

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

December 1, 2024
First 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

Psalm 80; Jeremiah 33:14-16; I Thessalonians 3:9-13

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

BUILDING THE BODY

GATHERING HYMN 85 *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*

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

He is coming; tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Maggie & Lucy Graybill and Cooper Kincer

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: Awaken! Rejoice! Prepare to meet your God!

Congregants: Christ is coming. Open the door.

Sweep the path. Prepare the way!

Minister: Christ came at Christmas to live as one of us.

Congregants: Christ comes today to love us and lead us.

Minister: Christ will come tomorrow, wherever we may be.

Congregants: Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

Minister: Come, let us worship our ever-present and approaching God!

*HYMN OF PRAISE 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Verses 1, 6, and 7)

*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION (unison)

**God of goodness and glory, God of great and small,
we come to You with praise and anticipation.**

**We pray for Your Kingdom to come into our world,
and we have seen Your promise fulfilled in the gift of our King.**

**But even as we see Your Kingdom in his reign,
too often we do not follow or obey or bow before him.**

**We confess our indifference to Your coming,
our failure to be alert to signs of Your presence in our midst,
our desire to be in control of this broken and sinful world,
when the true rule belongs to Jesus Christ.
In Your mercy forgive us, and by Your grace make us anew.
Give us the wisdom to welcome Your way, to follow Your path,
and to seek the things that will endure when Christ returns.
Hear these our silent and personal 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 64:1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

THE 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

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Mark 13:24-37

²⁴ 'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸ 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

REAL HOPE

Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 83 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

**For the life You have given to each of us,
for Your love for us made known in Jesus Christ,
for the strengthening, guiding presence of Your Holy Spirit,
we offer our thanksgiving and praise.
Give us grace to love and serve You,
living what we pray, with heart, mind, and strength.
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*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 348 *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*

*CHARGE

*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE CELEBRATE THE BAPTISM THIS MORNING of Pruitt Rae Toler, infant son of Chloe and Paul Toler. May this special moment be blessed by God's Holy Spirit, and the beginning of a wonderful life in Christ! And may God's strength and guidance be with Pruitt's parents and family as they raise him in the nurture and knowledge of the Lord. Grandparents are Chuck and Susan Lockard.

Circle 2 will meet Monday, December 2nd, at 6:00 pm at the Shakers Restaurant.

Circle 1 will meet on Tuesday, December 10th, at 11:30 at the Bistro at Friendship Manor for lunch.

We are updating the address directory. A copy is in the narthex for you to check and see if your information is correct or changes need to be made.

The Discipleship Ministry delivered 30 Operation Christmas Child boxes to the collection site. Thanks to all who participated in this project.

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

The PCC is not collecting athletic shoes at this time. Many thanks to all who donated shoes over the past few months. We sent about 85 pairs of shoes to the PCC.

We are again collecting pies for the Rescue Mission. The pies can be of various flavors. If you would like to donate a pie, please bring it to the church kitchen by Sunday, December 22. The Rescue Mission is always very appreciative of the pies we collect for them. Thank you for helping with this project.

PURCHASE OF CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

This Christmas season, our church will be beautifully decorated with poinsettias given in memory of or in honor of loved ones and friends. Please see bulletin insert for more information or call Joe Gwitt (540-819-0517) Deadline will be December 8, 2024.

Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Monday	6:00 pm	Circle 2 at Shakers
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Russ Merritt, Pastor Melissa Hudson, Music Director
Susie Tallmage, Secretary
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

Bill Bailey	Frances Bowling	Ellen Brumfield
Pam Claterbaugh	Marie Haines	Walt Haines
Jake Hayes	Hayes Family	Dennis Kincer
Skylar Kirby	Patsy Linton	Floyd Moretz
Ann Pace	Mac Pace	Sarah Plymale
Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith	Vicki Whitworth

Friends and Family

Nancy Assaid	Joaquin Bielawski
Shirley Basham	Donna Betters
Lucy Collier	Terry Foss
Issac Franklin	Gladys Hughston
Vicki Widener	Dan Cone
Glenna Brammer	Glenna Myers

*THE SESSION *

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson
Elders: Pam Claterbaugh, Richard Claterbaugh, Dana Esworthy, Matt Graybill, Joe Gwitt,
Maggie Hambrick, Gary Harris, Jyke Jones, Lynn Kirby, Chuck Lockard, Judy Moore, Dora
Slee, Dave Snider, Greg Theimer

