



NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Seek, Serve, Embrace | Engaging with neighbors near and far in Christ's love

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fourth Sunday of Advent | December 18, 2022, 10:00 am

WAITING WITH LOVE

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME

Brian Shivers

PRELUDE

"Prelude on VENI EMMANUEL" | *Gerhard Krapf (1924-2008)*

INTROIT

"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" | *African-American Spiritual; Celebration Choir*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Look, O house of David! The Lord will give you a sign:

The young woman shall bear a child;

she shall name him Emmanuel - God with us.

God is with us and has the whole world in God's hands.

With love in our hearts, let us worship God!

***HYMN NO. 88** (Stanzas 1-4 and 7 only)

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" | *VENI EMMANUEL*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Annie Robinson, Alexander Crook

"Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart...

...Love feels like being cherished."

**Advent is the beginning of this new world, a better world,
where you and I, and all of God's creation, are treasured and beloved.**

May it be so.

Amen.

HYMN NO. 92 (Stanza 1 only)

"While We are Waiting, Come" | *WAITING*

**For those who are able, please stand.*



88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



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.

5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heavenly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
 our spirits by thine advent here;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

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.

While We Are Waiting, Come

1 While we are wait - ing, come;
 2 With power and glo - ry, come;
 3 Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come;

while we are wait - ing, come.
 with power and glo - ry, come.
 come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,

while we are wait - ing, come.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Carol McDonald

Merciful God,
you have done great things, our hearts are filled with love.
By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin
and brought us with joy and laughter into your kingdom.
Salvation is your gift to us.
But we confess that often we try to replace your gift
with our own efforts.
We try to complete what is already perfect;
we try to add to what is already full;
we try to earn what we already have.

Forgive our foolishness.
Help us to focus on your grace.
Help us to live grateful lives in return.

SILENT CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Jesus, the long-expected Savior, was born to set us free.
He releases us from our fears and sins and helps us find our rest in him.
Jesus delivers us from the way of sin.
I declare to you, our sins are forgiven.
Come now, long-expected Jesus, come again to rule in our hearts.

*GLORIA

Gloria

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

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

(Worshippers may greet one another with words of Christ's peace.)

CHILDREN'S TIME

*(Offerings added to the Joyful Noise Pail are for mission partner Heifer International.)
Children are released to Church School.*



ANTHEM

"Angelus ad virginem" | *arr. Andrew Carter (b. 1939); Chamber Ensemble*

Translation:

The angel, coming secretly to the Virgin, calming the Virgin's fear,
said: 'Hail! Mary, Queen of Virgins!

You shall conceive the Lord of Heaven and Earth and give birth,
remaining a virgin, to the Salvation of mankind;
you will be made the gate of heaven, the cure for sin.'

'How shall I conceive, since I know not a man? How shall I break
what I have resolutely vowed?' 'The grace of the Holy Spirit shall perform all this.
Fear not, but rejoice, confident that chastity will remain pure in you
by the power of God.'

At this, the noble Virgin, replying, said to him: 'I am the humble servant
of almighty God. To you, heavenly messenger, who knows so great a secret,
I give my consent and desire to see done what I hear,
and I am ready to obey God's will.'

O Mother of the Lord, who restored peace to angels and men when
you gave birth to Christ, beg of your Son that he may show himself
favorable to us and wipe away our sins, offering us help to enjoy the blessed
life after this exile.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 7: 10-16 (p. 630) (Spark Bible p. 168)

*PSALM 80

arr. Hal Hopson; Chancel Choir Trebles



Psalm 80

Hal H. Hopson

Hal H. Hopson

Refrain



Advent: Lord, come soon; come to



save us. Lord, come soon.

