse dolls and other toys
- Baby clothes
- Baby toys
- Teen books
- Early reader books
- Christmas Gift bags

The Parkway Christmas Shop – If your Youth (6th – 12th) is interested in helping set up, organize, and run The Parkway Christmas Shop on Sunday, December 17th, please RSVP to Mia Rogers (mkuniholm@gmail.com). This is open to guys and gals! Parents are welcome to serve too. We will leave following worship and return by 3:00pm.

Winter Chill Youth Retreat – Save the date for some time away with our Youth Group at the shore this winter! January 19th – 21st! Stay tuned for more details.

Youth Sunday School – Takes place in the Youth Room for middle school and high school students each Sunday. Please note there is no Youth Sunday School on Sunday, December 10th.

Middle School Youth Group – Middle School Youth Group meets every Wednesday in the Youth Room from 7:00 – 8:00pm. All 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are encouraged to attend.

High School Youth Group – High School Youth Group meets every Sunday in the Youth Room from 7:00 - 8:00pm. All 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th graders are encouraged to attend. Our special guest this Sunday is Pastor Farrar! He is looking forward to meeting you all.

CLASSES

8:15am Sunday Class – Please join us – in the NPC Parlor, or via Zoom – for a time of conversation focused on the scriptures for the day's worship service. All are welcome! Contact Pastor Debbie for the Zoom link.

As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead – James 2:26. The book of James emphasizes the importance of living out one's faith through actions and practical wisdom. It teaches us how to be mature Christians. Join the Women's Bible Study as we explore the book of James on **5 Thursday nights from 7:00 – 8:15pm** in the Parlor, starting November 2nd (and skipping the week of Thanksgiving). Contact Lalitha Naveen (lnaveen100@gmail.com) or Clara Louie (claralouie@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.\

Men's Small Group There is an open small group for men looking to connect in a more intimate setting. The Men's Small group **meets from 7:30 – 9:00am on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month in the Parlor.** Donuts sometimes exist, but coffee is *always* guaranteed! The format of the group is designed to facilitate intimate sharing, prayer, and accountability. While the study of scripture helps to facilitate those conversations, education is not the primary goal of this group. Our purpose is to provide a place for men to deepen relationships with a small cohort of other men and experience what it looks like for "iron to sharpen iron." Contact Justin Crawford (me@JustinCrawford.com / 646.588.9042) for more information.

Men's Interactive 5-week Bible Study on the Book of James starts on Thursday, November 2, from 7:00-8:15 p.m. in Pastor Farrar's office. Please contact Ken Eng (k_eng@msn.com) or Naveen Daniel (nav@drexel.edu) for questions. All men are welcome!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES

In the Shadow of Herod – This Wednesday we will travel to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born, and the Herodion, where King Herod lived. In this video-based lesson, followed by our own discussion, Ray VanderLaan helps us see the clear differences between Herod's power through force, and God's power through his Son. All are welcome to the Chapel to discover more about God's surprising ways of accomplishing his will, specifically though the birth of his Son.

Kids Praise – Join us for music fun! Mrs. Pilacik, NPC's Minister of Music, will be joining us each week for an exciting time of music. Get ready to make a joyful noise!

Middle School Youth Group – we meet on Wednesdays evenings from 7:00 – 8:00pm in the Youth Room.

BUILDING DISCIPLES IN THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST

Sunday, December 3

8:15am Sunday School, Parlor
9:30am **Worship Service** In-person and live-stream
11:00am – 2:00pm PNC Meeting, Parlor
5:15pm – Recital, Sally Raezer, Sanctuary

Monday, December 4

6:15 – 7:15pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
6:30 – 8:00pm GriefShare, Chapel

Tuesday, December 5

12:15pm Staff Meeting, Parlor
7:00pm Deacons Meeting, Chapel

Wednesday, December 6

5:45 – 6:45pm Church Family Supper, Gym
Menu: Ham, Salads, Bread, Dessert
7:00 – 8:00pm In the Shadow of Herod, Pastor
Debbie, Chapel (Combined class this week)
7:00 – 8:00pm Kids Praise, Miss Danielle, Choir Room
7:00 – 8:00pm Middle School Youth Group, Youth
Room

Each Week

Christian Preschool – 610-664-8890 x118

2, 3 & 5 Day Programs 9:00am to 12 noon & 12 noon to 3:00pm Extended Day Program, Sept.-May

AA meets 12:30pm, Monday–Saturday & Sunday at 4:30pm

Counseling: Dr. Janet Moore: cell: 484-686-6630 email: ilmpsvch910@gmail.com

Narberth Presbyterian Church

205 Grayling Avenue

Post Office Box 414

Narberth, PA 19072

Office hours:

Mon-Thurs. 9:00am to 4:00pm

Friday 9:00 am - 3:00pm

Phone: 610-664-4880

Fax: 610-668-8225

E-mail: office@narberthpres.org

CCLI # License #387124

Thursday, December 7

1:00pm Preschool Board Meeting, Chapel

Friday, December 8

10:00 – 12:00 Ladies Bible Study, Parlor

Saturday, December 9

9:30 – 11:30am Choir Dress Rehearsal,
Sanctuary

Sunday, December 10

8:15am Sunday School, Parlor
9:30am **Worship Service** In-person and live-stream
Choir Presentation: "Great Joy!"
11:00am Annual Meeting, Sanctuary
11:00am Youth Cookie Baking, Gym Kitchen
3:00pm "Surviving the Holidays" seminar,
Chapel

Jesus Christ, Minister

Farrar Griggs, Pastor

Cell #: (704) 239-4735

Email: farrargriggs@gmail.com

Deborah Watson, Associate Pastor

Danielle Kauffman, Intergenerational Ministry

Lisa Hoffman, Interim Youth Coordinator

Jinhee Shim, Organist

Sarah Comstock, Worship Band Leader

Linda Pilalik, Minister of Music

Matt Weed, Worship Tech. Coordinator

Tim Roykouff, Business Administrator

Sara Mahoney, Administrative Assistant

Hugh Barrie, Assistant Property Manager

Joyce B. Nicolai, Bookkeeper

Ruth Ellen Patterson, Financial Secretary

Isabel Lally, Pastoral Visitor

Virginia Davis, Dir. of Preschool

Chris Marinelli, Weekday Custodian



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