

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

December 4, 2022
FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Jessica Mundy and Jenna Mundy

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 88 (Verses 1, 6, 7)

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

THE COLLECT

CAROL *Lo, How a Rose*

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 11: 1-10

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. ¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

HYMN 129 *Lo, How a Rose*
(Congregation please remain seated)

Es Ist Ein' Ros'

THE SECOND LESSON Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵ and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

CAROL *The Lamb*

Bryan L. Greer

Little Lamb, who made thee? dost thou know who made thee;
Gave thee life, and bid thee feed by the stream and o'er the mead;

Gave thee clothing of delight, softest clothing, woolly, bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice, making all the world rejoice.

Little Lamb I'll tell thee; He is called by thy name, calls himself a Lamb.

He is meek, and he is mild, He became little child.
I a child, and thou a lamb, we are called by His name.

Little Lamb, God bless thee!
Little Lamb!

THE THIRD LESSON Luke 1: 26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be

afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ ³⁴Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ ³⁵The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.’ ³⁸Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

HYMN

The Angel Gabriel

Gabriel’s Message

(Congregation please remain seated)

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
“All hail,” said he, “O lowly maiden Mary,” Most high favored lady, Gloria!

“For now a blessed mother you shall be, All generations praise continually, Your
Song shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold.” Most high favored lady, Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, “To me be as it pleases God,” she said,
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name. Most high favored lady,
Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas
morn, And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: Most high favored
lady, Gloria!

THE FOURTH LESSON Luke 2:1-14

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸In that region there were

shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

*HYMN 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High* Gloria

CAROL *Unto Us a Child Is Born*

Puer Nobis Nascitur, arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

For unto us a child is born. Rejoice, a son is given.
The angel choirs announced his birth with songs that filled the heaven.
In lowly manger was he laid, the Lord of all creation.
Great Alpha and Omega he, the source of our salvation.

The shepherds came on bended knee. The wise men bowed before him. So may we too our hearts now bring to worship and adore him.

O Love, how deep, how broad, how high, how passing thought and fantasy; that God, the Son of God, should take our mortal form for mortals’ sake.

The Lamb of God in human form was born to die for a world forlorn,
to ransom those who seek his face, and trust in his redeeming grace.

O Lamb of God, O Love sublime, transform our hearts with your pow’r divine that we may serve you all our days with endless songs of thankful praise!

HYMN 140 *Once in Royal David’s City*
(Congregation please remain seated)

Irby

CAROL *Up! good Christian folk, and listen*

Melody from Piae Cantiones, harmonized by G. R. Woodward

Ding-dong ding; Ding-a-dong-a-ding; Ding-dong, ding-dong; Ding-a-dong-ding.

Up! good Christen folk, and listen how the merry church bells ring,
And from steeple bid good people come adore the newborn King:

Tell the story how from glory God came down at Christmastide,
Bringing gladness, chasing sadness, showering blessings far and wide,

Born of mother, blest o'er other, Ex Maria Virgine, In a stable 'tis no fable,
Christus natus hodie.

CAROL *Star of Wonder*

Alan Bullard

We three kings of Orient are; Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following, following yonder star;

Refrain: Star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a king on Bethlehem plain, Gold I bring, to crown him again,
King for ever, ceasing never, Over us, over us all to reign; (Refrain)

Frankincense to offer have I; Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising all men raising, Worship him, worship him, God most high;
(Refrain)

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb;
(Refrain)

Glorious now, behold him arise, King, and God, and sacrifice!
Alleluia, alleluia, Heaven sings and earth replies: (Refrain)

*HYMN *God Rest You Merry Gentlemen* God Rest Ye Merry

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay;
remember Christ, our Savior was born on Christmas Day
to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.

Refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,
how that in Bethlehem was born the son of God by name. (Refrain)

"Fear not," then said the angel, "let nothing you affright;
this day is born a Savior, the true and radiant light,
to free all those who trust in him from Satan's pow'r and might." (Refrain)

Now to the Lord sing praises. All you within this place,
And in true love and fellowship each other embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas Is filled with heav'nly grace. (Refrain)

THE FIFTH LESSON Luke 12: 35-40

³⁵ 'Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. ³⁹ 'But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

CAROL *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*
Keep Your Lamps

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning, for the time is drawing nigh.

Sisters, don't grow weary, brothers, don't grow weary,
children, don't grow weary, for the time is drawing nigh.

HYMN 384 *Soon and Very Soon* *Soon and Very Soon*
(Congregation please remain seated)

THE SIXTH LESSON Revelation 1:4-8

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and

the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. ⁸ 'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

CAROL *Of the Father's Love Begotten*
Divinum Mysterium, Plainsong

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see evermore and evermore.

Christ, to Thee with God the Father, and O Holy Ghost, to Thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be;
honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore.

*THE RECESSIONAL HYMN 348

Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending

Helmsley

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE *In Dulci Jubilo*

J.S. Bach

OUR SERVICE

* The Congregation is invited to stand and sing on the hymns as indicated.

We thank the choir members and musicians who have contributed their time and talent to this worship service.

Lauren Axelson	Hope Hale
Carolyn Barger	Paula Jones
Bob Bielawski	Lynn Kirby
Frankie Bielawski	Susan Lockard
Di Brammer	Jeff Midkiff
Dana Esworthy	Jessica Munday
Sarah Godsey	Debbie Newman
Joe Gwitt	Karen Smith
Tom Hale	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be no Kid's Church today. There are kid's Advent activity sheets in the folders located on the pew outside the sanctuary.

The candle will shine on December 4th for **Skylar Elise Kirby** who was baptized on December 5, 2021. Her parents are Daniel and Lauren Kirby and celebrating with them are Skylar's brother, Porter, sister, Quinn, and grandparents, Tom and Lynn Kirby along with great grandparents, Stan and Elise Lanford and aunt and uncle, Margie and Greg Cundiff.

By lighting this candle we reaffirm our commitment to undertake the responsibility for the Christian nurture of this child, Skylar. We remember Skylar and her family with loving prayers.

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.

THE SESSION MEETS TODAY after our worship service. If you would like to become a member of Northminster, or if you have business for the elders, please let the Minister know.

The Mitten Tree is up in the narthex and ready to be decorated with hats, gloves, pjs, underwear and anything other small piece of clothing a needy family would need.

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.

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.

Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Festival of Lessons and Carols
	12:00 pm	Session Meeting
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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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
Reba Kling	Sheila Lancaster	Homer Linton
Floyd Moretz	Ann Pace	Mac Pace
Ken Riding	Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith
JoAnn Threlkeld		

Friends and Family

Joaquin Bielawski	Annette Daughty
Shirley Basham	Terry Foss
Donna Betters	John Morris
Mabel Bowman	
Jay Taylor	

*THE SESSION *

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson

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

