

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 134 *Joy to the World*

*THE CHARGE (Minister)

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE POSTLUDE

*Indicates the People Standing

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

Ushers

Chuck Lockard, Dave Snider, Ron Staton, Gayle Wise

Today we welcome The Rev. Ellen Woodworth as our guest preacher. She is a member at large in our Presbytery who has affiliated with Fifth Avenue church.

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

December Twenty ninth the Year of Our Lord

Two Thousand Nineteen

First Sunday of Christmas

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 PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Matthew 2:13-23

(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 132 *Good, Christian Friends, Rejoice* (Verse One)

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 bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Minister: Hope has come,

awakening us to new possibilities.

Congregants: Peace has come,

inviting us to be agents of reconciliation.

Minister: Joy has come,

turning our hearts from fear to wonder.

Congregants: Love has come,

transforming our lives and our world.

Minister: We have come,

amazed and humbled by God's grace,

to worship the newborn King!

Let us worship our God!

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION (Unison)

O God, we praise You for the birth of Jesus.

**He brings joy to our hearts,
and we cherish him as deeply
as those who first gazed upon his infant face.**

**As we sense his spirit present in our hearts,
we are aware that his life changes our lives forever.**

**As we see him show forth Your glory,
we know with certainty Your saving presence.**

**Give us new hearts to worship
and to grow with him in love and wisdom.
Through the gift of Christ we pray. Amen.**

* HYMN OF PRAISE 133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

*THE CALL TO CONFESSION

If we say we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
But if we confess our sins,
God Who is faithful and just
will forgive us our sins,
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
In humility and faith, let us confess our sin to God.

* CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

**God of grace and truth,
in Jesus Christ You came among us
as light shining in darkness.
We confess that we have not welcomed that light,
or trusted good news to be good.
We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst.
We have expected little, and hoped for less.
Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope,
so that we may receive the fullness of Your grace,
and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

* RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High* (Refrain)
“Gloria in excelsis Deo”

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD’S WORD Isaiah 60:1-6, 19-21 (NIV) (Insert)

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.**

THE SECOND READING OF GOD’S WORD Matthew 2: 13-23 (Insert)

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON

Joseph's Story

Rev. Ellen Woodworth

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 119 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Colossians 1:15–20 (Unison)

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.**

All things have been created through him and for him.

**He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.**

He is head of the body, the church;

he is the beginning,

the firstborn of the dead,

so that he might come to have first place in everything.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

**and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,**

by making peace through the blood of his cross. 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.**

Announcements

Ushers for January 5, 2020 –

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated during our morning worship service on January 5th.

There will be a Called Session meeting held on January 5, 2020 immediately following the worship service. The nominated Elders are invited to attend.

A MEETING OF THE CONGERGATION has been called for Sunday January 12th immediately following the worship service, for the election of new elders.

As part of the mission of Northminster, we are collecting loaves of bread on Communion Sunday next week. This bread will go to the Presbyterian Community Center. Please place any donations on the table in the narthex.

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.

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?

Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Thursday	8:30 am	Men’s Fellowship Breakfast
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service / Communion

THE FIRST READING OF GOD’S WORD Isaiah 60:1-6, 19-21 (NIV)

¹ “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. ² See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. ³ Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ “Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. ⁵ Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. ⁶ Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

¹⁹ The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. ²⁰ Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more; the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end. ²¹ Then all your people will be righteous and they will possess the land forever. They are the shoot I have planted, the work of my hands, for the display of my splendor.

THE SECOND READING OF GOD’S WORD Matthew 2: 13-23

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’ ¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸ ‘A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’ ¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.’ ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, ‘He will be called a Nazorean.’

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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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