

Carol *Joy to the World* (Insert)

Charge

Benediction

*Indicates the People Standing

Ministers

Kristen Reinhold, Green Ridge
Vernie Bolden, Fifth Avenue
Russ Merritt, Northminster

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

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

*December Twenty Fourth the Year of Our Lord
Two Thousand Eighteen*

Christmas Eve

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!

Prelude

Paula and Devin Jones

Building the Body

Gathering Carol *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* (one vs)
**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him now, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

Lighting of the Christ Candle (responsive)

Northminster Reader: God came into the world so that no one would live in darkness.

Congregants: Glory to God in the highest!

Fifth Avenue Reader: The light shines in the darkness,

Congregants: and the darkness does not overcome it.

Green Ridge Reader: This is the good news for all people: to us is born a Savior, who is Christ
the Lord.

Congregants: And things will never be the same.

Fifth Avenue Reader: The world has been transformed.

Congregants: It is made new with hope, peace, joy, and love.

Northminster Reader lights candle

Green Ridge Reader: Let us pray. God of light and new beginnings, shine in our lives and in
Your world with Your transforming power, that we would be made new and drawn closer to
you and closer to one another. Through Jesus Christ, the light of the world, we pray. Amen.

Call to Worship

*Carol 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Invocation

A Reading "Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room"

by James C. Howell

*Confession (unison)

God of stars and angels, God of sheep and lambs,

God of abundance and grace:

You know us well, better than we know ourselves.

You hear us cry "Gloria" and Praise",

and You watch us tear things apart with our words and deeds.

You hear us say "Thy Will be done" and "use me, O God",

and You watch us do nothing in response to cries for help.

You know us, and You love us, and You forgive.

Hear us now say, "Help us to change, turn us around,

make us more loving and courageous and hopeful."

This we pray in Jesus's name. Amen.

*Assurance

*Response Hymn 113 (Refrain)

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Glorie in excelsis Deo!

A Reading "I Give My Heart"

*Carol 121 *O Little Town Of Bethlehem*

Christmas Prayer

Readings from God's Word

Old Testament: Isaiah 9:1-6

New Testament: Luke 2:1-14

Christmas Eve Meditation "O HOLY NIGHT"

Carol 119 *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Affirmation

We believe that God has come to us as a little child,

making our weakness his strength,

securing our salvation by becoming one of us,

blessing us with a steadfast Savior,

filling our hearts with joy to be shared with one another.

We believe that God has birthed and ordained

righteousness and justice into the world,
giving us a law of love written upon our hearts,
calling us to serve the less fortunate in all lands,
declaring an everlasting reign of peace,
defeating the powers of evil and pain and suffering.

We believe that God calls us to participate
in His works of love and mercy and grace,
inviting us to proclaim Christ's birth, his life,
his teaching, his healing, his death, and his resurrection,
welcoming all who come to his Table.

We believe God is transforming us as disciples of Christ
to go forth into the world, to carry his presence,
to be his Body, to announce his Kingdom of peace,
to see and know everyone as God's beloved children.

This we believe, this we seek to live.

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table (responsive)

Minister: A child is born for us in Bethlehem,
wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.

Congregants: He will be our Shepherd,
feeding his flock in the strength of the Lord.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Minister)

Distribution of Elements of Grace

Congregational Hymns

112 *On Christmas Night All Christians Sing*

147 *The First Nowell*

(Worshippers are invited to come forward to receive
the bread and wine.)

Prayer of Dedication

Lighting of the Christmas Candle

Carol *Silent Night* (Insert)

Carol *Silent Night*
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.

Carol *Joy to the World*
Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all 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 blessing flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse if 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

