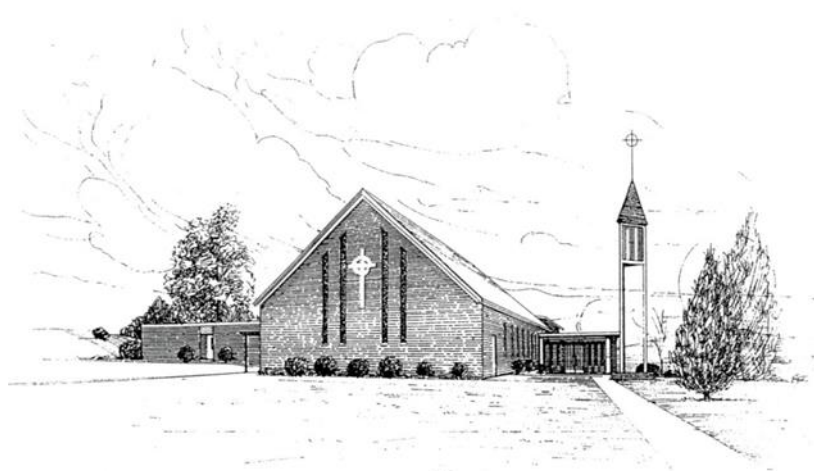


NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Welcome to Christ's Service of Worship for the Lord's Day

December 11, 2022
Third 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!

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; Matthew 11:2-11

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

May the presence of Christ be with you, this day and always.

GATHERING HYMN 85 *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* (Verse 3)

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

Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Sherry Moses and Holly Woodson

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

(responsive, from Isaiah 60 and Malachi 1)

Minister: Arise and shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Congregants: Lift up your eyes, look around you, and see.

Minister: From the rising of the sun even to the going down,
My name shall be great.

**Congregants: Blessed be the King Who comes in the name
of the Lord.**

Minister: Come, let us worship God.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 87 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**O God, we thank You that You sent Your Son Jesus Christ
into this world to be our Lord and our Savior.**

**We thank You that he took our body and our flesh and blood upon himself,
and so showed us that this body of ours is fit to be Your dwelling place.**

**Be with us now as we bring to You our praise and thanksgiving,
and give us hearts and minds and spirits to draw closer to You.**

We do seek to follow Your way, but so often we stray.

**We confess that our steps are faulty, our words and deeds are sinful,
and we find ourselves immersed in our dark and broken world.
Forgive us, we pray, and open us to Your grace, Your joy, Your truth.
May this be a time of hearing, of committing, of following.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

***RESPONSE HYMN 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (Verse 1 and 4)
O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely
exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny; from depths
of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Isaiah 11:1-9

¹A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

PASTORAL PRAYER / 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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Luke 1:5-25

⁵ In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. ⁸Once 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. ¹⁴You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' ¹⁸Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.' ¹⁹The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.'

²¹ Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. ²²When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. ²³When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. ²⁴ After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ²⁵'This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favourably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.'

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON

THE GIFT OF SILENCE

Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 96

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

*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 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST CHURCH FAMILY MEMBERS this morning as we build the Body of Christ at Northminster. ROY GUERRANT and BILLY CRAIGHEAD met with the Session and have been received into active membership. We welcome them in Christian love and support, and look forward to sharing the goodness of God's love with them!

Circle 1 meets Tuesday, December 13th at 11:30 am at Holly Wood's Restaurant.

THERE WILL BE NO MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE on Christmas day, December 25. WORSHIP WILL BE HELD the evening before--Christmas Eve, December 24--at 4:00, when we will gather at the Lord's Table to celebrate his birth.

JOY GIFT FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON – You are invited to join our Joy Gift Luncheon on December 18th following our worship service. If you plan to attend the luncheon, please sign the attendance sheet which has been placed on the table in the narthex so we can get an accurate count of how many people will be attending.

We are looking for volunteers to help Lauren in the nursery each Sunday. if you would like to help, please sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office.

Calendar

Today	10:00 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Worship Service
Tuesday	11:30 am	Circle 1 at Holly Wood's
Next Sunday	10:00 am 11:00 am 12:00 pm	Sunday School Worship Service Joy Gift Luncheon

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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WEBSITE: WWW.NORTHMINSTERPCUSA.ORG

Russ Merritt, 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 Pastor. If prayers have been answered and we can celebrate God's goodness by removing your name from the list, let the Pastor know.

Let us keep those listed below in our prayers.

Members

Ann Bailey	Bill Bailey	Frances Bowling
Pam Claterbaugh	Barry Ferrell	Maggie Hambrick
Jake Hayes	Barbara Jones	Dennis Kincer
Sheila Lancaster	Homer Linton	Floyd Moretz
Ann Pace	Mac Pace	Ken Riding
Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith	

Friends and Family

Nancy Assaid	
Joaquin Bielawski	Annette Daughty
Shirley Basham	Terry Foss
Donna Betters	John Morris
Mabel Bowman	Vicki Widener
Jay Taylor	
Owen Merritt	

*THE SESSION *

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson

Elders: Pam Claterbaugh, Richard Claterbaugh, Trent Cundiff, Matt Graybill, Joe Gwitt, Tom Hale, Gary Harris, Jyke Jones, Daniel Kirby, Lynn Kirby, Sherry Moses, Debbie Newman, Dora Slee, Gayle Wise

