



# NASSAU PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



December 29, 2024

10:00 A.M.

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**FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

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

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Prelude

Noël: Ou s'en vont ces gais Bergers

Pierre Dandrieu

A Christmas Welcome

### ♦ Call to Worship

In a little town far from their home,  
God's holy child was born.

**Welcome the Light!**

By the faint light of the moon,  
Mary and Joseph found their way.

**Welcome the Light!**

Shown by a courtyard fire,  
the open stable door.

**Welcome the Light!**

In the shadowy stable stall,  
Joseph kindled a lamp.

**Welcome the Light!**

There Mary gave birth to Jesus,  
called God-With-Us.

**Welcome the Light!**

Angels opened the doors of heaven,  
sang, "Glory to God in the highest!"

**Welcome the Light!**

Shepherds saw the sky ablaze,  
left their sheep and came to see.

**Welcome the Light!**

In the darkest winter night,  
God set a brilliant star.

**Welcome the Light!**

Magi from the East  
divined God's shining sign.

**Welcome the Light!**

And with joy, we greet the Child.

**Let us worship God!**

- ♦ Opening Hymn          Hark! The Herald Angels Sing/  
Jesus, the Light of the World          Red Hymnal 127

### Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, we are hardened by conflict,  
but your love intervenes.**

**We are haunted by fears, but your Son brings us hope.**

**We are weary and complaining, but your gift gives us joy.**

**We are sheep who are lost, but the Shepherd knows our names.**

**We are strangers without a country,  
but your holy realm of goodness surrounds us.**

**We are children far from home,  
but you send your Child to guide us.**

**And the Word becomes flesh and dwells among us.**

**Thank you for loving us so. 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.**

- ♦ Response of Praise          O Come, All Ye Faithful          Red Hymnal 133  
verse 4

### The Sacrament of Baptism

Children may leave for a Bible story and craft time in room 07 (lower level).



# Proclaiming the Word

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## Prayer for Illumination

**God of light, be our light.  
God of wonder, cause us to wonder.  
God, the shepherd, lead us on your path.  
As we hear your Word born anew,  
illuminate our hearts and  
send your angels to proclaim again,  
“Peace on earth.” Amen.**

## Gathering Around the Word

Lesson One	To Be Set Free Psalm 119:1-8, 166-176	pg 566 & 570
Solo	Gesù Bambino	Pietro A. Yon
Lesson Two	What God Requires Micah 6:6-8	pg 866
♦ Hymn	Joy to the World	Red Hymnal 134 Verses 1, 3, 4
Lesson Three	The Birth of Jesus Luke 2:1-7	pg 58
Hymn	O Little Town of Bethlehem verses 1, 2, 3	Red Hymnal 121
Lesson Four	The Shepherds Luke 2:8-20	pg 58



## Thanksgiving

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## ♦ 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      Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child      African-American Spiritual

♦ Doxology      Of the Father's Love Begotten      Red Hymnal 108  
 verse 6

Lesson Five      The Magi      pg 2  
 Matthew 2:1-12

Hymn      What Child Is This      Red Hymnal 145

Lesson Six      The Incarnation      pg 91  
 John 1:1-14

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer



## Sending

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♦ Closing Hymn      On This Day Earth Shall Ring      Red Hymnal 141  
 Hunger Offering

## Christmas Blessing

Let the love that shaped earth and heaven  
dwell within us this Christmas.

**Let the love that created humanity  
dwell within us this Christmas.**

Let the love that overcomes suffering and hatred  
dwell within us this Christmas.

**Let the love that causes us to rejoice  
dwell within us this Christmas.**

Let the love that forgives and renews  
dwell within us this Christmas.

**Let the love that brings reconciliation after separation  
dwell within us this Christmas.**

Let the love that brings the blessing of peace  
dwell within us this Christmas.

**And may we share that peace  
with all people near and far.**

Let us share the Peace of Christmas with one another.

**Alleluia and Amen!**

### ♦ Passing the Peace of Christmas

Postlude

Noël VIII: Étranger

Louis-Claude Daquin

Christmas Fellowship

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Liturgists

Lauren J. McFeaters

David A. Davis

Musicians

Marissa Chalker, soloist

Don Dolan, organist

Sound Engineer

Nick Mastalesz

Livestream

Doug Ladendorf

Ian Lewono

Cover Art

"Magnify" - an acrylic painting  
by Hannah Garrity

## About the Cover Art

The central image in this quilt square design is of Mary's soul, an abstract and concentric shape that begins to look like an eye. It originates as an outward spiraling abstraction of the soul magnifying. For Mary's soul magnifies. In her song, Mary honors her God who mirrors the life her son will live: lifting up the lowly, filling the hungry, coming to the aid of God's people, bringing down the powerful, sending the rich away empty, and scattering the proud.

