

Congregational Hymns (Insert)

Hymn 122 *Silent Night* (verses 1-3)

Lighting of the Christmas Candles

Hymn of Celebration 134 *Joy to the World*

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Ushers:
Bob Bielawski, Jyke Jones, Bob Newman

Communion Servers:
Bob Bielawski, Walt and Marie Haines, Jyke Jones, Ray Williams

*Indicates the People Standing

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 Nineteen
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

Building the Body

Gathering Carol 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above the thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark street shineth the everlasting lights; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

The O'Conner Family

Call to Worship (responsive)

Minister: The people who have walked in darkness

have seen a great light.

**Congregation: Those who have lived in a land of darkness,
on them light has shined.**

Minister: The light shines in the darkness.

Congregation: The darkness has not overcome it.

Minister: Come, let us adore him!

*Prayer of Invocation and Adoration (unison)

**All glory be unto God in the highest,
and peace to all people on earth!**

Living God, on this holy day we gather--

to stand with the shepherds, amazed at Your glory;

to sing with angels, rejoicing in Your grace;

to wait with Joseph, trusting in Your promise;

to pray with Mary, cradling Your gift of love.

May the good news that we hear this day inspire us

to tell the world of our great hope and joy,

**for to us is born the Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.
Glory and praise to You forever! Amen.**

*Hymn 133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

*Prayer of Confession (unison)

**Holy Son of God, Light of the world,
we repent of our many sins.
We are broken, and rebellious against You,
and our choices are often contrary to Your Will.
Heal our brokenness, we pray, and bring us to wholeness.
Ease our pain and bring us hope, vision, and life.
Give us new heart, new joy, and a new song,
so that our prayers and our deeds might be one.
We ask it in the name of the babe who is King,
Your love made flesh, Jesus our Christ.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!
Christ has come! Christ is coming again!
Through him we are redeemed and made new.
The King of kings and the Lord of lords reigns forever.
Praise his holy name!

*Response Hymn 113

Angels We Have Heard on High (Refrain)

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

First Lesson Psalm 13:1-4

¹ How long, O Lord? Will you forget me for ever? How long will you hide your face from me?
² How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long? How long
shall my enemy be exalted over me? ³ Consider and answer me, O Lord my God! Give light to
my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death, ⁴ and my enemy will say, 'I have prevailed'; my foes
will rejoice because I am shaken.

The Christmas Prayer

Bell Carol

Still, Still, Still

arr Cathy Moglebust

Second Lesson Luke 1:8-13a

⁸ Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, ⁹he was chosen
by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer
incense. ¹⁰Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was
praying outside. ¹¹Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of
the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him.
¹³But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your
wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.

Sermon

EMMANUEL

Dr. Merritt

*Hymn 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*Affirmation of Faith

**We believe that Jesus is the Son of God.
We affirm that this joyous Gospel
was proclaimed in Bethlehem
where deity was cradled in a manger.
Few saw or understood this in-breaking,
this Word made flesh,
this divine love becoming human.
As an adult Jesus walked among us,
healing, teaching, touching, preaching,
breaking new paths to truth,
and making hope and joy real.
He explained life as it really is, as God intends.
We join now with all who receive him,
and seek to serve in his mercy and grace,
sharing Christmas love, hope, joy, and peace.
So be it! Amen!**

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to The Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.**

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Dedication

Congregational Hymns

Hymn 145 *What Child Is This*

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!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own Him. The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him. This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Hymn 123 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King;" the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world: above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing, and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long: beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong: and we at war on earth hear not the tidings that they bring: O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old, when with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold, when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

*Indicates the People Standing

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

