

\*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)

**God is the Creator and Ruler of all.**

**In His wisdom and in His time,**

**He raised up Jesus, His perfect child,**

**to fulfill God's promises to humanity.**

**Jesus is the beginning of the new creation,**

**and the pioneer of the new humanity.**

**He gave history its meaning and direction,**

**and calls the Church to serve God**

**for the reconciliation of the world.**

**Jesus is the one true revelation of God,**

**the Word and grace of God incarnate.**

**In his name we are called to serve God**

**in faithfulness, righteousness, and holiness,**

**and to become a light to the nations,**

**proclaiming the coming of a new age,**

**when God's purpose will be realized.**

**To God be all glory! Amen.**

THE OFFERTORY

\*THE DOXOLOGY Hymn 708 Verse One

**We give thee but thine own, whatever the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust,**

**O Lord, from thee.**

**GO FAITHFULLY**

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION 133

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

\*THE CHARGE (Minister)

\*THE BENEDICTION

\*THE POSTLUDE

\*Indicates the People Standing

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

## **NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

*December Twenty second the Year of Our Lord*

*Two Thousand Nineteen*

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

**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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**GATHER JOYFULLY**

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

THE PASSING OF PEACE

THE GATHERING HYMN 83

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (Verse One)

**Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Holly Woodson and Dave Snider

*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*, Hymn 85

Youth

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Minister: Our souls magnify the Lord.

**Congregants: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.**

Minister: God has done great things, holy is His name!

**Congregants: His love is from generation to generation.**

Minister: Let us worship God.

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION (Unison)

**Holy One, Giver of all light and life,**

**we gather at the manger to give You our praise.**

**Be with us in our worship and fellowship,**

**and lift up our hearts and minds to Christ,  
the morning star that never fades.  
By the light of Your Holy Spirit  
reveal to us Your Will and way,  
and lead us to offer our lives to You  
in service and in love.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.**

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

\*THE CALL TO CONFESSION

Like a great light in a land of deep darkness,  
the mercy of the Lord shines upon us.  
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins.

\* CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

**Living God, You beckon us to wake from our sleep,  
to open our eyes to the goodness of Your reign,  
the injustice of our world, and the gap in between.  
You call us to follow in the path of Your love.  
Forgive us, O God, when we choose the easy way.  
Forgive us, O God, when we choose the selfish way,  
the fast way, the successful way, the comfortable way.  
Point us in Your way, and strengthen us for the journey.  
Convict us, awaken us, empower us, enliven us,  
to follow Your path all our days.  
Hear these our silent prayers.**

\*THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the promise of the Lord:  
See, your salvation has come!  
You are a holy people, redeemed by God,  
sought out, not forsaken.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
Praise be to God.

\* RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS 96

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* (Verse Two)

**Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within, and let us all  
our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.**

## GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Isaiah 41:8-13

<sup>8</sup> But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend; <sup>9</sup> you whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, 'You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off'; <sup>10</sup> do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand. <sup>11</sup> Yes, all who are incensed against you shall be ashamed and disgraced; those who strive against you shall be as nothing and shall perish. <sup>12</sup> You shall seek those who contend with you, but you shall not find them; those who war against you shall be as nothing at all. <sup>13</sup> For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, 'Do not fear, I will help you.'

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 *Love Has Come* Hymn 110

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE / CHILDREN LEAVE FOR JP'S

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD John 1:1-5

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (Unison)

**Gracious God, by the gift of Your Holy Spirit  
show us the Word made flesh--  
good news of great joy for all--  
so that we may sing with the angels:  
glory in the highest and peace on earth!  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE SERMON

*THE WITH-US GOD*

Dr. Merritt

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 105

*People, Look East*

*Ushers*  
*John and LeeAnn Kabana, Holly Woodson*

*Acolytes*  
*Lilly Hayes, Jake Hayes*

#### Announcements

WHILE THE MINISTER IS IN TEXAS WITH HIS FAMILY next Sunday, our guest preacher will be Rev. Ellen Woodworth, former pastor of Buchanan Presbyterian Church and currently parish associate at Fifth Avenue Church.

THE CONGREGATION SHARES ITS THANKS with the Northminster music program for the many blessings we all received in last Sunday's special "Lessons & Carols" worship service. God used all of you to touch our hearts with the true Christmas Spirit!

SESSION WILL MEET TODAY SUNDAY December 22, 2019 for its regular monthly meeting. If there is anyone who would like to join the church family as active members, or if there is any business that needs to come before the Session, please contact the Minister following the service.

ACOLYTES AND LITURGISTS are being scheduled for 2020. If you (or your children) are interested in serving in worship services, please let the Minister know.

Members who joined Northminster from Green Ridge are encouraged to participate in ushering and/or serving communion. There are no requirements to usher, but to serve communion, you must be an elder (active or inactive). The sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the hallway across from the offices. This would work to further blend the two congregations. If you have any questions, you can contact Margie Cundiff, Judy Ferrell, or Bob Bielawski (members of the Worship Committee).

OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE will be held Tuesday, December 24, at 4:00, and will include worship experiences for all ages. 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!

Did you see it? Our Mitten Tree is back in the narthex. Each year our undecorated tree goes up the first of December. It looks mighty bare until we decorate it with gifts of mittens, gloves, scarves, socks and leggings, and other "keep warm" items for children. We have included panties and underwear, mostly for children, but recently RAM has sent out requests for socks and underwear for adults, so we could use just a few of those. There are often some good sales at this time of the year. After Christmas these will be distributed to Presbyterian Center, Rescue Mission, RAM, Salvation Army Women's Shelter. Can you help make our tree bloom with lots of things?

THE MINISTER'S ADULT BIBLE STUDY is offered each Sunday at 10:00, prior to worship, and is open to everyone seeking to learn more of God's teachings. Come join us each week (and bring your Bible!).

#### Calendar

Today 10:00 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship Service  
12:00 pm Session Meeting

Tuesday 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service / Communion

Next Sunday  
10:00 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship Service

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

If you or someone you know should be included in the list of those needing special prayer, please contact the Minister. If prayers have been answered and we can celebrate God's goodness by removing your name from the list, let the Minister know.

#### **Let us keep those listed below in our prayers.**

##### **Members**

Rod Bittner	Bobby Brammer	Charlotte Cooley
Michael Hambrick	Jake Hayes	Betty Hinkle
Barbara Jones	Bob Lancaster	Floyd Moretz
Ann Pace	Mac Pace	Gladys Presson
Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith	Frances Stevens
Jo Ann Threlkeld	Olive Whisner	

##### **Friends and Family**

Cindy Lanford – (daughter-in-law of Stan and Elise Lanford)

\*THE SESSION \*

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson

Class of 2019: Margie Cundiff, John Kabana, Allen Kling, Holly Woodson

Class of 2020: Bob Bielawski, Frankie Bielawski, Susan Graybill, Lynn Kirby,  
Bob Newman, Dave Snider

Class of 2021: Vee Hayes, Judy Ferrell, Chuck Lockard, Jeremy Newman,  
Ray Williams