One Advent, the art team at my church created a set of banners based on the story of Elizabeth and Zechariah in Luke 1. In the design, Elizabeth (Mary's cousin) stood, full with child. Surrounding her were patterns of tablets and writing tools (representing muted Zechariah's need to communicate through writing) and patterns of hands (representing Elizabeth's caretaking in raising up her son, John). The banners hung in the sanctuary throughout the whole Advent season. On December 24th, the pastor told me, "It's Christmas eve; I have to preach the Magnificat. Elizabeth will have to be Mary today."

It occurs to me that we are all Mary today, dreaming of a better world and working toward it through right relationships and healthy communities. So why does it seem that the world keeps falling apart? Where is the "arc of justice" of which Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke?<sup>1</sup> Can you see it? Can you feel it? Why does it seem so far out of reach? Like Moses on the mountaintop, can you see the promised land? As global politics heat up, it feels so far away.

Mary is on the verge of delivering God's depth and beauty into the world; God will be embodied by a child. Mary, the earthly mother of our incarnate God, can see it. She can see hope, justice, and right relationships. In the Magnificat, she speaks the way of God into being, just before Jesus is born. Like my mother whispering in my ear when I was a child, calling forth whom I shall become, Mary speaks her dreams into existence.

— Hannah Garrity



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"O Come, All Ye Faithful" from "Glory to God" #133. Text: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, alt.; Music: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; harm. The English Hymnal, 1906. Public Domain.

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"Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child" from "10 Christmas Songs for Solo Voice," Text & Music: African American Spiritual arr. Mark Hayes ©1999 Alfred Publishing. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-730100. All rights reserved.

"Of the Father's Love Begotten" from "Glory to God" #108. Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 5th cent.; trans. John Mason Neale, 1854, alt., and Henry Williams Baker, 1859, alt.; Music: Plainsong, Mode V; harm. C. Winfred Douglas © 1943, 1961, 1985 Church Pension Fund. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-730100. All rights reserved.

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"On This Day Earth Shall Ring" from "Glory to God" #141. Text: Piae Cantiones, 1582; trans. Jane Marion Joseph. c. 1917; Music: Piae Cantiones, 1582; arr. Gustav Holst, c. 1917. ©1924, ren. J. Curwen & Sons Ltd. Public Domain.

"Noël VIII: Étranger" Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772). Public Domain.

"Lift Off," Nicolette Peñaranda, acrylic, ink, paper collage, and mixed media on canvas, A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

"The Golden Rule" after Norman Rockwell by Coop Mosaic Artistico Veneziano, Murano glass tile mosaic, United Nations, Conference Building, 3rd Floor. [www.un.org/ungifts/golden-rule](http://www.un.org/ungifts/golden-rule)

"Decorated prayer niche" Unknown artist, 6th / 7th century, tempera on plaster. The Coptic Museum, Cairo, Egypt. [www.coptic-cairo.com/museum/selection/fresco/fresco.html](http://www.coptic-cairo.com/museum/selection/fresco/fresco.html) (Inv. No. 7987)

"An Angel Summons the Shepherds," Lu Hong Nian, silk scroll. Museum of Chinese in America, New York, New York. [www.mocanyc.org/collections/stories/chinese-christian-art/](http://www.mocanyc.org/collections/stories/chinese-christian-art/)

"Three Holy Kings" (Die Heiligen Drei Konige), Piotr Stachiewicz, pastel on paper. National Museum in Krakow, Krakow, Poland. <https://mnk.pl/>.

"The Three Kings, Kneeling with Gifts" Joseph Christian Leyendecker, oil on canvas. Museu Nacional D'Art De Catalunya <https://www.museunacional.cat/en>

"Magnify," Hannah Garrity, acrylic painting with mixed media on canvas, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org, 2024.

Call to Worship adapted from the Rev. Dr. Jennifer M. Phillips, "A Song of Praise for Christ's Birth," St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Kingston, Rhode Island. Used with permission.

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# The Week Ahead

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## Monday, December 30

OFFICE CLOSED - CHRISTMAS

## Tuesday, December 31

OFFICE CLOSED - CHRISTMAS

## Wednesday, January 1, 2025

OFFICE CLOSED - CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR

## Thursday, January 2, 2025

10:00 AM *Al-Anon*  
Conference Room

7:30 PM *HR Committee*  
Davis Study

## Friday, January 3, 2025

8:00 AM *Men's Breakfast*  
Zoom

## Saturday, January 4, 2025

NO SCHEDULED EVENTS

## Sunday, January 5, 2025

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

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

10:05 AM *Joyful Noise*  
Niles Chapel

10:15 AM *Fellowship*  
Assembly Room

10:30 AM *Carol Choir*  
Niles Chapel

11:00 AM *Worship - Communion*  
Sanctuary

## TODAY AT NASSAU

Worship  
10:00 AM *Sanctuary & Livestream*

Bible Story & Craft Time  
10:15 AM *Room 07*

Christmas Fellowship  
11:00 AM *Assembly Room*

## 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](http://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](http://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.

61 Nassau Street, Princeton, New Jersey 08542  
609-924-0103 [nassauchurch.org](http://nassauchurch.org)

Please recycle.

