

LORD'S DAY OF CELEBRATION

December 1, 2024

Prelude

Fantasia on "Veni Emmanuel"
Jinhee Shim, organ

Rowley

Welcome

Pastor Farrar

Giving & Financial Update

Tim Roykouff

Call to Worship

Responsive Reading

Isabel Lally

Lord God, we have come to worship you
as sinners in need of your forgiveness.

**We come tired from our work,
in need of refreshment and re-creation.**

We come with worries, in need of your guidance.

**But first, please lift us out of our preoccupation
with our own needs.**

Allow us to see you with the eyes of faith,
and to hear with the ears of understanding
what you say to us.

**Make us thankful for all the good
we have received from you.**

Awaken in us a longing to do what is right.

**And make us aware of the great company,
past, present, and to come,
with whom we join to worship you. Amen.**

*Hymn #136

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Puer Nobis

Scripture Reading

Psalm 145:8-17

Claire Woods

Prayer of Confession

Mark Wenger

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen

Silent Prayer & Assurance of Pardon

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. —Romans 5:1-2, NRSV

The Apostles' Creed

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**

Since we have peace with God through the Lord Jesus, let's share that peace with each other: The peace of the Lord be with you!

And also with you.

Worship Songs

NPC Worship Band

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Debbie

Passing of Friendship Pads & Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Gratitude

Lake

Jennifer Fisher, vocals, Dave Baker, guitar

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Pastor Farrar

Message

His Grace Is Sufficient

Pastor Farrar

Hymn #708

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Dennis

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 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 #472

Grace Greater than Our Sin

Moody

Benediction

Pastor Farrar

Postlude

Sleepers Awake
Jinhee Shim, organ

arr. Hobby

Prayer Ministry

Linda Behmke

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND EVENTS

Sunday December 1 **First Sunday in Advent**

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

Wednesday, December 4

5:45 – 6:30pm Church Family Supper, Gym

6:45 – 8:00pm “The Christmas Candle,” based on the Max Lucado book of the same name (family friendly), Parlor

7:00 – 8:00pm Kid’s Praise, Choir Room

7:00 – 8:00pm Middle School Youth Group, Youth Room

Sunday December 8 **Second Sunday in Advent**

9:30am Worship Service: Join us as the Choir presents “Peace Has Come,” an intergenerational presentation of music and scripture. We also light the candle of Peace.

1:00pm Surviving the Holidays Seminar. GriefShare Event.

Wednesday, December 11

6:45pm Gingerbread Bash! This is a fun, hands-on Christmas event where we build gingerbread nativities, hear the Christmas story, and discover the life-changing gift of God’s Son, Jesus. RSVP to Danielle by December 1st.

5:45 – 6:30pm Church Family Supper, Parlor

6:45 – 8:00pm “The True Christmas Story,” presented by Ray Vanderlaan, filmed on-site in Jerusalem and Bethlehem, Parlor

Friday December 13

12:00pm Christmas Luncheon and Carol Sing: 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 15 **Third Sunday in Advent**

9:30am Worship Service: Join us as we will light the candle of Joy this week. NPC Youth will enjoy a **Christmas party in the Youth Room** during Sunday School. Stay for the **NPC Annual Meeting following the service** with childcare provided.

Tuesday December 17

10:00am Pre-School Christmas Pageant, Sanctuary

Sunday December 22 **Fourth Sunday in Advent**

9:30am Worship Service: Join us as we experience the Christmas Story through the **Annual Children’s Christmas Pageant** at the end of the Worship Service. We will also light the candle of Love.

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



Tuesday, December 24 **Christmas Eve**

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

PRAYER INFORMATION

Please Remember in Prayer

Justice & Mercy: Well Rooted exists to support, nurture and empower young adults and families entering, exiting, or existing in the foster system, by walking alongside them and connecting them to the relationships and resources they need to thrive. Please pray for the kids in foster care, kids reuniting with biological families, and youth aging out of foster care who are served by Well Rooted. Some of the aged-out youth are currently struggling with housing instability and homelessness so please pray especially for those in that situation.

