



Nassau Presbyterian Church

December 23, 2018 9:15 and 11:00 AM

ADVENT IV



Gathering

God calls us together to offer praise, acknowledge sin,
and celebrate our adoption as forgiven children.

Prelude

“Ave Maria”

Franz Schubert

♦ Call to Worship

Psalm 148

At the sign ♦ you may stand. Bold text is read or sung in unison.

Praise the Lord! Praise all the Lord’s angels; all the Lord’s host!

Praise the Lord, sun and moon; all you shining stars!

Praise the Lord, you highest heavens, you waters above the heavens!

Praise the Lord, you sea monsters and all deeps,

fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling the Lord’s command!

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things, and flying birds!

Rulers of the earth and all peoples, young and old alike, old and young together!

Praise the Lord!

♦ Opening Hymn

“People, Look East”

Hymn 105

Hymn indicates the red pew hymnal *Glory to God*.

Prayer of Confession

**Lord, have mercy on us,
for we are not ready for your coming.**

**We live in sin,
as though there is no justice.**

**We live in discord,
as though there was no peace.**

**We live in despair,
as though there is no hope.**

Forgive us, Lord.

Show us your mercy and steadfast love.

**Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths,
for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.**

Silence

**O, that birth forever blessed when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Good news! Great joy!

**In Jesus Christ the grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation to all. We are forgiven.**

Glory to God in the highest and on earth. Peace, to all people.

Words of Welcome



Proclaiming the Word

We encounter the Word in speech and song
as we interpret and expound scripture.

Time with Children and Lighting of the Advent Candles

9:15 Children may leave for Church School classes. Teachers and ushers can assist in finding classrooms. 11:00 Children pre-kindergarten or age four to grade three may leave for Worship Explorers in Room 302.

Response

“While We Are Waiting, Come”

Hymn 92
verse 1

**While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.**

Prayer for Illumination

God of Light

who gives scripture to be written for our learning:

Grant us so to hear your Word,

to read, mark, learn, and digest your word,

that we may embrace and ever hold fast

the hope of Gospel life,

which you give us in our Advent Savior. Amen.

First Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 61 : 10–62 : 3

pg 692

Anthem

“Now May Your Servant, Lord”

Claude Goudimel, music

Luke 2 : 29–32

vers. Dewey Westra

Now may your servant, Lord, according to your word, depart in exultation.
My peace shall be serene, for now my eyes have seen your wonderful salvation.
You did for all prepare this gift so great, so rare, fulfilling prophet’s story
– a light to show the way to Gentiles gone astray, and unto Israel’s glory.

Second Scripture Lesson

Luke 2 : 25–38

pg 59

Sermon

“Despair to Hope”

Lauren J. McFeaters



Thanksgiving

We respond by presenting our offerings, setting the table,
lifting prayers, and praising the triune God.

♦ Sermon Hymn

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

Hymn 129

♦ Affirmation of Faith

Philippians 2

**Christ Jesus,
though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a servant,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess to the glory of God:
Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.**

Offertory

“When God’s Time Had Ripened”

Alfred Fedak, music
Carol Daw, text

When God’s time had ripened, Mary’s womb bore fruit,
scion of the Godhead, sprung from Jesse’s root:
so the True Vine branches from the lily’s stem,
the Rose without blemish blooms in Bethlehem.

More than mind can fathom, limit or untwine,
this mysterious yoking, human and divine,
but what reason fetters faith at length unlocks,
and wise hearts discover truth in paradox.

As the Bread of heaven, that we might be fed,
chose a manger cradle in the House of Bread,
so has Life Eternal mingled in the womb
with our mortal nature to confound the tomb.

For this swaddled infant in a human place
holds our hope of glory and our means of grace;
in the Love enfleshed here dawns the world’s rebirth,
promise of salvation, pledge of peace on earth.

♦ Doxology

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

Hymn 143
verse 4

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to th’eternal Three in One;
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn King!**

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer is recited in the language closest to your heart. The common English text may be found in the hymnal on pg 11, the traditional, pg 35; Spanish, pg 40; and Korean, pg 45.



