

Naomi Makemie Presbyterian Church
Large Print
December 24, 2023
7 PM
Onancock, VA

Our Mission Statement

“Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, and don’t take yourself too seriously—take God seriously.” Micah 6:8

Compassionate, Fair and Loyal
nmpreschurch.org



Christmas Eve

Welcome to worship! We are glad you joined us today. If you are seeking a church home we invite you to join in the fellowship and ministry of this congregation. We look forward to seeing you again. Please fill out one of the visitor cards and drop it in the offering plate.

Our Season of Advent has focused on the Ann Weems poetry that draws our senses toward the Promise of Jesus. Her poetry reminds us that we are all Dancing into the Promise.

Our choral opening through Advent is from an anthem by Beall & Carter

The lyrics to the anthem are:

-In those days a decree went out; Dancing into the Promise! See folks coming from all about; Dancing into the Promise! See them coming to Bethlehem town, see them coming up hill and down; see them coming from all around, Dancing into the Promise!

-Mary and Joseph came to that place, Dancing into the Promise! A child was born to them, full of grace; Dancing into the Promise! The Child was born on that Christmas night, while up above him a star shone bright. O the star it was quite a sight, Dancing into the Promise!

-Shepherds heard the news, they came too, Dancing into the Promise! Into Bethlehem two by two; Dancing into the Promise! Angels sang with a joyful sound, "Glory to God!" ringing all around; Christ is born! Let us all be found, Dancing into the Promise! Dancing into the Promise!

The Decree by Ann Weems

And in the days a decree goes out to all the world,
For these are taxing times.
We are all called to go to Bethlehem,
No matter the state of our health or our world.
We come, obedient and faithful,
For we have heard the message,
We have dreamed the dream
That God will come to dwell among us.
We come, expectant with joy,
Pregnant with anticipation,
For God has done great things for us.
We come searching for a sign;
Bearing our gifts, we come.
We come, called from the silent hillsides of our hearts,
Startled and frightened by the magnitude of light,
We huddle together toward Bethlehem.
We come, one by one,
And yet, as one,
Dancing into the Promise.

**For Christmas:
Holding by Ann Weems**

The Day is here
And we made it to Bethlehem!
The time has come for kneeling
And we've seen the Child!
There is singing in the stable
And we want desperately to hold on to it...
Hold on to the Star!
And the angels!
And the spirit of love!
How do we hold on
To the Christmas spirit?
Why can't every day be Christmas?

The world mutters "Be realistic,"
And sometimes we church people mutter too.
On our way back from Bethlehem
Sometimes we forget
What we've been warned about in a dream:
To return another way.
Once we've seen the Child,
We're left holding hearts
Wherein angels dance
And stars sing!
Once we've been to Bethlehem.
Every day *is* Christmas!

Naomi Makemie Presbyterian Church Onancock, VA

Mark Nuckols
Organist/Pianist

Reverend Monica Gould
pastor

Debbie Ryon
Choir Director

December 24, 2023 Christmas Eve 7pm

***Asterisk is to stand in body or spirit. Bold print is congregational response.**

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

Choral Opening (All are invited to sing):

***O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

Call to Worship

Ames Family

Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means God is with us.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Ames Family

Opening Prayer

**O come let us adore him, renew our hearts today, may the love of God be born in us
today, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen**

*Opening Hymn

O Come All Ye Faithful

#41

*-O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem! Come and
behold Him, Born the King of angels!*

*Refrain: O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christm
the Lord!*

*-Yea, Lord we greet Thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to Thee be all glory given; Word of
the Father, now in flesh appearing!*

*Refrain: O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christm
the Lord!*

*-Sing choirs of angels, Sing in exultation! Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God,
all Glory in the highest!*

*Refrain: O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christm
the Lord!*

Call to Confession

Like a great light in a land of darkness, the mercy of the Lord shines on us. God is here. Trusting in God's grace, Let us confess our sufferings, our losses, our pain, our sins. Join me, as we pray together, saying,

Prayer of Confession

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted the good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Hear the promise of the Lord: See your salvation has come! You are a holy people, redeemed by God; sought out and not forsaken. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen!

***Gloria Patri #579 Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; world without end, amen. Amen.**

Offering/Offertory& Prayer after offering

First Lesson Christ's birth foretold Isaiah 9:2-7

Hymn *Angels We Have Heard on High* #23 Verse 1 & 3

-Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains, And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains.

-Refrain: Glo- - -ri-a in ex-cel-sis, De-o; Glo- - - - ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o

-Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the new born King.

-Refrain: Glo- - -ri-a in ex-cel-sis, De-o; Glo- - - - ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o

Second Lesson The peace of Christ foretold Isaiah 11:1-3,6-9

Poem The Decree by Ann Weems

Third Lesson The Song of Mary Luke 1:46-55

Hymn *O Little Town of Bethlehem* #44 Verses 1 & 4

-O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light; The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

-O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend on us we pray ; Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel !

Fourth Lesson The birth of Jesus Luke 2:1, 3-7

Fifth Lesson The Shepherds go in haste Luke 2:8-16

Hymn *While Shepherds Watched their Flock* #58 Verses 1, 3, 4

-While shepherds watched their flocks by night, All seated on the ground, The angel of the Lord came down, And glory shone around.

-To you, in David's town this day, Is born of David's line. The Savior, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign.

-The heavenly Babe, you there shall find, to human view displayed, All humbly wrapped in swathing bands, And in a manger laid.

Meditation Promise Fulfilled!

Sixth Lesson Lesson of Light: John 1:1-14

*Hymn *Away in A Manger* #25 all verses

-Away in a manger, no crib for His bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

-The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

-Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, and fit it for heaven to live with you there.

Invitation to The Lord's Supper

Great Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

L: The Lord be with you,

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts,

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise...

...Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our

debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

Communion

Communion is open to all who would like to receive the Lord's Supper. You are invited to come forward and take a piece of bread and dip the bread in the cup or pick up an individual cup. If you are unable to come forward, we will bring the elements to you.

Prayer after communion

Lighting of Candles reflecting on the Light of Life-Jesus Christ!

The ushers will light their candles from the Christ Candle, and then will light the candles of those on the end of each aisle. Worshipers will then pass the light to their neighbors, with the unlit candle tipped to receive the flame.

*Hymn

Silent Night

#60 all 4 verses

-Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright, Round yon Virgin, mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild, Sleep in Heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

-Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight, Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

-Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light, Radiant beams from Thy Holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

-Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

*Charge & Benediction *Go and tell this good news of great joy: to us a Savior is born. Alleluia!*

May the Christ who by his incarnation, gathered into one the things of heaven and earth, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill, the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Alleluia, Amen.

Prayer Concerns Carolyn Lin, Meg Adams, Alicia McCarter, Alverna St John, John Adams, Marshall Ryon

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Staff

Organist/Pianist-Mark Nuckols
Choir Director-Debbie Ryon
Office Administrator-Jennifer Stapleton
Nursery Workers-Kamryn Mears/Emma Cathey

Volunteers

Videographer-Mike Gould
Lead Usher-Suzanne Rogers
Clerk-Jennifer Stapleton
Treasurer-

Elders

Class of 2023

Megan Ames
Rick Turner
Marsh Ryon

Class of 2024

Ron May
Linda Arvidson
Meg Adams

Class of 2025

Bill Baird
Patty Davis
Jennifer Stapleton

