



NASSAU PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



December 15, 2024

9:15 & 11:00 A.M.

SUNDAY WORSHIP
ADVENT 3

If you are worshipping 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

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Johannes Brahms

♦ Call to Worship

Isaiah 40:3

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

As we worship today,

let us welcome God's dynamic work in our world,

in our hearts, in our community, and in all of creation.

Let us worship God!

♦ Opening Hymn

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Red Hymnal 108

verses 1-5

Prayer of Confession

Lord, show us your wonder,

for we are not ready for your coming.

We live in fear, as though there is no grace.

We live in darkness, as though there is no light.

Forgive us and have mercy upon us.

Lead us in your truth,

teach us your paths,

and guide us in your wisdom,

for you are Emmanuel and you are with 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.

The Sacrament of Baptism (9:15)

Time With Children (11:00)

Lighting the Advent Candle

How does a weary world practice joy?

By dancing, and throwing parties.

By hanging Christmas lights, and holding
sleepy babies. By singing loudly,
and looking for good news.

**By telling the story of Jesus,
and showing up for our community.**

There are a million ways to practice joy.

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

**With God's help, may we bring joy
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

Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

pg 56

Sermon

The Light of Fearlessness

David A. Davis



Thanksgiving

- ♦ Sermon Hymn Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming Red Hymnal 129
- ♦ Affirmation of Faith Galatians 4:4-7

**When the fullness of time had come,
God sent the Son, born of a woman, born under the law,
in order to redeem those who were under the law,
so that we might receive adoption as children.
And because we are children,
God has sent the Spirit of the Son into our hearts,
crying, "Abba! Father!"
So we are no longer a servant but children,
and if children then also heirs, through God.
Thanks be to the God of love and grace!**

Offertory

Bogoróditse Dévo

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Doxology

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Red Hymnal 141
verse 4

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer



Sending

♦ **Closing Hymn** **My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout** **Red Hymnal 100**
 verses 1, 4, and refrain: all
 verse 2: higher voices
 verse 3: lower voices

♦ **Benediction**

♦ **Response** **Hark! The Herald Angels/Jesus, the Light** **Red Hymnal 127**
 verse 3

Postlude **Toccata in E minor** **Johann Pachelbel**

Preacher

David A. Davis

Liturgists

9:15: Lauren J. McFeaters

11:00: Len Scales

Time With Children

Carol Wehrheim

Musicians

Adult Choir

Noel Werner, director

Don Dolan, organist

Sound Engineer

Nick Mastalesz

Livestream

Peter Spelda

Tom Coogan

Cover Art

"Watercourses" by

Hannah Garrity

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About the Cover Art

This painting is a meditation on the holy watercourses of the Negeb and all of the metaphors within that image. I painted with oil paint, charcoal, and copper leaf on canvas; the copper represents joy in our weary world.

For God, we are weary and we see no end to the weariness. Lament with us. Holy One, you are steadfast in your love like the watercourses of the Negeb. In your name, we call out evil. When we do, we are glimmers of hope. By your example, we act in the ways of Jesus. When we do, we are shimmers of joy. We often fall short; forgive us. We strive on, for when we succeed, your new heaven shines through. Strive with us.

Mother God, in this time of ascending fear, how do we stay aware of the needs of the world, active toward the renewal of your people, and focused on the specifics that are in your control through your call to us? Keep awake with us.

Adonai, it is in your name that we give ourselves time to lament. With you, we cry together. When our ancestors emerged from exile, by the rivers of Babylon, we sat down, and there we wept when we remembered Zion. The power of nostalgia—is it getting in the way of your work? Cry with us.

Holy Wisdom, we allow ourselves to be amazed, to dream, to lean into your call to garner your gifts the way raindrops become creeks and creeks become coursing rivers. We challenge ourselves to see the glimmers of hope in the murky waters of our current time. We beg you for clarity, but no, you continue to show us the way through subtle nudges, not obvious signs. We must flow on in endless song. How can we keep from singing? Perhaps our tears and our songs are one. Sing with us.

Holy Word, may our actions match your call, your claim on our lives. May we come together in our lament to sow the change your justice calls forth. Sow with us, we pray, that our next generation may reap our tears with shouts of joy. Amen.

— Hannah Garrity

The Week Ahead

Monday, December 16

NO SCHEDULED EVENTS

Tuesday, December 17

9:30 AM *Staff Devotions*
Niles Chapel

1:30 PM *Advent Communion at Windrows*
Marks Gallery

Wednesday, December 18

4:15 PM *Children's Choirs Caroling*
Brandywine Serenade

7:30 PM *Adult Choir*
Music Room

Thursday, December 19

9:00 AM *Deacon Bakers*
Assembly Room + Kitchen

10:00 AM *Al-Anon*
Conference Room

1:00 PM *Christmas Care Package Prep*
Main Office

7:30 PM *Session*
Assembly Room

Friday, December 20

8:00 AM *Men's Breakfast*
Zoom

Saturday, December 21

NO SCHEDULED EVENTS

Sunday, December 22 - Advent 4

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

9:15 AM *Worship*
Sanctuary & Livestream

10:15 AM *Fellowship*
Assembly Room

11:00 AM *Worship*
Sanctuary

TODAY AT NASSAU

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

Worship
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
11:00 AM *Sanctuary*

Nassau Book Group
12:15 PM *Room 202*

Christmas Pageant
4:00 PM *Sanctuary*

Christmas Tea
5:00 PM *Assembly Room*

Cantorei
5:30 PM *Music Room*

Breaking Bread Hot Chocolate Run
6:30 PM *Meet at Nassau*

Tending the Flock

Death - Andrea Stevenson, daughter of Ken and Alison Stevenson, sister of Campbell, Conner, Tucker, and Riley Stevenson, granddaughter of Eliot and Patti Daley, niece of Shannon and Sam Daley-Harris, cousin of Micah and Sophie Daley-Harris, on December 6, 2024 in Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

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.