Sending

We follow the Word into the world, sent forth with
God’s blessing to lives of service and love.

♦ Closing Hymn

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Hymn 132

♦ Benediction

♦ Response

“On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

Hymn 141
verse 1

**On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing
To the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us; him the Father gave us.
Ideo – o – o, ideo – o – o, ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!***
(*Therefore, glory to God in the highest!)

♦ Postlude

“Noël Étranger”

Louis-Claude Daquin

Preacher

Lauren J. McFeaters

Liturgists

David A. Davis

Len Scales 9:15

Mark Edwards 11:00

Time With Children

Corrie Berg

Musicians

Chamber Ringers

Robert Lamb, director

Adult Choir

Elem Eley, soloist

Marissa Chalker, soloist

Noel Werner, director

Michael Ryan, student organist

Cover

“From Darkness to Light” by
staff member, Sarah Finbow.
While the artwork develops
each Sunday on the bulletin
cover, you can view the full
image on the portico banner.

The Week Ahead

December 24 – January 1

Monday, Dec. 24

- 12:00 PM *Church office closed*
- 3:00 PM *Christmas Eve Family Worship*
Sanctuary
- 6:30 PM *Pre-Service Anthems and Carols*
- 7:00 PM *Christmas Eve Communion Worship*
Sanctuary
- 9:30 PM *Pre-Service Music for Harp*
- 10:00 PM *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*
Sanctuary

Tuesday, Dec. 25

OFFICE CLOSED — CHRISTMAS

Wednesday, Dec. 26

OFFICE CLOSED — CHRISTMAS

Thursday, Dec. 27

OFFICE CLOSED — CHRISTMAS

Friday, Dec. 28

OFFICE CLOSED — CHRISTMAS

Saturday, Dec. 29

NO SCHEDULED EVENTS

Sunday, Dec. 30

- 10:00 AM *Worship*
Sanctuary

Monday, Dec. 31

OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, Jan. 1

OFFICE CLOSED

**Reminder: the church office will
reopen on Wednesday, January 2**

TODAY AT NASSAU

Education for all ages
9:15 AM *Assembly Room and
Classrooms*

Worship
9:15 AM *Sanctuary*

Church Mouse Reveal Party
10:15 AM *Conference Room*

Fellowship
10:15 AM *Assembly Room*

Worship
11:00 AM *Sanctuary*

Worship Explorers
11:15 AM *Room 302*

Cantorei/ Alumni Choir Social Hour
6:00 PM *Assembly Room*

Bell Peal Rehearsal
6:30 PM *Room 202*

Cantorei/ Alumni Choir Rehearsal
7:00 PM *Sanctuary*

Welcome to Nassau Church

Children. Children are always welcome in our services of worship.

Childcare is available for infants and toddlers in the Nursery (Lower Level), 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM.

Church School takes place during the 9:15 AM service. Classes for age 2 and grades 6 to 12 begin at 9:15 AM. Preschoolers to grade 5 participate in the first part of the service and are then dismissed to their classes. All classes conclude at 10:30 AM.

Worship Explorers is a child-focused alternative worship setting during 11:00 AM worship for children age 4 to grade 3. Children attend the first part of the service and are then dismissed to Room 302 (Third Floor).

Order CDs of the service. Stop by the sound room.

Connect to our online community life. Visit nassauchurch.org for information and join our Facebook group for community life. Follow our Facebook page and Twitter and Instagram feeds (@nassauchurch) for news, recaps of events, and snapshots of life at Nassau.

Connect to pastors or staff. Contact the office.

Online giving. See “Give Now” on the website or give via the Church Life app.

Accessibility. The church lot has reserved parking, and there are six reserved street spaces on Sundays. Ramp access to the building is from the parking lot. Ask an usher for an assistive hearing device, a large-print bulletin or hymnal, an accessible pew, or a wheelchair. Ushers can also direct you to the elevator to access other floors.

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