

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

January 1, 2023
First Sunday of Christmas



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 63: 7-9, Psalm 148, Matthew 2: 13-23

(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 147 *The First Nowell* (Verse 1)

**The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: Do not be afraid; for see,

I am bringing you good news of great joy,

Congregation: To us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

Minister: This will be a sign for you:

You will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.

Congregation: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!

Minister: Let us go now to revisit Bethlehem.

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

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

Exalted God, even as the heavenly host sang of your glory in the night skies over Bethlehem; even as the star shone in the heavens, and sheep and cattle gathered in that light, so we gather, young and old together, to recount all that you have done for us in mercy and steadfast love. We confess that we have not loved you as we should. We have not participated fully in your purposes and plans; We grow weary and give up when the way is hard. We have not loved our brothers

and sisters as you intend. Forgive us, blind us with your holy honesty, so that we may more clearly see your will, and walk with sure steps into the way of wholeness and peace. Hear these our silent prayers.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Children of God, it is clear that Jesus Christ came to help sinners. He is our Savior in all our distress, and it is his presence that saves us. Declare with us the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***RESPONSE HYMN** *Angels We Have Heard on High* (Verse 3)

**Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Matthew 1: 18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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.

HYMN 136 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Luke 2: 1-15

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!' ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON

Bethlehem Revisited

Pam Claterbaugh

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 19 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

*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 134 *Joy to the World*

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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*The flowers this morning honor the memory of Elizabeth Hinkle “Betty”
on the anniversary of her 100th birthday (December 31st)
Given with love by her family.*

Thought for the month:

The Lord God put the man in the garden of Eden to CARE for it and work it. Genesis 2:15.

Earth Care:

Make a pledge for the new year to eliminate waste wherever you can. Use less and recycle. Go for glass and reusable containers instead of plastic bags and wraps. Take reusable bags to shop.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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.

Marie and I hope to encourage you to take care of the earth. So, we have placed in the bulletin some thoughts. Thought for the Month will reference words of wisdom through scripture and other sources. Earth Care will give you ideas on how to take care of the earth. We hope you will read and think of how we can save God's creation. Holly

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.

AS A REMINDER: we are collecting **used ink cartridges** (all sizes) **and used medicine bottles** that must be clean and have the labels removed. The container is on the table in the Narthex. These items will go to Angels of Assisi in Roanoke.

We are collecting devotional material to be delivered to jails and shelters. If you have any that you are done with, don't throw it away, donate it! You can place your devotional material in the box located in the narthex.

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

Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3911 Greenland Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia 24012-3250
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	Joe Gwitt	
Karen Gwitt	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

