

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

December 5, 2021
Second Sunday of Advent

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Malachi 3:1-4; Philippians 1:3-11

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Joyce Barker, Jessica Mundy and Jena Mundy

Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

He is coming; tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining. (Hymn 85)

*HYMN OF PRAISE 83 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (Verses 1, 3 and 4)

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 108)

Minister: My heart is ready, O God,
to sing Your praises.

**Congregants: Our God, we seek to thank You
and to proclaim Your love to the nations.**

Minister: Your love is as high as heaven,
Your faithfulness as high as the clouds.

**Congregants: Our God, may Your glory
cover the entire world!**

Minister: Let us worship God.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Merciful and gracious God,
You have sent Your messengers, the prophets,
to preach repentance and forgiveness,
and to prepare the way for our salvation.
You have spoken in so many ways to us
through Your Word and in our lives.
Be with us now as we gather to worship.
Give us grace to hear Your voice,**

**and guide us on Your path to forsake our sinfulness,
so that we may greet with hope and joy
the coming of Jesus Christ our redeemer.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

(Worshippers will enter into a time of private prayer.)

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE HYMN 107 *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* (Verse 4)

(The choir will sing the verse one time and the congregation will join in on the second time)

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night. Though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light; be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story;
may God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory.

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Psalm 96

¹ O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. ² Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. ³ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous works among all the peoples. ⁴ For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods. ⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. ⁶ Honour and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. ⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. ⁸ Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts. ⁹ Worship the Lord in holy splendour; tremble before him, all the earth. ¹⁰ Say among the nations, 'The Lord is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity.' ¹¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; ¹² let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy ¹³ before the Lord; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

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 *Light Dawns on a Weary World* (Hymn 79)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

BAPTISM OF SKYLAR ELISE KIRBY

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸ 'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them. ⁶⁹ He has raised up a mighty saviour for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰ as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹ that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. ⁷² Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, ⁷³ the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴ that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. ⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. ⁷⁸ By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.'

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON

EVEN IN THE DARKNESS...

Russ Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 97 *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed* (Unison)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 102 *Savior of the Nations, Come* (Verses 1, 3 and 4)

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

*WE CELEBRATE THIS MORNING the baptism
of Skylar Elise Kirby, beloved daughter of Daniel
and Lauren Kirby, sister of Quinn and Porter,
granddaughter of Tom and Lynn Kirby, and
great-granddaughter of Stan and Elise Lanford.
To God be the glory!*

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: The skies and the earth belong to you. You made the world and everything in it. Psalm 89:11

EARTH CARE: Stop using plastic straws. If you do need a straw, insist on a paper one or carry your own glass or metal straw that can be washed and used again and again.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elise and Stan Lanford want to thank the Northminster congregation for the many cards, prayers, phone calls and verbal good wishes as we have been through three major surgeries in the last 4 months. We are thankful to have had very good results and relatively quick recoveries. Your thoughts and prayers have helped us recover to better health. We are truly blessed to have a wonderful congregation to support each other. And Russ, the best leader-preacher to lead us.

Thanks to all who participated in our Operation Christmas Child program. Lynn Kirby delivered 34 boxes from Northminster this year.

PIES TO THE RESCUE MISSION: A total of 27 pies were delivered by Judy Moore on Monday, November 22 to the Rescue Mission for their Thanksgiving meal; the pies were graciously received. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this project.

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. You will find Joy Gift offering envelopes in your bulletin.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: We will not be purchasing poinsettias this year to be placed in the Sanctuary. Instead, we will take up a collection of \$5 from anyone who would like to honor a loved one (in memoriam), indicating the names on a list which will be included in the Christmas bulletin. The money collected will be donated to the Presbyterian Community Center. We ask that you turn in your request and donation to the church office by December 12.

We will **NOT** be collecting used printer cartridges anymore. RAM is no longer involved in this project. If you know of anywhere else where they can be recycled, please contact Holly Woodson. Thank you for your participation in this recycling project.

JUST A REMINDER: there are boxes in the narthex to recycle your bulletins.

Calendar

Today	10:00 – 10:45 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Morning Worship
Next Sunday	10:00 – 10:45 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Morning Worship

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 Axelson, 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

Jessee Amos	Ann Bailey	Bill Bailey
Frances Bowling	Bobby Brammer	Charlotte Cooley
Jim Cregger	Barry Ferrell	Michael Hambrick
Jake Hayes	Barbara Jones	Dennis Kincer
Reba Kling	Bob Lancaster	Stan Lanford
Homer Linton	Susan Lockard	Floyd Moretz
Ann Pace	Mac Pace	Mary Simpson
Ken Riding	Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith
Jo Ann Threlkeld		

Friends and Family

Joaquin Bielawski
Donna Betters (Sherry Moses)
Berkley Persinger (Elise Lanford's cousin)
Carl Utley (General Presbyter of the Presbytery of the Peaks)

***THE SESSION ***

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson

Elders: Kathy Baker, Bob Bielawski, Frankie Bielawski, Pam Claterbaugh, Richard Claterbaugh, Trent Cundiff, Judy Ferrell, Tom Hale, Vee Hayes, Daniel Kirby, Chuck Lockard, Sherry Moses, Debbie Newman, Jeremy Newman, Gayle Wise