

NEW HEMPSTEAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Rev. Angela Maddalone
Pastor

Lois Anderson
Music Director

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2024

*All who are able are invited to stand.

TIME OF SILENT MEDITATION **10:55-11 AM**

PRELUDE Music of the Season

GREETING Lay Leader

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT “*Come, Jesus, Prince of Peace*” Diane Hannibal

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

Let us begin with tenderness. Let us begin from a place of vulnerability and hope. Let us begin with love.

Yes, let us start with love. Today we light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love.

May the warmth of these lights be our cornerstone.

May the truth in these lights help us begin again. May it be so! Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively)

In this weary world,

we sing of hope.

In this fragile world,

we sing of peace.

In this beautiful world,

We sing of joy.

In this tender world,

we hold onto love.

This is the invitation of faith.

So in this time of worship,

may we worship our with-us God, amen!

*OPENING PRAYER (In Unison)

God of hope, peace, joy and love, scattering the proud, you look with favor on those the world ignores. For you, we wait for the One who will feed us; for you, we wait for the One who stands with us in our loneliness and pain. God in Community, Holy in One, for you, we wait, Amen.

*OPENING HYMN “*To a Maid Whose Name was Mary*” (vs. 1,2,5,6) # 98

*CALL TO CONFESSION

The prophet Micah tells us that the “one of peace” will come from

Bethlehem. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, let us confess our sins and set ourselves on Christ’s path. Let us pray:

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Gracious God, You paint pictures of what could be, but we declare those visions impossible. You speak of the lion lying down with the lamb, but we spout skepticism and uncertainty. You dream of a more just day, but we poke holes in the plan, unable to

fathom that horizon. Forgive us for losing sight of hope. Forgive us for assuming that what we see is all there is. Open up our hearts to see the world as you see it. Open up our hearts to risk hope, to dream dreams, and to not be afraid of either. With gratitude we pray, amen.

***MOMENT FOR SILENT CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Responsively)**

Friends, No matter what you hold onto, and no matter what you let slip through your hands, God is holding onto you. That good news will never change.

So hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

Today is a new day. Today, we have reason to hope. Today, we are forgiven. And the same will be true tomorrow. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

95

*Prepare the way of the Lord, Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God. (Repeat)*

Please be seated

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (In Unison)

Open us, Holy One, to your Word and your Way. As we make our final preparations before Christmas, clear our minds of holiday distractions and long list of to-dos. Help us approach your Word with awe and wonder, so through the power of the Holy Spirit we may hear the message you intend for us today. Amen.

FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a (pg. 805)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks to God.**

ANTHEM

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Spiritual

Jane Craig Sebok: horn

A MOMENT WITH THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Rev. Angela Maddalone

SECOND READING

Luke 1:39-56 (pg. 888)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

We Are Never Alone

Rev. Angela Maddalone

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (In Unison)**

(Book of Common Worship; Philippians 2: 5-11)

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.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Minister: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

***HYMN**

“Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming”

#129

MINUTE FOR CHRISTMAS JOY

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

In this season of generosity, let us remember from whom all our blessings flow. Let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER CARDS

OFFERTORY

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Polish Carol

***DOXOLOGY**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)**

Holy God, with Mary we seek to magnify you in our worship and in our deeds. Accept these gifts and bless them for Christ’s ministry. May they lift the lowly and fill the hungry. May they reveal your glory present with us today and still yet to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

***CLOSING HYMN**

“My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout”

#100

*** CHARGE & BENEDICTION (Responsively)**

Magnify God the Creator; Magnify God the Redeemer; Magnify God the Sustainer in your life and the lives of others.

May God bless us, keep us, and encourage us this Sunday and forevermore. Amen.

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

“Amen”

Danish

POSTLUDE

“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”

Traditional

The worship is over the service begins

Our Worship Theme this Advent is “Words for the Beginning”, by A Sanctified Art.

Prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC sanctifiedart.org.

And Presbyterian Outlook Weekly Liturgies

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME VISITORS

We welcome all visitors. We are glad you were able to be with us today and look forward to seeing you again.

MAILING LIST

If you would like to be on our mailing or phone list please send your request with your name, address, e-mail and/or phone number to either office@nhpchurch.org or newhempsteadpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com and we will add you to our lists.

Lay Leader: Nancy Jacobs

Children's Story Time/Sunday School meets during the Sermon time in the Colonial room. Please feel free to join us!

There is a Bible study with Ed Garcia on Wednesdays at 10am. All are welcome!

Our Sunday Bible study meets after worship. All are welcome!!



There will be an in-person Candlelight Christmas Eve service on Tuesday, December 24th at 8:00 PM; it will also be live-streamed on YouTube [youtube.com/@nhpchurch](https://www.youtube.com/@nhpchurch).

<https://www.youtube.com/@nhpchurch> To give online, click on www.nhpchurch.org

Or scan the QR code:

