

THE SERMON

CHRISTMAS VISIONS: PEACE

Dr. Merritt

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Welcome to Christ's Service of Worship for the Lord's Day

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 87 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

*December Sixteenth the Year of Our Lord
Two Thousand Eighteen
Third Sunday of Advent*

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed* (unison)
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

WE WELCOME YOU TO WORSHIP! You are special, because God brought you here today. Together we celebrate and rejoice in God's blessings in our lives!

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE OFFERTORY

THE PRELUDE

*THE DOXOLOGY

GO FAITHFULLY

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79

(Congregants are encouraged to read and reflect upon these passages as they prepare for worship.)

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 96 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

*THE CHARGE (Minister)

THE PASSING OF PEACE

THE BENEDICTION

THE GATHERING HYMN 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orders all things mightily: to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*THE POSTLUDE

* LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLES Allen, Ferrell, and O'Conner Families

*Indicates the People Standing

If standing is difficult, please remain seated. Larger print bulletins are available.

*LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLES "Lunch Bunch"

Judy Moore, Lois Hopkins, Mary Simpson, Bernie Barger, Frances Bowling, Ramona Ortiz

*Ushers
Allen Kling, Mac and Ann Pace*

*Liturgist
Marie Haines*

OUR ADVENT SERMON SERIES is entitled "Christmas Visions", and each week we will consider an advent vision from a familiar Old Testament prophecy, looking at the promises of God that are fulfilled in the coming of Jesus.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: Prepare the way of the Lord,
make way for the coming of His peace!

**Congregants: God has promised us
a new creation, where His Word endures forever.**

Minister: Blessed is the Holy One, our God.

**Congregants: He has sent a mighty Savior
to redeem us.**

Minister: Come, let us worship God!

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION (unison)

**Merciful and gracious God,
Lord of peace in our hearts and throughout the world,
You sent Your prophets as messengers
to proclaim repentance and reconciliation,
and to prepare the way for our salvation.
Give us grace to hear, and spirits to worship,
that we may greet with joy the coming
of Jesus Christ our redeemer,
the Prince of Peace and the Lord of Lords,
who lives and reigns with You,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

* HYMN OF PRAISE 102 *Savior of the Nations, Come*

CALL TO CONFESSION (Liturgist)

A voice is crying in the wilderness, "Repent,
for the Kingdom of heaven has come near."
We have all sinned, but there is mercy in the Lord.
Let us confess our sins and seek His forgiveness.

*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**God of the future,
You are coming in power
to bring all nations under Your rule.
We confess that we have not expected Your Kingdom,
for we live lives that ignore Your promised judgment.
We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors,
abuse the earth, and refuse Your justice and peace.
In Your mercy, forgive us.
Grant us wisdom to welcome Your way,
and to seek the things that will endure
when Christ comes to judge the world.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Liturgist)

Every valley is lifted up, every mountain made low.
Now the glory of the Lord is revealed,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.
Behold, in Christ we are forgiven! Praise be to God!

* RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS Hymn 113 (Refrain)

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Glorie in excelsis Deo!

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Philippians 1:3-11

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

ANTHEM

Gifts for Immanuel (The Friendly Beasts)

arr. David Kellermeier

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Lauren Godsey

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Micah 5:2-5

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵ and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Holy God, our hope and peace, by the power of Your Spirit
prepare the way in our hearts for encountering Your Word,
so that we may see the glorious signs of Your promise fulfilled.
We pray through Jesus Christ, Your incarnate Son. Amen.**

Announcements

Ushers for December 23, 2018 –

PLEASE JOIN US TODAY FOR THE JOY GIFT PROGRAM after the morning worship service. Come and celebrate the Christmas season and enjoy Christian fellowship. A Christmas program will be presented by the children. And Santa Claus may make a surprise visit!

THE SESSION WILL MEET NEXT SUNDAY, December 23, 2018 following the morning worship service. Anyone wishing to join the congregation's membership, or having business for the Session to consider, is asked to contact the Minister.

OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE will be held Monday, December 24, at 4:00, and will include worship experiences for all ages. We will be joined by our fellow Presbyterians from Green Ridge and Fifth Avenue congregations. The service will include celebration of the sacrament of holy communion, special music, special readings, and candle lighting, amidst the beauty of the sanctuary decorations. Make your plans to join us in worshipping the babe in the manger, and bring your friends and family!

Have you checked the decorations in the narthex? The mitten tree is waiting for you to cover it with mittens, gloves, scarves, socks, etc. for children at the Presbytery Center, Rescue Mission, Ram and Salvation Army. Our snow last week may be just a beginning. The little ones need you!!!

THE CHURCH LIBRARY HAS MANY BOOKS available to church members, to guide you in your respective spiritual journeys, Members are encourage to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to deepen their spiritual knowledge and understanding of the faith.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A PLEDGE CARD for your 2019 financial support of God's work at Northminster, please contact Barry Ferrell, Stewardship Chair.

Today	9:45 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service Joy Gift Program
Next Sunday	9:45 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:15 pm	Session Meeting

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3911 Greenland Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia 24012-3250
WEBSITE:WWW.NORTHMINSTERPCUSA.ORG

Russ Merritt, Transitional Pastor Melissa Hudson, Music Director
Susie Tallmage, Secretary Lauren Godsey, Nursery Attendant
Ministers...Members of Northminster

Let us keep those listed below in our prayers.

Members

Bobby Brammer	Betty Dixon	Michael Hambrick
Jake Hayes	Betty Hinkle	Rose Howard
Tom Kirby	Jim Maile	Floyd Moretz
Ramona Ortiz	Ann Pace	Mac Pace
Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith	Frances Stevens
Jo Ann Threlkeld	Bill Waddell	George Wingeier
Shirley Wynn		

Friends and Family

Mike Duckworth-(Holly Woodson's brother-in-law)
Cindy Lanford – (daughter-in-law of Stan and Elise Lanford)

***THE SESSION ***

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson
Class of 2018: Dana Esworthy, Barry Ferrell, Jyke Jones, Stan Lanford, Ann Pace
Class of 2019: Margie Cundiff, John Kabana, Allen Kling, Sarah Plymale,
Holly Woodson
Class of 2020: Bob Bielawski, Frankie Bielawski, Lynn Kirby, Bob Newman,
Dave Snider