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 1: 18-25 (p. 1) (Spark Bible p. 196)

SERMON

"How Are We Waiting: Waiting With Love" | *Brian Shivers*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN NO. 100 (Stanza 4 only)

"My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout" | *STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN*

ANTHEM

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" | *ST. LOUIS; Chancel Choir*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

OFFERING



100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

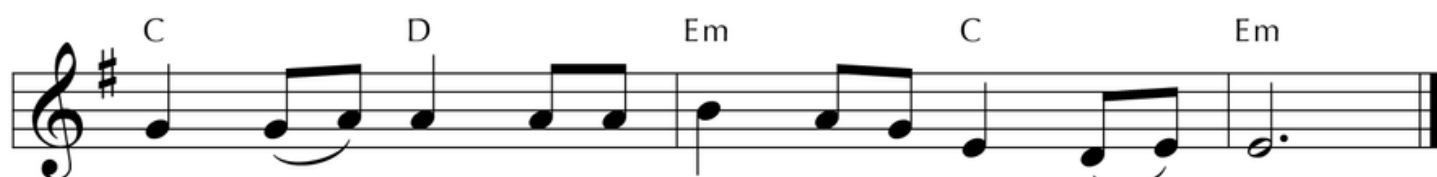
Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

OFFERTORY

"Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending" | *BRYN CALFARIA, Frank Boles; Chancel Choir*

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at nought and sold him, pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshipers;
with what rapture, with what rapture, gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen! let all adore thee high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory, claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou shall reign, and thou alone.

*DOXOLOGY

"Christ to thee, with God the Father" | *W. ZLOBIE LEZY*

Christ to thee with God the Father, and O Holy Ghost to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory and dominion, and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore. Amen! Amen.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN NO. 123

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" | *CAROL*

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope and live in love by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Alleluia! Let us prepare the way of the Lord!

POSTLUDE

"Toccata on VENI EMMANUEL" | Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941)

ADVENT 2022

Be sure to check out our "Season of Advent" page on the website! Stay up-to-date on events, projects, music, and other ways to stay engaged during the season.



123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un - furled,
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf-fered long;
 4 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
 5 For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:
 be - neath the heaven-ly hymn have rolled two thou-sand years of wrong;
 who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
 when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gra-cious King":
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,
 and we at war on earth hear not the tid - ings that they bring;
 look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift-ly on the wing:
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,



the world in sol - emn still-ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless-ed an - gels sing.
 O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing!
 O, rest be-side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing.
 and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.



MUSIC IN WORSHIP

The anthem “Angelus Ad Virginem” is a Medieval Latin carol celebrating the Annunciation by the angel Gabriel telling the Virgin Mary that she would conceive and bear the Christ child. The song was so popular, it appeared in six manuscripts from the late 13th to mid-16th century in England, France and Ireland, using both Latin and English words. In each source, the melody is similar but different in detail, indicating a constant reworking of the musical material. This is a central feature of folk music. “Angelus ad Virginem” became so popular in England that in c. 1400 Chaucer alludes to it in Canterbury Tales, specifically, in “The Miller’s Tale,” where we are told Nicholas sings and accompanies himself on the psaltery -

*And over all there lay a psaltery
Whereon he made an evening’s melody,
Playing so sweetly that the chamber rang;
And Angelus ad virginem he sang;
And after that he warbled the King’s Note:
Often in good voice was his merry throat.*

The arrangement the Chamber Ensemble sings today was written by British church music composer Andrew Carter (born 1939). Over the years, several of Carter’s carols have been included in the renowned Christmas Eve broadcast from King’s College Chapel, Cambridge.

This morning’s Offertory is a setting of the Charles Wesley Advent hymn “Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending” by North Carolina native Frank Boles (born 1955).

Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788) was born in England, the youngest son and eighteenth child of Samuel and Susannah Wesley. He wrote approximately 6500 hymns. His feelings on every occasion of importance, whether public or private, found their best expression in a hymn. His own conversion, his own marriage, the earthquake panic, the rumors of an invasion from France, the defeat of Prince Charles Edward at Culloden, the Gordon riots, every Festival of the Christian Church, every doctrine of the Christian Faith, lessons and associations with children, striking scenes in Scripture history, the deaths of friends as they passed away, all furnished occasions for the exercise of his divine gift of hymn writing. Boles’ setting is for eight part chorus and contains a nifty organ part for a nifty organist, which we have here at Northminster! The piece uses weighted rhythmic writing, producing strong and striking phrases. Of the setting, Boles has said that he hoped to “paint a mystical and eschatological setting as we wait for the coming of Christ.”

