

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

January 8, 2023
Epiphany Sunday



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

BELL PRELUDE

Silent Night

Franz Gruber, arr. Mocklebust

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Psalm 29; Isaiah 42:1-9; Acts 10:34-43

(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 119 *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* (Verses 1 and 3)

**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!”**

**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 CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: We come to follow the Way
that has been prepared for us.

Congregants: It is the Way that Christ enters

our world and our hearts.

Minister: We come to follow the Light
that leads us out of our darkness.

**Congregants: It is the Light that shines
even in the darkest of nights.**

Minister: We come to celebrate the Child,
born in a manger, come to us for our salvation.

**Congregants: He is the Child whose life, death,
and resurrection bring us to God.**

Minister: Let us give him our worship and praise.

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

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**God of grace and glory, God of great and small,
God of past centuries and of years to come,
God of creation and cosmos, God of life and love,
God of second chances, God of new beginnings,
we gather now to give You our worship and praise,
and to seek Your presence and guidance,
Your strength and peace, for a new year.
We pray that, despite our sinfulness and brokenness,
we will experience the presence of Jesus Christ,
in our fellowship, in our hearts, at his Table of grace.
We confess that we are not worthy, that we stray from Your Way,
and we seek Your mercy and forgiveness.
Be with us, give us new vision, transform us, and lead us home,
for in Christ we are Yours, and Yours alone.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear Good News! While we were yet sinners,
God came into our darkness--a child in a manger,
a teacher and healer, prophet and counselor,
a sacrifice on the cross, a victor over the grave--
so that we might be forgiven, and have new life.
In his name, salvation is ours. Praise be to God!

*RESPONSE HYMN 145 *What Child Is This* (Verse 3)

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;

come, one and all, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings;

let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise the song on high.

The virgin sings her lullaby.

Joy, joy, for Christ is born,

the babe, the son of Mary!

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Isaiah 60

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. ⁷All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; they shall be acceptable on my altar,

and I will glorify my glorious house. ⁸Who are these that fly like a cloud, and like doves to their windows? ⁹For the coastlands shall wait for me, the ships of Tarshish

first, to bring your children from far away, their silver and gold with them, for the name of the Lord your God, and for the Holy One of Israel, because he has glorified you. ¹⁰Foreigners shall build up your walls, and their kings shall minister to you; for

in my wrath I struck you down, but in my favour I have had mercy on you. ¹¹Your gates shall always be open; day and night they shall not be shut, so that nations shall bring you their wealth, with their kings led in procession. ¹²For the nation and kingdom that will not serve you shall perish; those nations shall be utterly laid waste.

¹³The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, the cypress, the plane, and the pine, to beautify the place of my sanctuary; and I will glorify where my feet rest. ¹⁴The

descendants of those who oppressed you shall come bending low to you, and all who despised you shall bow down at your feet; they shall call you the City of the Lord, the

Zion of the Holy One of Israel. ¹⁵ Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, with no one passing through, I will make you majestic for ever, a joy from age to age. ¹⁶ You shall suck the milk of nations, you shall suck the breasts of kings; and you shall know that I, the Lord, am your Saviour and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob. ¹⁷ Instead of bronze I will bring gold, instead of iron I will bring silver; instead of wood, bronze, instead of stones, iron. I will appoint Peace as your overseer and Righteousness as your taskmaster. ¹⁸ Violence shall no more be heard in your land, devastation or destruction within your borders; you shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise. ¹⁹ The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night; but the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. ²⁰ Your sun shall no more go down, or your moon withdraw itself; for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended. ²¹ Your people shall all be righteous; they shall possess the land for ever. They are the shoot that I planted, the work of my hands, so that I might be glorified. ²² The least of them shall become a clan, and the smallest one a mighty nation; I am the Lord; in its time I will accomplish it quickly.

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

Star of Wonder

Alan Bullard

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

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." ' ⁷ Then 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.

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Open our hearts, O Lord.
Open our minds, open our spirits,
so that Your Holy Spirit
might shine Your light into our darkness,
and bring us closer to You.
Through Christ who is the true Light. Amen.**

THE SERMON

MOVING STAR

Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 146 *The First Nowell*

*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 151 *We Three Kings of Orient Are* (Verses 1 and 2)

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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The flowers in the sanctuary are given by the Presbyterian Women to the glory of God and in memory of members who have entered the Church Triumphant.

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

Circle 1 meets Tuesday, January 10th at 10:00 am at the church

THE SESSION WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR BI-MONTHLY MEETING

on Sunday, January 22, following the morning worship service. If you would like to join the Northminster membership, or if you have matters to bring before the elders, please contact the Minister.

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.

ADDRESSES:

Joe and Karen Gwitt, Homewood Suites by Hilton, 2036 India Rd., Charlottesville, VA 22901, Room 213

The following items were purchased through the Presbytery Giving Catalog in December: An Emergency Life Pack that will support churches in border regions to supply essential items to refugees. A Community Irrigation Water Pump that will help farmers in Nigeria restore their land. A Latrine, something we all take for granted, but many rural areas lack. The Discipleship Committee wants to thank our members for supporting our church with their time and money so that we can give to others in need.

Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Tuesday	10:00 am	Circle 1
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service

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	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

