

NATRONA HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
An Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Order of Worship, December 24, 2022, 7:00 PM
The Rev. Richard Harbaugh

"Maybe Christmas, he thought... doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas, perhaps... means a little bit more!" –How the Grinch Stole Christmas, 1966

GATHERING IN THE NAME OF THE RISEN CHRIST

THE PRELUDE – from Red Hymnal #155 **"Once in Royal David's City"**

THE WELCOME

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES – The Harbaugh Family

Tonight, we relight the five candles of our Advent wreath. The green candle of creation which reminds us of life. The violet candle of the incarnation which speaks of Christ's royalty. We relight the red candle of the crucifixion which reminds us of our Lord's sacrifice; and the blue candle of the resurrection, the color of eternity. Finally, we light the white candle. This is the CHRIST candle. Jesus is born, Jesus has come, and Jesus will come again. He is our salvation.

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (To be spoken responsively)

Leader: Welcome tonight to a celebration like no other!

PEOPLE: THIS IS THE NIGHT OF THE HOLY BIRTH!

Leader: Let the love of Jesus be born in your hearts and spirits!

PEOPLE: OPEN OUR HEARTS TO RECEIVE THIS BLESSED GIFT, LOVING GOD.

Leader: Rejoice, good friends, the Good News is here!

PEOPLE: CHRIST OUR SAVIOR IS BORN! HALLELUJAH! AMEN.

*A CAROL MEDLEY OF JOY (Red)

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" No. 145 (vs. 1-2)

"Joy to the World!" No. 125 (vs. 1-4)

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" No. 133 (vs. 1-2)

*THE WORDS OF CHRISTIAN GREETING

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY – from Red Hymnal #148

"O Holy Night!"

*THE DOXOLOGY – from Red Hymnal #625

"Doxology"

THE CHILDRENS MESSAGE

*THE HYMN OF PREPARATION

"Away in a Manger"

No. 157

THE SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-21

THE MESSAGE

"Hope Has Come! The Birth of Jesus"

–Pastor Rick Harbaugh

*THE HYMN OF RESPONSE

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

No. 141

THE WORDS OF REFLECTION

*THE CANDLELIGHTING

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

*THE BENEDICTION

"Emmanuel"

No. 134

*THE POSTLUDE – from Red Hymnal #138

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

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*Please stand if you are able.

"I never thought it was a bad little tree. It's not bad at all really. Maybe it just needs a little love." –A Charlie Brown Christmas

White Poinsettias

White Poinsettias

**In Loving Memory of
Harry Gourley, Norma Jean Gourley, and Gayle Gourley
Given By: The Children and Grandchildren**

Red Poinsettias

Red Poinsettias

**In Loving Memory of Our Parents
William and Grayce Walker
Given By: The Children and Grandchildren**

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PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

-Pianist: Natalie Cowley

-Praise Band Leader: Kevin Rudolph

-Online Filming: Marcy Korb

-Sound & Production: Ed Heintz & Eli Irvine

-Liturgist: Deb Lehew
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

NHPC WELCOMES EVERYONE joining us this Christmas Eve for worship!

OUR CHRISTMAS EVE COVER was created by Kresta Kerr Stone, an NHPC Youth Group Alumnus. Kresta is the daughter of Ray and Deb Kerr and has been providing artwork for us to use for Christmas Eve for many years. Thank you for sharing your talent with us again this year, Kresta!

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES tonight is the Harbaugh family, Rich and Lynn. Rich and Lynn have been attending NHPC since their son has been ordained as our minister. We welcome them to our service and thank them for lighting our advent candles this evening.

THE NURSERY is closed this evening, so our volunteers can enjoy the Christmas Eve service with their families.

DURING THE CANDLELIGHTING AT THE END OF OUR WORSHIP: As each person's candle is lit, light the candle of the person next to you. Let the person with the unlit candle light theirs from the flame of the lit one to prevent dripping wax. At the end of the service, please carefully extinguish your candle and deposit it in the box in the narthex.

WHERE ARE THE PEW CUSHIONS? Please forgive the lack of pew cushions as they have been removed from the sanctuary to keep the wax from getting on them. The cushions will return for the service on the 25th!

THE 2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE ON THE TABLES IN THE NARTHEX. If your envelopes are missing, or you would like to start receiving them, please contact the office at 724-224-7338 or nhpcsecretary@aol.com. Please note envelope numbers may have changed!

The NHPC Staff and Boards wish you all a very Merry Christmas!