

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

December 22, 2024
Festival of Lessons and Carols



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!

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Micah 5:2-5a, Psalm 80:1-7, Luke 1:39-45

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

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

Light four candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

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

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Camden, Jace, Amia and Amari Newman

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 140 *Once in Royal David's City*

PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, this day it is our duty and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, and the Babe, lying in the manger. Therefore let us hear again from Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise. But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people; for peace upon the earth he came to save, for love and unity within the one Church he did build; for goodwill among all peoples. And particularly at this time, let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not our Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love. Lastly let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude who no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words that Christ himself has taught us.

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.

THE BLESSING

May the almighty God bless us with divine grace, may Christ give us the joy of everlasting life, and unto the fellowship of the citizens above, may the Spirit of Love bring us all. Amen.

CAROL

On Christmas Night

arr. Barbara B. Kinyon

On Christmas night, all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring.
News of great joy and mirth, tidings of our Saviors birth.

The King of kings to us is given, the Lord of earth and King of heaven.
Angels and men will sing of blest Jesus, their newborn King.

Oh why should men on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad;
When from our sins he set us free, All for to gain our liberty.

THE FIRST LESSON Genesis 3:8-15,17-19

⁸ They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' ¹⁰He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' ¹¹He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' ¹²The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' ¹³Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' ¹⁴The Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.'

¹⁷And to the man he said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, "You shall not eat of it", cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.'

CAROL

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

arr. Hal H. Hopson

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day: I would my true love did so chance to see the legend of my play, to call my true love to my dance. Sing, oh! my love, oh! This have I done for my true love.

Then was I born of a virgin pure, of her I took fleshly substance; thus was I knit to man's nature, To call my true love to my dance. Sing, oh! my love, oh! This have I done for my true love.

In a manger laid and wrapped I was, so very poor, this was my chance, betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass to call my true love to my dance. Sing, oh! my love, oh! This have I done for my true love.

THE SECOND LESSON Genesis 22: 15-18

¹⁵ The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, ¹⁶and said, 'By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, ¹⁸and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.'

CAROL

Ding Dong Merrily On High

arr. Barbara B. Kinyon

Ding, dong, merrily on high the Christmas bells are ringing, Ding, dong, joyously reply the angels all a singing. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.

Praise Him! People far and near, and join the angels singing. Ding, dong everywhere we hear the Christmas bells a ringing. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.

Ding, dong, carol all the bells, O tell the Christmas story; Ring and sing noels, God's Son has come in glory! Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.

THE THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of

Peace. ⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

CAROL

The Lamb

Brian 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, wooly, 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 a little child. I a child, and thou a lamb, we are called by His name.

THE FOURTH LESSON Isaiah 11:1-4, 6-9

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.

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.

CAROL

The Holly and the Ivy

arr. Alfred E Whitehead

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.

Refrain: The rising of the sun and the running of the deer, the playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom, as white as lily flower, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our Sweet Savior. Refrain

The holly bears a berry, as red as any blood, and Mary bore Sweet Jesus Christ to be our Sweet Savior. Refrain

The holly bears a prickle, as sharp as any thorn, and Mary bore Sweet Jesus Christ to be our Sweet Savior. Refrain

The holly bears a bark as bitter as any gall, and Mary bore Sweet Jesus Christ to be our Sweet Savior. Refrain

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown. Refrain

*HYMN 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

THE FIFTH LESSON Luke 1: 26-35, 38

²⁶In 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.

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.

CAROL

The Angel Gabriel

arr. Robert Sieving

The angel Gabriel from heaven came. His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame; "All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary," "Most highly favored lady," Oh, Gloria!

"For known a blessed mother thou shalt be, All generations laud and honor thee, Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, "To me be as it pleaseth God, she said, "My soul shall laud his holy name." Most highly favored lady, Oh, Gloria!

THE SIXTH LESSON Luke 2: 1-7

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.

CAROL

Still, Still, Still

arr. Cathy Moglebust

THE SEVENTH LESSON Luke 2: 8-16

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.’¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

CAROL

Go Tell it on the Mountain

arr. H. DeCou

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

When I was a seeker, I sought both night and day; I asked the Lord to help me, and He showed me the way. Refrain

He made me a watchman upon the city wall, and tho I am a Christian, I am the least of all. Refrain.

THE EIGHT LESSON Matthew 2: 1-11

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.”’ ⁷Then 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.

CAROL

Night of Silence

Daniel Cantor

Cold are the people, winter of life, we tremble in shadows this cold endless night,
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping, flowers that will echo the sunrise,
Fire of hope is our only warmth, weary, its flame will be dying soon.

Voice in the distance, call in the night, on wind you enfold us You speak of the light,
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly, rumors of a dawn so embracing,
Star unknowing of night and day, soon will we know of the morning.

Spirit among us, shine like the star, Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar,
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely, rising in the warmth of your Son’s love,
Star unknowing of night and day, Spirit we wait for your loving Son.

THE NINTH LESSON John 1: 1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know

him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*HYMN 133

O Come All Ye Faithful

*PRAYER AND BLESSING

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

All: Amen

Minister: May he who by his Incarnation, gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always.

All: Amen

*HYMN 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*CHARGE

* THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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We give thanks to all of the choir members and musicians who contributed to this worship service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A SPECIAL SERVICE OF WORSHIP will be held on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 4:00, and will include special music, candle lighting, and the celebration of the sacrament of Holy Communion, as well as a special Christmas message. Please make your plans to attend, and to bring family and friends!

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.

We delivered winter coats and boots to Blue Ridge Literacy. They were very appreciative of our donation. Thanks to all who helped make this possible.

Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Carols and Lessons
Tuesday	4:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Russ Merritt, Pastor
Susie Tallmage, Secretary
Melissa Hudson, Music Director
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	Mary Ann Huff
Jyke Jones	Dennis Kincer	Skylar Kirby
Patsy Linton	Floyd Moretz	Ann Pace
Mac Pace	Justin 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 Myers	Frankie Williams

*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

