

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

***December 29, 2024***  
***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

I Samuel 2:18-20; Psalm 148

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

### BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

GATHERING HYMN 133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (Verse 1)

**O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant;**

**O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!**

**Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!**

**Refrain:**

**O come, let us adore him;**

**O come, let us adore him;**

**O come, let us adore him,**

**Christ, the Lord!**

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 90)

Minister: Lord, You have been our dwelling place  
in all generations.

**Congregants: Before the mountains were created,  
or ever You had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting You are God.**

Minister: Surround us this day with Your steadfast love,

**Congregants: so that we may rejoice, and be glad  
all our days.**

Minister: May the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,  
and prosper for us the work of our hands, our heads, our hearts.

**Congregants: O might all our efforts be blessed  
by the strong and faithful presence of God.**

Minister: Come, let us worship the Lord!

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

**\*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION (unison)**

**Eternal God, Lord of all the ages, we give You thanks,  
for today, for yesterday, and for tomorrow, all in Your hands.  
We praise You that in You we live and move and have our being.  
As You have always guided Your people by Your grace,  
we seek Your guidance now for this new year.  
Help us to demonstrate the love of Christ in all we do,  
as a community of faith and in our personal lives.  
We know that we are broken and have fallen short of Your glory.  
We look back on this passing year and recognize our sinfulness--  
missed opportunities to share Your love,  
times when we could have spoken for what is right but did not,  
a lack of gratitude for Your amazing grace by which You save us,  
an indifference to Your claim on our lives through Jesus Christ.  
As we look ahead, help us to follow where You lead.  
Show us how to be Your children, heirs of Your promise,  
and strengthen us in our service and witness to You.  
Hear these our personal prayers.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

God's Word promises us that we are made right with God  
by God's gift of grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.  
He has come into our world to save sinners like us,  
and in him we are forgiven and our lives made new.  
Praise be to God!

**\*RESPONSE HYMN 136**     *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

Refrain:

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

**While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light.**

Refrain:

**Go, tell it on the mountain,**

**over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!**

## **GROW SPIRITUALLY**

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD   Philippians 1:3-6

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

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.**

HYMN 145           *What Child Is This*

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD   Philippians 4:13-17

<sup>13</sup>I can do all things through him who strengthens me. <sup>14</sup>In any case, it was kind of you to share my distress. <sup>15</sup>You Philippians indeed know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you alone. <sup>16</sup>For even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me help for my needs more than once. <sup>17</sup>Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the profit that accumulates to your account.

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION   (unison)

**Almighty God, as we hear Your Word read and proclaimed,  
we pray that it will accomplish its purpose,  
opening our lives to the presence of Your amazing love.  
May we listen, and hear, and be transformed, and follow.  
Through the Living Word, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

SERMON

*LIVING IN THE IN-BETWEEN*

Russ Merritt

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 119 *Hark! The Herald Angels sing*

\* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

**Gracious and giving God, we give You thanks, for You are good.  
We thank You for the blessings of the past year,  
and for how You have been with us and guided us in difficult times.  
We give thanks that You will be with us and guide us in the year to come.  
Bless these offerings that they may be used to Your glory,  
and in service to others in the name of Your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.  
Help us to have grateful hearts and to live as joyful people of God.  
Through Jesus Christ, the greatest gift of all, we pray. 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 134 *Joy to the World*

\*CHARGE

\*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

\*Indicates the People Standing

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*We welcome and thank C.W. Markham for providing the music today.*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated next Sunday, January 5, in our worship service. Please be in prayerful preparation as we come into the new year gathering at the Table of our Lord's grace.

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	Worship Service
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service / Communion

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	

**\*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





