Nassau Presbyterian Church
December 31, 2023  10:00 AM
Gathering Songs

Bless the Lord Red Hymnal 544

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God’s holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

Come and Fill Our Hearts Red Hymnal 466

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
Alleluia!

Sing, Praise, and Bless the Lord Red Hymnal 635

Sing, praise, and bless the Lord.
Sing, praise, and bless the Lord.
Peoples! Nations! Alleluia!
Sing, praise, and bless the Lord.
Sing, praise, and bless the Lord.
Peoples! Nations! Alleluia!

Call to Worship from Psalm 148

Praise the Lord!

Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars!
Young men and women alike, everyone, old and young together!
Let us praise the name of the Lord,
for God’s name alone is exalted;
God’s glory is above earth and heaven. Let us worship God!

Opening Hymn Joy to the World Red Hymnal 134
Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,
we do not recognize your presence in the face of our neighbor.
Open our eyes and our hearts to the work of Christ,
even in the most unexpected places.
Heal the brokenness between people, nations, and creation.
Let us dwell in you, the wellspring of life,
and be strengthened to do justice,
love kindness, and walk humbly.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends in Christ, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Response of Praise

Raise a Song of Gladness

Red Hymnal 155
Words of Welcome
We invite you to fill out the fellowship pads you will find in the pews. If you are watching the livestream we invite you to fill out the virtual fellowship pad: nassauchurch.org/check-in.

Prayer for Illumination
Holy God, our hope and strength,
by the power of your Spirit
prepare the way in our hearts
for the coming of your Word,
so that we may see the glorious signs
of your promise fulfilled;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Scripture Lesson Isaiah 61:10-62:3   pg 692

Silence

Second Scripture Lesson Luke 2:22-40   pg 59

Sermon Guided by the Spirit Len Scales
In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God; do not be afraid. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.
We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is,  
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.
Doxology

Of the Father's Love Begotten

verse 6

Christ, to thee with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be.
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore! Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Sending

Closing Song

Da pacem cordium

Benediction

Postlude

Ding Dong! Merrily on High

arr. Jonathan DeLoach

Preacher

Len Scales

Liturgist

Andrew Scales

Musicians

Michael Cooney, cello
Don Dolan, piano
Chris Jones, violin
Ingrid Ladendorf, soloist
John Lane, flute
Hanka Spelda, recorder

Sound Engineer

Nick Mastalesz

Livestream

Doug Ladendorf
Peter Spelda

Cover Art

"Alpha and Omega" a linocut
by Elizabeth Steele Halstead
Isaiah 61:10-62:3 NRSV

10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

62 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. 2 The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. 3 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
Luke 2:22-40 NRSV

22When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), 24and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

25Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. 26It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. 27Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, 28Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 29“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; 30for my eyes have seen your salvation, 31which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

32a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” 33And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 34Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed 35so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” 36There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. 38At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. 39When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, January 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>OFFICE CLOSED - NEW YEAR'S DAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, January 2</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Staff Meeting/Devotions</td>
<td>Niles Chapel</td>
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<td>Wednesday, January 3</td>
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<td>NO SCHEDULED EVENTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, January 4</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Al-Anon</td>
<td>Conference Room</td>
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<td>Friday, January 5</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Men's Breakfast</td>
<td>Zoom</td>
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<td>Saturday, January 6</td>
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<td>NO SCHEDULED EVENTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, January 7</td>
<td>9:15/9:30 AM</td>
<td>Education for All Ages</td>
<td>Assembly Room &amp; Classrooms</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:15 AM</td>
<td>Worship — Communion</td>
<td>Sanctuary &amp; Livestream</td>
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<td>10:05 AM</td>
<td>Joyful Noise</td>
<td>Niles Chapel</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:15 AM</td>
<td>Fellowship</td>
<td>Assembly Room</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>Carol Choir</td>
<td>Assembly Room</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Worship — Communion</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:15 AM</td>
<td>Worship Explorers</td>
<td>Room 302</td>
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Welcome to Nassau Church

Beginning again on Jan. 7, 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 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 3 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.

Livestream Worship. Livestream worship can be found at NassauChurch.org/livestream-worship. If you are worshiping with us in person, please be aware that you may be visible on camera at any time.

Connect to our online community life. Visit nassauchurch.org for information and join our Facebook group for community life. Follow our Facebook page 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.