



*NPC strives to be an intercultural church of believers in Jesus Christ who delight to share the good news in Germantown and beyond.*

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**December 24, 2025 – 6:00pm**  
**Christmas Eve Service**

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**Merry Christmas!**

Welcome to our Christmas Eve service – a night of anticipation and wonder as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the unexpected King. In a world searching for answers, Jesus arrives not as the world's expected conqueror, but as the humble child in a manger. His Kingship is unlike any other; He has come to offer hope to the broken, to provide peace to the restless, to embrace the lost, and to bring joy to the fallen. Tonight, we reflect on how Jesus turns expectations upside down, meeting us in our deepest needs and transforming our stories with His love and grace. May this service remind us that hope is found in the most unexpected places, and that through Jesus, the true King, we receive healing, peace, love and lasting joy.

Warmly in Christ,

Pastor Jeffrey Rickett

[pastorjeff@neelsville.org](mailto:pastorjeff@neelsville.org)

**First Time Here?**

We're so glad you've joined us! Please fill out a green guest card in the pew and hand it to a Welcome Team member for a small gift. They can help connect you with our various ministries and answer any questions you may have.

# Order of Service

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## Prelude

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*  
(Willis/arr. Raney)

Laura Benning, flute  
Michele Kelly, piano

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*We invite you to let the music quiet your mind and heart to prepare for worship.*

## Welcome

Pastor Jeffrey Rickett

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\* = please rise if you are able

## \*Call to Worship

from Sing! Hymnal

*God's words in scripture  
remind us that He is the  
one who calls us to  
gather.*

Leader: Jesus, very God of very God, Light from Light,

**All:** We bow before you!

Leader: True God from True God, only begotten Son,

**All:** We bow before you!

Leader: Jesus, Alpha and Omega, the Word made flesh,

**All:** We bow before you!

Leader: Jesus, born of Mary, Immanuel – “God with us” – Lord and  
Savior,

**All:** We bow before you!

Leader: Jesus, the Son of David, the Son of Man, the Son of God,

**All:** We bow before you!

Leader: Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Lord, Prince of  
Peace,

**All:** We bow before you!

Leader: Jesus, the Light of the World, the Way, the Truth, and the Life,

**All:** We bow before you!

Leader: Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords,

**All:** We bow before you and come to worship you alone!

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

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**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

Dr. Samuel Amoako-Atta &amp; Evelyn Asante

*Lighting the Christ Candle, the central white candle in the Advent wreath, marks the arrival of Jesus, the "Light of the World," and signifies the culmination of Advent preparation.*

**Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; 11:1-4

Sue Farrell

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. (Isaiah 9:2)*

**\*Congregational Carol***What Child is This* (Dix/arr. Huggins)**#734**

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ, the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here, the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the son of Mary!

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## Scripture Reading

Micah 5:2-5

Pastor SeongSu Hong

*And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. (Micah 5:4)*

## Special Music

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly #769*  
(Koscielny/Reed)

Next Generation  
Praise Team

Leia Faradonez (clarinet), Amy Njuki (guitar) and Nahila Pouemi (cello)

## Children's Message

Melissa Evans

*All children are invited to come up front for a special Christmas message this evening. Children will be dismissed to their pews with their family after tonight's message and subsequent prayer. Thank you for sharing your Christmas Eve with our Neelsville family on this beautiful night; may your whole family be blessed by tonight's service!*

## \*Congregational Carol    *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (Brooks/Redner)    #751

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.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth!

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to 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!

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## Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26-35

Adam Condrick

*And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy – the Son of God." (Luke 1:35)*

## Time of Offering

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We have an opportunity to give financially to support the work of the local and global church, offering what we are able with cheerful hearts, grateful for God's blessings. Giving also includes generously sharing our time and talents to care for one another and the community around us.



