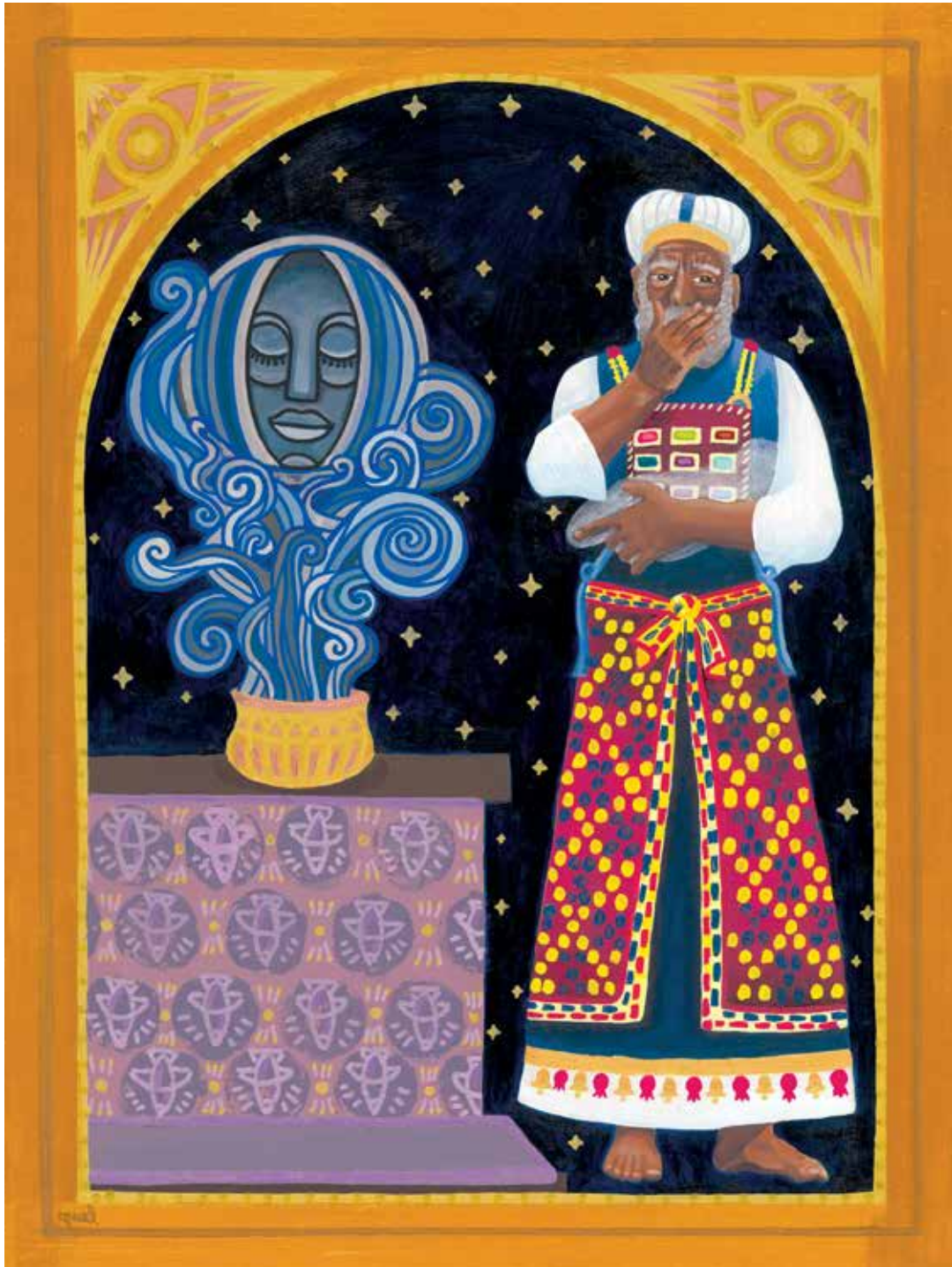




NASSAU PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



December 1, 2024

9:15 & 11:00 A.M.

SUNDAY WORSHIP & COMMUNION
ADVENT I

If you are worshiping with us in the Sanctuary, please be aware that you may be visible on the livestream camera at any time during worship.

A large print bulletin with scripture and hymns for those who require it is available in the narthex.

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



Gathering

Prelude

Methodical Sonata in B Minor

G.P. Telemann

I. Siciliana

II. Allegro

♦ Call to Worship

Psalm 148

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 creatures and all the deeps,
snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling the Lord's command!

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

Praise the Lord!

♦ Opening Hymn On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Red Hymnal 96

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we are weary.

For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

Forgive us for pushing so hard.

For weary minds that feel overwhelmed, we pray:

Forgive us for creating so many distractions.

For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

Forgive us for being impatient and intolerant.

**Remind us that healing takes time,
and joy and grief can coexist.**

Forgive us. Have mercy upon us. Amen.

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.

Time With Children

Lighting the Advent Candle

How does a weary world hope?

**By telling stories of hope,
by lighting candles in the night,
and planting seeds in the winter that
will bloom in the spring.**

By praying for children as they grow, and
picking up trash on the sidewalk.

By insisting that small acts can make a difference.

There are a million ways to practice hope.

So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.

With God's help, may we bring hope into a weary world. Amen.

◆ Response

Advent Carol

Beth Kenreich

9:15 Children may leave for Church School classes. Teachers and ushers can assist in finding classrooms.

11:00 Children age three to grade three may leave for Worship Explorers, room 302, third floor.