Recent Session Actions from the November 19th meeting:

- Approved designating the donations received on Wednesday, November 27 Dinner to go to the Parkway Ministry.
- Approved Nick & Ginny Woodbury, Kasey Dougherty, House of His Creation, & Schaunel Steinnagel (Welcome Church) as recipients of our Christmas offering.
- Approved a revised wedding policy (ie. detailed cost breakdown)
- Approved the *Found Wandering* Benefit Concert offering to go to *Well Rooted*.
- Approved the NPC budget (less Missions) in the reduced sum of \$895,000. Also approved the Missions budget in the sum of \$211,000. This represents an overall reduction from the current budget of approximately 13%.
- Next Deacon's meeting: December 3; Next Session Meeting: December 17.

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY NEWS: CHILDREN

TODAY is Family Worship – Children and Youth (K – 12th) are encouraged to worship with their church family and participate in Communion. Worship Bags are available in the Narthex for children. The NPC Nursery is available for infants through PreK as usual.

NPC Nursery this December - Our youngest will begin a new series called “The Birth of Christ”. This Sunday they will look at Luke 2:1-2 and learn more about Jesus being born in a stable.

Gingerbread Bash – Today is the last day to RSVP for the Gingerbread Bash! Thank you to those who already have. We look forward to seeing you on **Wednesday, December 11th from 6:45 – 8:00pm in the church gym.**



Children sing with Choir! Save the Date – The Christmas Cantata will take place on Sunday, December 8th during worship. Children are invited to sing with the choir on this special day! We will hold a rehearsal on Saturday, December 7th beginning promptly at 9:30am. Please make every effort to be at this rehearsal.

2024 Christmas Pageant – Join Andro Star, the Great Singing Star and the Star Choir as we look at the Christmas Story through the eyes of the Star of Bethlehem! What a blessing to see all our children bring the true meaning of Christmas to life. Our pageant will take place on Sunday, December 22nd at the end of worship in the sanctuary.

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY NEWS: YOUTH

Youth Sunday School – All 6th – 9th graders are welcome to join us for Sunday School in the Youth Room! They will be dismissed following the worship songs during the service.

NPC Youth at the Parkway: Sunday, December 8th! All NPC Youth (6th – 12th grade) are invited to join us upstairs during Sunday school to make lunches and learn more about the Parkway Ministry! Immediately after service we will be taking these lunches to the Parkway! Please let Claire Woods know if you are planning to help deliver the meals or would like to provide supplies to make lunches!

Youth Christmas Party! Sunday, December 15th during the Sunday School hour, all Youth (6th-12th) are invited to join us for a fun-filled time of games, lunch, and Christmas celebration! Please bring a white elephant gift to exchange and dress in your most festive attire!



BUILDING DISCIPLES IN THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST

Sunday, December 1

1st Sunday of Advent

8:15am Sunday School, Parlor

9:30am **Worship Service** In-person and live-stream

Monday, December 2

6:15 – 7:15pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

6:30 – 8:00pm GriefShare, Chapel

8:00pm Overeaters Anonymous, Pastor's Office

Tuesday, December 3

12:15 – 1:15 Staff Meeting, Parlor

7:00pm Deacon's Meeting, Chapel

Wednesday, December 4

5:45 – 6:30 Church Family Supper, Gym

6:45 – 8:00 "The Christmas Candle", Parlor

7:00 – 8:00pm Kids Praise, Choir Room

7:00 – 8:00pm Middle School Youth Group, Youth Room

Thursday, December 5

6:30 – 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

7:00 – 8:15pm Women's Bible Study, Parlor

7:00 – 8:15pm Men's Bible Study, Pastor's Office

Friday, December 6

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

Saturday, December 7

9:30 – 11:30 Choir Cantata Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Sunday, December 8

2nd Sunday of Advent

8:15am Sunday School, Parlor

9:30am **Worship Service** In-person and live-stream

Choir Presentation of "**Peace Has Come**" during the Service

1:00 – 3:00pm GriefShare "Surviving the Holidays" Event, Parlor

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: jlmpsych910@gmail.com

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

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Jesus Christ, Minister

Farrar Griggs, Pastor

Cell #: (704) 239-4735

Email: fgriggs@narberthpres.org

Deborah Watson, Associate Pastor

Danielle Kauffman, Intergenerational Ministry

Claire Woods, Director of Youth Ministry

Sharon Shallow, Nursery Coordinator

Jinhee Shim, Organist

Sarah Comstock, Worship Band Leader

Linda Pilacik, Minister of Music

Matt Weed, Worship Tech. Coordinator

Tim Roykoff, 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, Director of Preschool

Chris Marinelli, Weekday Custodian

Larry Lubchuk, Weekend Custodian



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