



FOR THE **BEGINNING**

— LOVE KNOWS YOUR NAME —

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 24, 2024

5:00 p.m.

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly Arr. by Michael Larkin
Eileen Larkin - Piano

Welcome & Words about The Life and Work of the Church

Lighting of the Christ Candle

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

Let us begin with the good news!

Let us begin by trusting that we are loved by a gracious God.

Let us begin with God's hope, peace, joy, and love.

We begin with God's many gifts, including the gift of Christ. We light the Christ Candle as we celebrate God's promise of Emmanuel, God with us.

Hear the good news: Unto us a child is born! A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it. Glory to God in the highest heaven!

May God's light of Christ shine brightly in our hearts this day. Amen.

***Hymn #133 O Come, All Ye Faithful - verse 1**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold him, born the King of angels.

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Joyful God, your messengers bring good news of great joy. In a world as broken and hurting as ours, we admit, this often seems easier said than done. Forgive us, patient God, when we are so focused on the bad that we miss the good. Forgive us for hearing the nativity story and staying in our seats instead of jumping for joy. We know that even now, you are spreading delight in our lives. Open our hearts to be filled up with your joy. In Christ's name, amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Let us proclaim the Good News together:

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

***Response Hymn #113 Angels We Have Heard on High – verses 1 and 2**

**Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.**

Glo - - -ria in excelsis Deo!

Glo - - -ria in excelsis Deo!

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ,
the Lord, the newborn King.**

Glo - - -ria in excelsis Deo!

Glo - - -ria in excelsis Deo!

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Listen for Joy: Luke 2:1-7 (Growing in God's Love, Page 190)

Practice Joy: Passing the Peace

Hymn #121 O Little Town of Bethlehem – verses 1 and 4

**O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!**

Practice Joy: Love Knows Your Name

Listen for Joy: Luke 2:8-20 (Growing in God's Love, Page 192)

Practice Joy: Spreading Good News of Great Joy

Hymn #136 Go Tell It on the Mountain – verse 1

<i>Refrain:</i> Go, tell it on a mountain	The shepherds feared and trembled
Over the hills and everywhere;	When lo! Above the earth,
Go, tell it on the mountain	Rang out the angel chorus
That Jesus Christ is born!	That hailed our Savior's birth. <i>(Refrain)</i>

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

Giving our Gifts and Thanks – The Offering

***Hymn #155 Raise a Song of Gladness (Repeated)**

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!

GO IN GOD'S NAME

***The Celebration in Candlelight**

Light from the Christ Candle will light 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.

***Hymn #122 Silent Night, Holy Night! - verses 1 and 3**

Silent night, holy night!

All is calm, all is bright,

Round yon virgin mother and child!

Holy Infant so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace,

Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!

Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from Thy holy face,

With the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,

Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

***A Blessing**

***Hymn #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.

Postlude The Little Drummer Boy

Words and Music by Katherine Davis, Henry Onorati and Harry Simeone

Eileen Larkin - Piano

You may recycle your bulletins in the basket at the back of the Meeting House.

Pastor: Rev. Miriam Foltz

Greeter/Ushers: Jim and Barb Whisman

Christ Candle Lighters: The Mackie Family

Music Leader: Eileen Larkin

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.

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

Join us in worship on the First Sunday of Christmas: December 29 at 10:30 a.m.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

We'll celebrate Epiphany Sunday with star words on January 5; Sunday School (K-5) and Nursery (Babies – 5) will be provided.

Our middle and high school youth group will gather for a musical celebration from 12-2 on January 12.

Our All-Ages Sunday school will collaborate with Congregational Life for a card-writing project on January 19. May God bless you and keep you in the new year!

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS – THANK YOU!

A BIG thank you to everyone who cooked, baked, volunteered, sang, rang, and attended Spirit of Christmas on December 14! NCPC raised over \$2,500 in support of Friendship House. Every year, Friendship House cares for 14,000 Delawareans, providing supportive long-term housing, short-term shelter, clothing, empowerment, and so much more. In the Spirit of Christmas, thank you for generously supporting our neighbors in need! Learn more about the work of Friendship House at friendshipousede.org

**The Beautiful Christmas Display of Flowers
In the Sanctuary are given to the Glory of God**



Peter & Kelly McCurdy	In Honor & Memory of our Parents and other Loved Ones In Honor of Church & Evelyn Hutton and the Hutton Family In Honor of Dan & Shirley Knox
Kathy Griffin Graham & Gary Graham	In Memory of Don & Mary Ann Griffin / In Memory of Robert Graham
Nanette Nichol	In Memory of Jane and MaryAnn
Pastor Miriam & Steven Foltz	In Honor of the Fabulous Folks of NCPC
Carl & Susan Witt	In Memory of Annabelle & Carl Witt, Sr.
Sandy & Lindy Ballance	In Memory of Loved Ones
Beverly Stoudt	In Honor of Dee & Chuck McCallion
Chirs & Rick Fagles	In Memory of Both of our Parents, Our Families and Loved Ones
Rob & Julie Barry	In Memory of Loved Ones
Monty & Ellie Gerhart	In Memory of Our Parents
Scott & Amy Selheimer	In Memory of Don & Norma Haverstick and Charles Selheimer
Dan & Shirley Knox	In Memory of Loved Ones and In Honor of Our Grandchildren
Pat & Dave Taylor	In Memory of Our Parents
Gene & Carol Mayhew	In Honor of the NCPC Choir
Conchita Showell	In Honor of those who are fighting for our Freedom
Lyn Briggs	In Memory of Bob Briggs
Earl Reed & Family	In Memory of Janet Reed In Memory of Loved Ones In Memory of Bill & Grace Werkheiser