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.



Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Anthem

Zechariah's Song

David Ashley White

Luke 1:68-79

para. Carl Daw

Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:5-25

pg 56

Sermon

The Light of Preparation

David A. Davis



Thanksgiving

♦ Sermon Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Red Hymnal 83

Offertory

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

arr. Doug Denisen

4th century Liturgy of St. James

trans. Gerard Moultrie

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

About the Cover Art

Zechariah is dressed in a breastpiece, ephod, robe, checkered tunic, turban, and sash, just as the book of Exodus specifies. In my painting, gold, blue, purple, and crimson yarns are woven together and bejeweled with engraved stones which bear the names of the sons of Israel (Exodus 28:4).

Zechariah stands in the Holy Place wearing the most meticulous of garments. Does he expect to encounter the divine? Or is he just going through the motions, lighting the incense as an all-too-familiar scent fills the air?

After all these years of fulfilling priestly duties and “living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord” (Luke 1:6), Zechariah and his wife are still childless. Regardless of their desire for children, in their culture and context, childlessness bore the implication of God’s contempt.

I ruminated on this image... a weary priest wrapped in layered fabrics, colors, symbols, textures, and rare stones that proclaim God’s providence and power. The contrast is not lost on me.

I often try to neglect my weariness by putting on a veneer of unwavering trust in God—while feeling like I may suddenly unravel into a pile of beautifully-curated threads, stones, and gold accessories.

In this image, I decided to depict the angel as smoke from the altar of incense. Zechariah has one hand over his mouth in fear and disbelief, while his other hand cradles the notion—not yet hope—of his son’s existence.

Do you bind up your weariness in a neat and tidy bow, put your head down, and project okay-ness like me? What would it look like to acknowledge our weariness, quit powering through, and open ourselves up to what God might have in store for us? Perhaps we’ll meet an angel.

-Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

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“Hark! the Herald Angels / Jesus, the Light of the World” from “Glory to God” #127. Text: Stanzas, Charles Wesley, 1739; ref., George D. Elderkin, 1890; Music: George D. Elderkin, 1890; harm. Evelyn Simpson-Curenton ©2000 GIA Publications, Inc. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-730100. All rights reserved.

Submitted to OL: 11/15/24

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The Week Ahead

Monday, December 2

7:00 PM *Children's & Family Ministry Committee*
Assembly Room

Tuesday, December 3

9:30 AM *Staff Devotions*
Niles Chapel

1:30 PM *Grace Note Singers*
Stonebridge at Montgomery

7:00 PM *Grief Encounters Support Group*
Conference Room

7:00 PM *Mission & Outreach Committee*
Zoom

Wednesday, December 4

4:00 PM *Advent Craft Fair*
Assembly Room

4:15 PM *Carol Choir*
Music Room

5:15 PM *Choir 3-4-5*
Music Room

5:30 PM *Festival Ringers*
Sanctuary

7:30 PM *Adult Choir*
Music Room

Thursday, December 5

10:00 AM *Al-Anon*
Conference Room

7:30 PM *HR Committee*
Davis Study

Friday, December 6

8:00 AM *Men's Breakfast*
Zoom

10:00 AM *Grief Encounters Support Group*
Conference Room

5:30 PM *Club 3-4-5*
Assembly Room

Saturday, December 7

5:00 PM *Confirmation Retreat #2*
Room 302

Sunday, December 8 - Advent 2

9:15/9:30 *Education for All Ages*
Assembly Room & Classrooms

9:15 AM *Worship*
Sanctuary & Livestream

10:15 AM *Fellowship*
Assembly Room

10:15 AM *Wee Christmas*
Sanctuary

11:00 AM *Worship*
Sanctuary

12:15 PM *Pageant Cast Rehearsal*
Sanctuary

2:00 PM *Service of Remembrance*
Niles Chapel

5:00 PM *Cantorei*
Music Room

5:00 PM *Middle School Fellowship*
Room 304

6:00 PM *Youth Fellowship Dinner*
Assembly Room

6:30 PM *Breaking Bread Worship*
Niles Chapel

6:40 PM *Chorale*
Music Room

6:40 PM *Senior High Fellowship*
Room 304

7:30 PM *Breaking Bread Dinner*
Assembly Room

TODAY AT NASSAU

Education for All Ages
9:15 & 9:30 *Assembly Room & Classrooms*

Worship - Communion
9:15 AM *Sanctuary & Livestream*

Joyful Noise
10:05 AM *Niles Chapel*

Fellowship
10:15 AM *Assembly Room*

Carol Choir
10:30 AM *Niles Chapel*

Worship - Communion
11:00 AM *Sanctuary*

Pageant Cast Rehearsal
12:15 PM *Sanctuary*

Cantorei
5:00 PM *Music Room*

Middle School Fellowship
5:00 PM *Room 304*

Youth Fellowship Dinner
6:00 PM *Room 302*

Breaking Bread Worship
6:30 PM *Niles Chapel*

Chorale
6:40 PM *Music Room*

Senior High Fellowship
6:40 PM *Room 304*

Breaking Bread Dinner
7:30 PM *Assembly Room*

Tending the Flock

Death - Marvin E. Alphs, brother of Larry Alphs and brother-in-law of Keiko Alphs, on November 15, 2024, in Mason City, Iowa.

Welcome to Nassau Church

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).

Livestream Worship. Livestream worship can be found at NassauChurch.org/livestream-worship. If you are worshipping 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.

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Please recycle.