**Please take the plate and pass it down the pew to the usher. To give online, scan the QR code.**

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### Offertory

*Still Is the Night* (Williams/Martin)

Chancel Choir

*Still the night, quiet the manger; come and see the Savior who redeems.*

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### Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Eileen Bauer

*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). (Matthew 1:22-23)*

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### \*Congregational Carol

*Angels We Have Heard on High*  
(Chadwick/Hutchins)

#753

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains:  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

See Him in a manger laid, Jesus, Lord of heav'n and earth!  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, sing with us our Savior's birth.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

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### Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-21

Francisco Lara

*And the angel said to them "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)*

*Tonight, our pastor shares a short homily on the meaning of Christmas. On Sundays, our pastors preach from a book of the Bible, explaining the scripture, what it meant to the original readers, and how it applies to us today.*

**Special Music**

*Behold*  
(Jenkins/Wickham/Furtick)

Jonathan Harris &  
Natalia Suwuh Angkuw

*Behold the King has come; Divinity incarnate, Creator of the world, breathing our air.  
Behold what light has come and the dark cannot contain it. The Savior of the world is finally here.*

**Prayer of Praise (unison)***We Join Our Voices*

*Together, we lift our  
hearts to praise God for  
who He is and to express  
our deep love for Him.*

We join our voices with Mary's and pray, "my soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation." We join our voices with Zechariah's and pray, "God has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us." We join our voices with the multitude of the heavenly host and pray, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

A compilation of the Lukan canticles: Luke 1:46-47, 50, 68-71; 2:14  
from the Sing! Hymnal

**\*Closing Carol**

*Silent Night*  
(Mohr/Grüber/arr. Seal)

**#737**

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,  
Heav'nly 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.

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**\*Postlude** Joy to the World (arr. Lanz) Christine Gormley, piano

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*We close with another instrumental piece, carrying praise to God out of the church and into the world.*

## Thank you! \_\_\_\_\_

Neelsville Presbyterian Church would like to thank you for worshiping with us today. If you do not have a church home, please accept our invitation to worship with us again soon!

**Join us for our Sunday Worship Services at 10:45am** – Our service is held both in-person and online at [facebook.com/neelsville](https://facebook.com/neelsville). We pray that either option is an encouraging worship experience for you!

Children ages 3 thru 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are invited to the Worship & Praise Zone during Sunday sermons for a Bible story and crafts. Nursery care is also available during the whole worship service for children ages 2 and younger. *Both the Worship & Praise Zone and Nursery will be open on 12/28.*

**Classes for All Ages resume on Sunday, January 4 at 9:30am** – Grow in your faith with engaging classes for all ages!

- **Kids** in pre-K thru 5th grade meet in the Education Wing.
- **Students** in 6th thru 12th grade meet in the Andrew Small Room.
- **Adults** have multiple options for studies on Sundays and throughout the week. Learn more at [Neelsville.org/ministries/adults](https://Neelsville.org/ministries/adults).

# Stay Connected with Neelsville

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## CONTACT INFO

### Questions?

office@neelsville.org

### Website

www.neelsville.org

### Phone

301-972-3916

### Office Hours

Mon-Thurs 10am-4pm

Fri 10am – 1pm

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Email [office@neelsville.org](mailto:office@neelsville.org) to join the prayer chain.



## E-LETTER SIGNUP

The Weekly Neelsville News is delivered each Friday at 10am.



## MINISTRY STAFF

**Rev. Jeffrey Rickett** – *Lead Pastor*

[pastorjeff@neelsville.org](mailto:pastorjeff@neelsville.org)

**Rev. SeongSu Hong** – *Pastor of Next Generation Ministries*

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**Natalia Suwuh Angkuw** – *Interim Director of Worship Music*

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[office@neelsville.org](mailto:office@neelsville.org)

**Melissa Evans** – *Children's Coordinator*

[melissa@neelsville.org](mailto:melissa@neelsville.org)

## LAY LEADERSHIP

**Elders** – *Oversee the spiritual health of the congregation as well as the congregation's faithfulness to God's mission.*

Clerk of Session – Eileen Bauer

[session@neelsville.org](mailto:session@neelsville.org)

**Deacons** – *Nurture fellowship and caregiving within and beyond the congregation.*

Moderator – Peggy Hurkett

[deacons@neelsville.org](mailto:deacons@neelsville.org)

**Trustees** – *Provide care and oversight for Neelsville's buildings and grounds.*

Moderator – Jason Craft

[trustees@neelsville.org](mailto:trustees@neelsville.org)

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