



## Northminster Presbyterian Church

1660 Kessler Blvd. East Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46220

317-251-9489 [www.northminster-indy.org](http://www.northminster-indy.org)

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Advent Pathways II - The Path over Mountains and Rough Places

December 6, 2020

11:00 am

*\* Those who are able, please stand.*

**Congregation responds in bold.**

### CENTERING THOUGHT

In the lonely places ... the wilderness  
Where we stand forlorn ... windswept and alone  
Your voice calls out  
Prepare a way for the Lord.

In the dark places ... the shadows  
Where we hide our fears ... embrace our tears  
Your voice calls out  
Prepare the way for the Lord.

Guide our feet ... take us to places  
Where you would have us go.  
May we point the way with John the Baptist  
Preparing the way for the Lord.

John Birch, *Faith and Worship*

### ***WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME***

**WELCOME**

David Smazik

**PRELUDE**

He shall feed his flock (from *Messiah*)

George Frederick Handel

(1685-1759)

Katie Ray, Soprano    Kelly Day, Alto

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: and he shall gather the lambs with his arm,  
and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Come unto him, all ye that labor, come unto him, that are heavy laden,  
come, ye shall find rest unto your souls,  
take his yoke upon you, and learn of him; for he is meek and lowly of heart:  
and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

Ruth Chadwick Moore

In this Advent season, God speaks comfort to us.

**God calls us here.**

In this Advent season, God addresses us with tenderness.

**God meets us here.**

In this Advent season, God guides us with gentleness.

**God calls us here to prepare a way for the Lord.**

We come anticipating the transformation of our lives.

For the glory of the Lord will be revealed –

**and all of us will see it. Let us worship God.**

**\* HYMN**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

*(please sing stanzas 1-4 and 7)*



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge  
tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Kincaid Family

In this Advent season, we gather around this wreath of candles to pray for lost hopes, broken peace, limited joys, and love so difficult to find and share in this season of isolation and virus. These candles remind us that God's light has come into the world in the One whose presence we await. These candles symbolize that nothing, not even isolation and pandemic, can diminish the light of God's love for us in Jesus Christ.

*The first candle is lighted.*

Hear these words from the prophet Isaiah: "Every valley is lifted up; every mountain made low. Now the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." (Isaiah 40: 4-5)

Today we light the candle of peace praying for all who are victims of anger, depression, addiction, gun violence, and dangerous living situations. We rejoice that God's peace illuminates the possibility of reconciliation and healing and brightens the path towards joy.

*The second candle is lighted.*

**Emmanuel, God be with us, in the week to come,  
Light peace and hope in our lives so we may shine in our world.  
In Jesus' name. Amen.**

## CHORAL RESPONSE

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Traditional Taizé  
Section Leaders

## \* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Can you hear? A voice is heard crying in the wilderness. Make way! Level the valleys! Straighten the paths! Prepare the way for the coming of the Lord! God's servant cries out to us: "Repent, turn and be restored." Can you hear? Let us open our hearts in confession that we might receive God's word of salvation. Let us pray together:

**God, our loving creator, we confess we are not ready to meet you.  
You call us to repent, but we turn away from you.  
You wait patiently for us, but we fail to watch and wait for you.**

**Forgive us God of grace. Help us to repair those places where we have failed you.  
Embrace us with your tender mercy so we may be at one with you,  
when all your glory is revealed: through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

## \* SILENT CONFESSION

## \* ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Fellow travelers on this Advent journey,  
God accepts us and God forgives us.  
Hear and believe the good news:  
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen!**

## \* GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

GLORIA

**Glo - ria, in excelsis Deo! Glo - ria, in excelsis Deo!**  
*(Glory to God in the highest)*

## ***WE HEAR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED***

## CHILDREN'S TIME

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 40: 4-5

**ANTHEM**

And the glory of the Lord (*Messiah*)

George Frederick Handel  
Section Leaders

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
And all flesh shall see it together:  
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Mark 1: 1-8

**SERMON**

Truth in the Rough Places

Carol McDonald

**\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from *Our Song of Hope*, Christian Reformed Church

**Our only hope is Jesus Christ.  
After we refused to live in the image of God,  
He was born of the virgin Mary,  
sharing our genes and our instincts,  
entering our culture, speaking our language,  
fulfilling the law of our God.  
Being united to Christ's humanity,  
we know ourselves when we rest in Him.**

**Come, Lord Jesus:  
We are open to your Spirit.  
We await your full presence.  
Our world finds rest in you.**

***WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD***

**OFFERING**

**SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**INVITATION**

On the day of the Lord, God will make for all people a feast of rich foods and well-aged wines.  
On that day, the people of God will say: This is the Lord, for whom we have waited; let us be glad  
and rejoice in God's saving love.

**GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting  
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.  
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.  
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.  
Praise to you for leading your people  
through the wilderness to the land of promise.  
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.  
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.  
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.  
For all of these things we praise you.

Praise to you for the gift of this holy meal.  
With this bread and this cup we remember  
our Lord's Passover from death to life,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life,  
pour out your Holy Spirit on us and  
on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast.  
Grace our table with your presence.  
Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.  
With all your holy ones of all times and places,  
with the earth and all its creatures, with sun, moon, and stars,  
we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **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**

The bread on your table is blessed and broken. Offered to all, it is holy.  
**Sharing love, we will never be hungry.** (*the bread is shared*)

The cup on your table is blessed and shared, like the overflowing of tears and joy.  
**Drinking deeply, we will never be thirsty.** (*the cup is shared*)

### **THANKSGIVING AFTER THE MEAL**

O God, send us out from Christ's table to answer his summons into new life  
and to follow him with joy and gladness.  
Set our feet in Christ's holy way, that our lives may be signs of his life  
and all we do may show his love. Amen.

**\* SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE** (*Worshipers may greet one another with words of Christ's peace.*)

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

# WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

\* HYMN

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

WINCHESTER NEW

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -  
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our  
4 Stretch forth your hand; our health re - store, and

nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
straight the way for God with - in, and let us all our  
ref - uge and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
make us rise to fall no more. O let your face up -

for he brings glad ti - dings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.  
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.

## \* BLESSING AND CHARGE

Go in peace ...

Love and care for one another in the name of Christ.

**May the power of the Holy Spirit**

**make the rough places in our lives smooth.**

May the deep valleys of our hearts be filled  
and the rugged mountains leveled.

May the way of the Lord be made ready in us.

**May God in Christ come unto us, bless us,**

**and shine forth from us both now and forevermore. Amen.**

## CHORAL RESPONSE

How Far Is It to Bethlehem?

arr. Alice Parker, Robert Shaw  
Section Leaders

How far is it to Bethlehem, not very far?  
Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?  
Can we see the little child, is he within?  
If we lift the wooden latch, may we go in?



## MUSIC IN WORSHIP

**This morning's anthem**, "And the glory of the Lord," is the well-known fourth movement of George Frederick Handel's oratorio for soloists, chorus, and orchestra, *Messiah*. This movement is the first appearance of the chorus and concludes the opening section that tells of God's promise of hope through prophecy. Written in a  $\frac{3}{4}$  tempo, it is full of praise. "Glory" refers to resplendent radiance of light such as will surround the person of the Messiah. "All flesh shall see it together" means all of humankind will see this Messiah at one time. Originally an Easter offering, Handel composed *Messiah* in 1742 in just 24 days.

## WORSHIP RESOURCES

The Call to Worship is adapted from the writings of Moira Laidlaw.

The Blessing and Charge are adapted from the writings of the Rev. Richard J. Fairchild.

The Call to Confession is adapted from Literature and Liturgy.

The Advent Wreath Liturgy is adapted from the writings of Maren Tirabassi.

The Communion Liturgies are from the Book of Common Worship (2018) of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Advent Pathways ... Journeying through the Labyrinth to the Manger in Bethlehem -- Wednesdays, December 9, 16 and 23.** It will be "aired" at 5pm on our webpage and will be available on Facebook and YouTube as well. These weekly offerings are designed to nurture all ages, but will be geared especially for children, youth and families. What you can expect: the Lighting of Candles ... Scripture and a Story ... Music for the season provided by our Section Leaders ... Guided Prayer – each week Northminster members will walk a section of the labyrinth journey as prayer is offered to God.

**Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study – 11 am on Dec 8 and 15.** We will be studying the Advent theme of "Advent Pathways" by studying prophets in the Old Testament, with a specific emphasis on Isaiah. Chapter 40 of Isaiah will be the scripture texts we will learn about and discuss. This group will continue to meet in January, beginning again on the 5th.

