

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

*November 27, 2022*  
*First Sunday of Advent*

**The whole world waits in winter darkness, December darkness,  
for a glimpse of the Light of God.  
Even those who snarl "Humbug!"  
and chase away the carolers  
have been seen looking towards the skies.  
The one who declared he never would forgive  
has forgiven,  
and those who have left home  
have returned,  
and even wars are halted, if briefly,  
as the whole world looks starward.  
In the December darkness  
we peer from our windows  
watching for an angel with rainbow wings  
to announce the Hope of the World.  
Ann Weems**

**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

Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14

(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*

**Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.**

**He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Maggie Hambrick and Kathy Pankquich

### \*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

(responsive, from Isaiah 40 and Luke 19)

Minister: Prepare the way of the Lord,

make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.

**Congregants: For the glory of the Lord will be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together.**

Minister: Blessed be the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Congregants: Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.**

Minister: Come, let us worship the Lord.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 102 *Savior of the Nations, Come*

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Almighty Father, Source of all being, fountain of light and salvation,  
we praise and thank You for Your infinite goodness,  
sending Your Son and our Savior into this broken world,  
that we might find our way back to Your throne.**

**Be with us now in our worship, we pray,  
and open for us the holy mysteries of Your grace.**

**In our sinfulness, we at times lose our footing on Your path of life,  
and we need Your strength, Your guidance, Your healing.**

**Draw us closer in this Advent season to the Christchild,  
and let us find forgiveness in his precious name.  
Hear these our silent prayers.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

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

**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 Isaiah 2:1-5**

<sup>1</sup>The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

<sup>3</sup>Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

<sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

**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.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Matthew 24:36-44

<sup>36</sup> 'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON *THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT* 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 362 *Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers*

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

## OUR SERVICE

\*Indicates the People Standing

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Thought for the Month:

But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or ask the birds of the air, and they will tell you. Speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea tell you. Every one of these knows that the hand of the Lord has done this. The life of every creature and the breath of all people are in God's hand. Job 12:7-10

Earth Care:

“But ask the animals what they think—let them teach you; let the birds tell you what’s going on. Put your ear to the earth—learn the basics. Listen—the fish in the ocean will tell you, their stories. Isn’t it clear that they all know and agree that God is sovereign, that he holds all things in his hand Job 12:7-9

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Sunday, December 4th we will celebrate the season with our annual Lessons and Carols service.

A total of 30 pies were delivered to the Rescue Mission for their Thanksgiving meal; the pies were graciously received. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this project.

**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 NEXT SUNDAY 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 Discipleship ministry made the decision this year to concentrate our efforts on the surrounding community. Because of this decision, we will not be participating in Operation Christmas Child. We do hope to work Round Hill Elementary School. We have been in contact with the principal there, Dr. Brenda Russ. One thing we are doing is sending money to support kids who cannot afford field trip fees. Our money will also go to purchase items to help settle children with ADD, ADHD or other anxiety issues. We have also talked about doing a movie night, helping with landscaping around the school, and supporting teachers with a breakfast or lunch in December. In addition to working with Round Hill students, we have sent out postcards to our surrounding neighbors to invite them to our Lessons and Carols and our Christmas Eve services. We hope this will be a way to introduce our church to neighbors who may be looking for a church home.

The Ronald McDonald House has collected tab tops for many years. Both Northminster and Green Ridge Collected in the past. We are now collecting all tab tops for the Ronald McDonald House. Please start saving them now. Put a container in your kitchen and start collecting today.

If you and your family would like to participate in the 2 cents a meal program, please pick up a box in the narthex. You will also find an explanation of what the 2 cents a meal is all about. Our church received grant money from this fund to help defray expenses to put food in our Blessing Box. Once your box is full, you can return it to the church.

For you shall go out in joy, and be led forth in Peace. Isaiah 55:12. Through the Peace and Global Witness Offering, we connect with each other to confront systems of injustice and promote reconciliation here at home and abroad. 25% of this offering stays with our congregation, 25% goes to work in our region and 50% supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done across the globe. If you would like to donate, please pick up an offering envelope and brochure in the narthex.

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 | Sunday School                  |
|             | 11:00 am | Worship Service                |
| Wednesday   | 5:30 pm  | Bells                          |
|             | 6:30 pm  | Choir Rehearsal                |
| Next Sunday | 10:00 am | Sunday School                  |
|             | 11:00 am | Festival of Lessons and Carols |
|             | 12:00 pm | Session Meeting                |

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, Vee Hayes, Jyke Jones, Daniel Kirby, Lynn Kirby, Sherry Moses, Debbie Newman, Dora Slee, Gayle Wise