Although viewed as a favorite Christmas hymn, today’s final hymn, No. 123 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear,” does not mention the nativity. The “it” of the first line refers not to Jesus’ birth, but to “that glorious song of old: Peace on earth, good will to all, from Heaven’s all - gracious King.” The third stanza, which was omitted in the 1990 Presbyterian Hymnal, has been restored to our 2013 Glory to God hymnal. This stanza was influenced by growing tensions that would erupt as the American Civil War. Its pertinence has become increasingly relevant today in a world where animosities have access to weapons of cataclysmic destructiveness. The hymn’s text was written by Unitarian minister Edmund H. Sears and first appeared in the Unitarian weekly newspaper The Christian Register in 1849.



Upcoming Events

Christmas Joy Offering | Dec. 18

The Christmas Joy Offering supports current and retired church workers in their time of need, including supporting leadership development for communities of color. Please consider a modest donation this season.



The Longest Night Service | Dec. 18 | 5:00 pm

The holiday season can be one full of celebration but also of loss. The Longest Night Service provides a space and time to sit with and honor the heaviness faced in these days and read the names of loved ones and members who passed this year.



Seasonal Flower Donation | Dec. 21 | 12:00 pm

Please consider a \$25 donation to help cover the cost of items used through the Advent season to enhance our worship. Donors will be recognized in the Christmas bulletin. If paying by check, please write "Advent Flower Donation" in the memo line.



Christmas Eve and Day Services | Dec. 24-25

Northminster will offer our 4:00 (Joyful Noise Children's Service), 7:00, and 11:00 Christmas Eve services as well as service on Christmas morning. While the 4:00 and 7:00 services will be live-streamed, please note that the 11:00 service will not.



Italian Night Youth Fundraiser | Feb. 25

Italian Night is returning and we're currently accepting donations for our live and silent auctions! If you are interested in donating either purchased or homemade items to help support our youth, please scan the QR code or contact Kathryn Goncalves.



Hat & Mitten Drive

Help us support the Westminster Food Pantry by donating hats, gloves, and mittens to the Gathering Place. We will collect these winter items to display on the Christmas tree and all items will be donated to Westminster Food Pantry.

Stewardship Commitment Cards

The Stewardship Committee thanks you for submitting your commitment card; however, if you've not submitted your information, we invite you to determine your commitment by the end of the month as we plan for 2023!



Northminster Presents: Delaney Barber | Jan. 11 | 6:00 pm

Delaney brings experience and knowledge on climate and energy programming currently for the Hoosier Environmental Council. We'll discuss the impacts of climate change, its contributing factors, and how Hoosiers can get involved.



Ministry

Brian Shivers
Pastor/Head of Staff

John Wright
Director of Music Ministries

Lori Schlabach
Financial Administrator

Carol McDonald
Parish Associate

Marko Petričić
Music Associate/Organist

Cheryl Plunkett
Office Administrator

Nancy Fortenberry
Director of Youth & Family
Ministries

Denise Harrington
Director of Senior Ministries

Morteza Semnani
Director of Operations

Melissa Hopkins
Interim Director of
Children's Ministries

Timothy Foster
Director of Communications

Tim McElroy
Lead Custodian

Donald R. Durrett
Associate Pastor Emeritus

Tony Dzwonar
Stephen Ministry Leaders

Michael de las Alas
Custodian

*Northminster Presbyterian Church is a Matthew 25 congregation and a member of the
Covenant Network of Presbyterians*

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Prayer Lists

The prayer list is available 24/7 online! Visit northminster.church/prayer

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