**Sunday Morning Advent Gospel Study – 10:10-10:50 am, Dec 13 and 20**

Advent is a time of waiting and preparation for the birth of the Christ into our lives and the world. The Advent lectionary gospel texts help us do that. Each week we will discuss a different familiar gospel text that will challenge us, remind us, and re-frame us as a people, as God breaks into the world to be in an intimate relationship with us. Emmanuel – God with us. Join us for sharing and discussion on the following texts – Nov 29: Mark 13: 24-37, Dec 6: Mark 1: 1-8, Dec 13: John 1: 6-8; 19-28 and Dec 20: Luke 1: 26-38.

**To join in either of these Bible Studies on Zoom go to the NPC website,  
click on Events and then on Advent Bible Studies**

**To join in either of these Bible Studies by phone:**

1. Dial 1-312.626.6799.
2. When prompted, enter the **Meeting ID - 231 806 3291**, then press #.
3. When prompted for a "participant id" or to "otherwise just press # to continue" - press #.
4. When prompted, enter the **Meeting Password - 800334930**, then press #.

### **Westminster Neighborhood Ministries Christmas "Baskets" 2020**

Our annual participation in the Westminster Christmas Baskets will be different this year. We will not be collecting items at the church. Westminster has created an Amazon wish list from which we can select gifts to be sent directly to Westminster. To participate, click on this link: <http://tiny.cc/WestminChistmasWishList>. You may purchase hats, gloves, etc., or one of the toys listed. When you reach the shipping page, **be sure to choose the Westminster shipping address** - not your own. (Please do not deliver items to Northminster.) **If you do not have internet** you can send a check made out to NPC with "Westminster Baskets" in the memo line and Nancy Flamme will shop for you. **Shopping deadline is Monday, December 7.**

**Christmas Joy Offering** --The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. Checks can be sent to Northminster with the words "Christmas Joy Offering" in the memo line. Special offering envelopes can also be found in member envelope boxes.

**Northminster Reads** --We'll be reading "White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism" by Robin DiAngelo. This timely book illustrates the phenomenon of white fragility -- an in-depth examination of how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality and what all of us can do to engage more constructively.

**Join our discussion on either Sunday, January 10 - 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. OR Wednesday, January 13 - 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.** We'll be meeting on ZOOM ... Watch the Friday e-mails for the link to join the conversation.

**Why do we have these conversations?** God calls us, through Scripture, to do all we can to "let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." (Amos 5) Barb Angotti and Carol McDonald will lead our discussions. Questions? Contact Carol at [cmcdonald@northminster-indy.org](mailto:cmcdonald@northminster-indy.org)

**Emergency Meals** --You can help to provide a person or family with a much-needed meal during a time of difficulty. You may prepare soup, dessert, casseroles, side dishes, bread, even frozen vegetables. These items will be frozen and stored at Northminster until they are needed. Check out the sign up at: <https://bit.ly/NPCmeals>

**Food Pantry Volunteers – second Tuesday each month.** Contact John Reed: (317) 315-3142 or Email: [bjjkreed@comcast.net](mailto:bjjkreed@comcast.net)



*For more information, check out our website ([northminster-indy.org](http://northminster-indy.org)).*

To give by text message on a smartphone, text the amount to 317-316-3009.  
Our online system, ShelbyNext, will prompt you through a one-time set-up.

## MINISTRY

**David Smazik**  
Interim Pastor

**Ruth Chadwick Moore**  
Associate Pastor

**Carol McDonald**  
Parish Associate

**John M. Wright**  
Director, Music Ministries

**Marko Petričić**  
Music Associate/Organist

**Denise Harrington**  
Senior Ministry

**Melissa Hopkins**  
Interim Christian Education

**Marland Pittman**  
Interim Youth

**Donald R. Durrett**  
Associate Pastor Emeritus

**Lori Schlabach**  
Church Business  
Administrator

**Susan Glant**  
**Nancy J. Sala**  
Administrative Assistants

**Tim McElroy**  
Lead Custodian

**Jonathan Petersen**  
Custodian

**Carol Campbell**  
**John Reed**  
**Tony Dzwonar**  
Stephen Ministry Leaders