

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

*December Second the Year of Our Lord  
Two Thousand Eighteen*

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

**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!**

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PRELUDE

THE WELCOME AND OFFERING

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

\*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 88

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Veni Emmanuel

THE COLLECT

CAROL *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night* arr. Raymond Haan

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup> The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. <sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness

he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

THE SECOND LESSON Micah 5:2-5a

<sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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; <sup>5</sup> 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.

CAROL *Prepare the Royal Highway*

arr. Cathy Moglebust

THE THIRD LESSON Luke 1: 26-38

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' <sup>35</sup> 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God.' <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

CAROL *The Angel Gabriel*

arr. Robert Sieving

The angel Gabriel from heaven came. His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame; "All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary," "Most highly favored lady," Oh, Gloria!

"For known a blessed mother thou shalt be, All generations laud and honor thee, Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, "To me be as it pleaseth God, she said, "My soul shall laud his holy name." Most highly favored lady, Oh, Gloria!

THE FOURTH LESSON Luke 2:1-14

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

\*HYMN 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Gloria

CAROL *Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day* arr. Hal H. Hopson

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day: I would my true love did so chance to see the legend of my play, to call my true love to my dance.

Refrain: Sing, oh! My love, this have I done for my true love.

Then was I born of a virgin pure, of her I took fleshly substance; thus was I knit to man's nature, to call my true love to my dance. (Refrain)

In a manger laid so wrapped I was so very poor, this was my chance, betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass, to call my true love to my dance. (Refrain)

CAROL *On Christmas Night* Sussex Carol arr. Barbara Kinyon

On Christmas night, all Christians sing, To hear the news the angels bring. News of great joy and mirth, Tidings of our Saviors birth.

The King of kings to us is giv'n, The Lord of earth and heaven, Angels and men will sing of blest Jesus, their newborn King.

Oh why should men on earth be sad, Since our Redeemer made us glad; When from our sins he set us free, All for to gain our liberty.

\*HYMN *God rest you merry, gentlemen* God Rest Ye Merry

God rest you merry, gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay, For Jesus Christ our Saviour was born upon this day, to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray; O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came, and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same, how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name. O tidings of comfort and joy...

“Fear not, then,” said the angel, “Let nothing you affright; this day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright, to free all those who trust in him from Satan's power and might.” O tidings of comfort and joy...

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place, and with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace; this holy tide of Christmas doth bring redeeming grace. O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy!

CAROL *African Noel* Victor Johnson

Sing Noel, sing we all Noel!

THE FIFTH LESSON Luke 12: 35-40

<sup>35</sup> ‘Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup>be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks.<sup>37</sup>Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. <sup>39</sup> ‘But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.<sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.’

HYMN 350 *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*  
(Congregation remains seated.)

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning; keep your lamps trimmed and burning; keep your lamps trimmed and burning, for the time is drawing nigh.

Sisters, don't grow weary; brothers, don't grow weary; children, don't grow weary, for the time is drawing nigh.

CAROL *Soon and Very Soon* Hymn 384, Andre Crouch  
(The Congregation is invited to sing along.)

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King. Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

No more crying there; we are going to see the King. Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

No more dying there; we are going to see the King. Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King. Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

THE SIXTH LESSON Revelation 1: 4-8

<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup>and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup>Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.<sup>8</sup> ‘I am the Alpha and the Omega’, says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

CAROL *Of the Father's Love Begotten*  
Divinum Mysterium, Plainsong

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see evermore and evermore!

Christ, to Thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to Thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be: honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore!

\*THE RECESSIONAL HYMN 348

*Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending*

Helmsley

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE *In Dulci Jubilo* J.S. Bach

\*The Congregation is invited to stand and sing on the hymns as indicated.

*We thank the choir members and musicians who have contributed their time and talent to this worship service.*

Bob Bielawski	Frankie Bielawski
Di Brammer	Dana Esworthy
Hope Hale	Tom Hale
Sarah Godsey	Lynn Kirby
Sheila Lancaster	Margie Lemon
Susan Lockard	Debbie Newman
Carolyn Reed	Karen Smith
Paula Jones	Jeff Midkiff

*Lighting of the advent candle:  
Cundiff Family – Margie, Greg, Trent, Emma, Easton*

*Ushers:  
Allen Kling, Bob Newman, Greg Theimer, Ray Williams*

Announcements

Ushers for December 9, 2018 – John and Lee Ann Kabana

Sarah Plymale would like to thank everyone for their prayers and cards, and to let everyone know that she is doing very well.

Jo Ann Threlkeld is at Richfield Rehabilitation Center in room 306 and would enjoy phone calls 540-444-2730.

This year the **Joy Gift program** will be on **December 16** after the morning worship service. Come and celebrate the Christmas season and enjoy Christian fellowship. Please bring your favorite casserole, salad or dessert. The Women of the Church will provide the meat, drinks and rolls. A Christmas program will be presented by the children. And Santa Claus may make a surprise visit!

**The ladies of Circle 2 invite ALL of the Northminster ladies to our Christmas Circle Tuesday, December 4th for a Women’s Friendship Gathering 7pm at 802 McDowell Drive Salem, VA. Please RSVP to Dana #293-0514 or [danabesworthy@comcast.net](mailto:danabesworthy@comcast.net). This is a casual gathering. Come for a short while and listen to the lesson or stay for food and fellowship. Bring a friend or two!**

Circle 1 will meet Tuesday December 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 at Pete’s Deli.

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!

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 ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER of Northminster, contact the Minister.

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 11:00 am	Sunday School Lessons and Carols
Monday	10:00 am	Presbytery Church Development Committee
Monday	5:00 pm	Worship Committee Meeting
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Circle 2 with Dana Esworthy
Next Sunday	9:45 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Worship Service