

**NATRONA HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**An Evangelical Presbyterian Church**  
Order of Worship, December 24, 2023, 7:00 PM  
The Rev. Richard Harbaugh

---

*“It is a lovely thought that the shepherds who looked after the Temple lambs were the first to see the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” –Baclay*

---

GATHERING IN THE NAME OF THE RISEN CHRIST

THE PRELUDE

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 – Roy and Ross Nelson

**“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

**“The First Noel”**

–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”**

.....  
\*Please stand if you are able.  
.....

---

*“The shepherd’s good news amazed all who heard it. Even if they didn’t really understand it, they recognized that something significant had happened. ‘God, to show that he respected not persons, revealed this grand mystery to the shepherds and the wise men; the one poor, the other rich; the one learned, the other unlearned; the one Jews, the other Gentiles; the one near, the other far off.’” –Trapp*

---

*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**

.....  
PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

*-Pianist:* Natalie Cowley

*-Praise Band Leader:* Kevin Rudolph

*-Online Filming:* Marcy Korb

*-Sound & Production:* Ed Heintz & Eli Irvine  
.....

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

NHPC WELCOMES EVERYONE tonight for worship and celebration of our Savior's birth!

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 are Rich and Lynn Harbaugh. Rich and Lynn are the proud parents of our minister, Rick Harbaugh. 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 attend the service.

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.

PLEASE FORGIVE THE missing cushions as they have been removed from the sanctuary to keep the wax from getting on them. The cushions will return for the next service!

**THE 2024 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.**

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