

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 3, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 96)

Sing to the Lord a new song.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, bless God's holy name.

Declare His marvelous works among all people.

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

Let us worship God!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION

God of all our comings and goings,

God Who calls us and Who sends us,

God of every day and year and century,

God of our past and our future and our present,

You are here with us in this start of a new year.

As we offer You our worship and our adoration,

may we be reminded that we are all called

to share Your love, to grow in Your Spirit,

to rejoice in Your presence, to live in Your hope.

Guide us by Your light this day and every day,

so that we may serve You in all we do.

Through Christ we pray. Amen.

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

O come, all ye faithful,

joyful and triumphant;

O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him,

Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels;
sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! [Refrain]

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

We cannot come before Almighty God
unless we are first honest with ourselves
about who we are, about the mistakes we make,
about how much we sin, about how little we obey.
So let us offer our prayers to God.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be Your people.
You have called us to be the Church,
to continue the mission of Jesus to our broken and needy world.
Yet we acknowledge that we are more apathetic than active,
more isolated than involved, more callous than compassionate,
more obstinate than obedient, more legalistic than loving.
Remove the obstacles that prevent us from sharing Your love.
Awaken our hearts to the gift of Your indwelling Spirit.
Hear these our silent prayers.

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ,
we are assured that there is no sin so terrible
that God cannot forgive, no hurt so overwhelming
that God cannot heal, no life so lost that God cannot love.
God accepts, God forgives, and God sets free.
Receive the merciful love of God!

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS HYMN 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Isaiah 60:1-6

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

THE PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Matthew 2:1-12, 16

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. ¹⁶When 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.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God of grace, open our hearts and minds and spirits
and enlighten us by the power of Your Holy Spirit,
so that as we reflect upon Your Word and Your Way,
we may hear with joy what You have to say to us today.
Through Christ we pray. Amen.

THE SERMON

IN THE DAYS OF HEROD

Dr. Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT HYMN 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king,
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise;

join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain:

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel. [Refrain]

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. [Refrain]

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.

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

GO FAITHFULLY

HYMN OF DEDICATION HYMN 134 *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.

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.

THE CHARGE

As you go from this time together,
may the peace of our amazing Savior,
the breath-taking grace of God our Father,
and the imagination and the power of the Holy Spirit
be with you, nudging you, redeeming you,
re-creating you, now and always.

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

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Thought for the Week: Psalm 19:1

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Susan Lockard would like to thank the Northminster family for their prayers, cards, calls, texts, food and flowers as she faces her health issues. Chuck and I are extremely appreciative and fortunate to be part of such a caring, loving congregation!

PERSONS WORSHIPING IN PERSON IN THE SANCTUARY are encouraged to move to their seats as soon as they arrive, and not to spend much time visiting in the narthex, so that we can continue to control the possible spread of the virus.

The Presbyterian Center is in need of school supplies and asking for donations. A list of supplies needed is on the bulletin board across from the secretary's office.

THE OFFERING WILL NOT BE COLLECTED and plates will not be passed during the service, to protect worshippers from any possible surface-based contagion. Plates are located in the narthex, for worshippers to place their gifts following the service.

Northminster is proud to announce we have joined the **Kroger Community Rewards Program**. To participate simply go to the [kroger.com](https://www.kroger.com) website. Once logged into your **Kroger account**, you can search for **Northminster Presbyterian Church** either by name or code **PL601** and then click **Enroll**. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a *Rewards Card*. **REMEMBER**, purchases will not count for the church until after you register your *Rewards Card*. You must swipe your registered Kroger *Rewards Card* or use the phone number that is related to your registered Kroger *Rewards Card* when shopping for each purchase to count. If a you do not yet have a Kroger *Rewards Card*, they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger. Contact Chuck Lockard if you have any questions. Thanks for supporting our work at Northminster!

Calendar

Today	11:00 am	Worship Service / Communion
Next Sunday	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 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

Frances Bowling	Bobby Brammer	Charlotte Cooley
Jim Cregger	Michael Hambrick	Jake Hayes
Maryanne Huff	Atwood Huff	Barbara Jones
Dennis Kincer	Bob Lancaster	Homer Linton
Floyd Moretz	Mary Moretz	Ann Pace
Mac Pace	Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith
Frances Stevens	Jo Ann Threlkeld	

Friends and Family

Joaquin Bielawski
Nancy Assaid (Sherry Moses' sister)
Tim Smith (Karen's husband)

***THE SESSION ***

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson

Elders: Bob Bielawski, Frankie Bielawski, Jeff Echols, Judy Ferrell, Vee Hayes, Lynn Kirby, Chuck Lockard, Sherry Moses, Bob Newman, Jeremy Newman, Betsy Robison, Dave Snider, Gayle Wise