



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 24, 2023, 10:00 am

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME

Karen Herbst-Kim & Brian Shivers

MEDITATIVE PREPARATION

Mary Beth Riner

PROCESSIONAL

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The day of God is coming; lift up your voices.

Cry out with the strength God provides.

We await God's coming day with anticipation.

We seek the love God provides.

Comfort, comfort my people, says our God.

Speak tenderly to my suffering people.

We will prepare the way for One who is coming.

God will gather us in gentle, caring arms.

God's hand is upon us in blessing;

We are welcomed by God's steadfast love.

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



***HYMN NO. 88**

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

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, make true the
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
3 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from
4 O come, Love's sea - son, to our lone - ly days, and guide us
5 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all pe - oples

1 sto - ries pro - phets tell, so all those chained by fear find re
2 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
3 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple
4 in our words and ways to be the ones whose Ad - vent be -
5 in one heart and mind; make en vy, strife, and quarr - els

1 lease and war for got - ten bring a world of peace.
2 show; and teach us in her ways to go.
3 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re-joice! Re-joice!
4 gins with heal - ing earth that live with - in.
5 cease; fill the whole world with hea - ven's peace.

Em - an - u - el is come to birth where all God's chil - dren dwell.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God,
as we watch and wait for signs of your expansive love,
forgive our narrow thinking.
As we repent in the wilderness with John,
we confess that we often lack the imagination
to testify to the coming light.
As we visit the home of Elizabeth,
we lament our loss of wonder.

O God of love, forgive our apathy and small-mindedness.
When the wait is over and all is finished,
open our minds to recognize the strength and
wisdom of Christ, God with us.

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



*SILENT CONFESSION

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Siblings in Christ,
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.**

In the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Praise God!

We can accept and live within the love God provides.

*GLORIA

"From Angels We Have Heard On High" | 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.)

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S TIME

(Offerings added to the Joyful Noise Pail are for mission partner Heifer International)

Children are dismissed to Church School

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON | GOSPEL

Luke 1: 26-38 (p. 56-57)

SECOND LESSON | MAGNIFICAT

Luke 1: 46-55; Joseph Gelineau (1920-2008); Katie Ray, Cantor



THIRD LESSON | GOSPEL

Luke 1: 39-55 (p. 57)

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



SERMON

"Prepare the Way: Love" | Karen Herbst-Kim

ANTHEM

"Ave Maria" | David Childs (b. 1969); Krista Wright, Flute; Chancel Choir Trebles

Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum.
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Iesus.

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.*

Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.
Amen.

*Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

...Let us pray:

Emmanuel, we celebrate the Advent of the past with its precious words and traditions, and we light an Advent candle of new hope, peace, joy, and love in all the seasons for all of your children. Amen.

RESPONSE

"Prepare the Way" | CAROL



"Pre - pare the way!" the proph - et called; a mes - sen - ger will
come to re - af - firm God's cov - e - nant and lead the
peo - ple home. The truth will shine like pur - est fire in
that a - wait - ed hour. Come, Je - sus Christ! You
are the way; re - new us with your pow'r.



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

OFFERTORY

"Angelus ad Virginem" | 14th-century Irish, arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015); Doug Johnson, Bass; Morgan Bernat, Soprano

Translation

Verse 1:

The angel appeared to the Virgin,
While entering into her chamber.
He calmed her fear,
When he said to her: "Hail,
Hail, Queen of Virgins.
The Lord of Heaven and Earth,
You will conceive and give birth unharmed,
Bringing the salvation of mankind.
You will be the Door of Heaven,
The remedy for all crimes."

Verse 2:

"How can I conceive,
Since I do not know man?
How can I break,
What I have firmly vowed?"
"The grace of the Holy Spirit
Will accomplish all this.
Do not fear but rejoice securely,
Because chastity,
Will remain undefiled in you,
Through the power of God."

Verse 3:

To this the noble Virgin,
Responding said to him:
"I am the humble slave,
Of Almighty God.
By your heavenly announcement,
I became aware of so many secrets,
I give my consent and want to see,
Accomplished what I heard.
I am ready to obey,
God's will."

Verse 4:

The angel disappeared,
And at once the Maiden,
Conceived in her womb,
The fruit of salvation.
In her womb He lied enclosed,
For nine months.
From it He came forth entering the battle,
He fastened His shoulders,
On the cross, which gave the blow,
Fatal to the enemy.

Verse 5:

Rejoice, Mother of the Lord,
Who has restored peace,
To angels and men,
When you bore Christ.
Exhort your Son,
That He be propitious to us,
Let Him wash away our sins,
Giving us help,
To enjoy the blissful life,
After this exile.

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



***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**

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN NO. 100**

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

***BLESSING AND CHARGE**

Now go in love.

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

**May the way of the Lord be made ready in us, and
may God in Christ come unto us, bless us,
and shine forth from us both now and forevermore. Amen.**

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" | *Michael Praetorius (1571-1621); Jill de las Alas,
Glockenspiel, Chancel Choir*

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to all a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

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



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.

IN WORSHIP

In today's final hymn, No. 100 "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout," each of the four stanzas has a reference to the world turning. The hymn captures the revolutionary spirit of the gospel and of a God who "pulls down the mighty from their thrones and raises up the lowly." The text was written by Ohio native Rory Cooney (born 1952), who has written over 250 Christian songs, many of them based on Psalm texts. He claims a C. S. Lewis passage in *Perelandra* inspired this hymn: "Among times there is a time that turns a corner and everything this side of it is new." The hymn's tune is the traditional Irish melody STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN, named after a beautiful lady, the "star" of the northeastern county Down, in Northern Ireland.

As we are sent forth, the Chancel Choir sings German composer Michael Praetorius' (1571-1621) carol "Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming," originally "Es ist ein Ros entsprungen." The author of the text, which first appeared in print in 1599, is unknown. This short piece is the prophecy of Isaiah foretelling the birth of Jesus and emphasizing the royal (King David) lineage of Jesus. It speaks of a rose sprouting from the Tree of Jesse (the father of David), an image particularly popular in art from the medieval era. Michael Praetorius served as an organist in churches in Frankfurt and Luneburg, Germany. In 1604 he began working for the Duke of Brunswick at Wolfenbuttel, first as organist and then as music director. He composed over 1,200 songs, many of them sacred. He was also known as a music scholar, writing an elaborate treatise on instruments and instrumental music of the 16th century, the three-volume *Syntagma Musicum*.

Advent Sanctuary Art

Since time immemorial, our ancestors have been guided by stars on both physical and spiritual journeys, just as the Magi followed a star to a stable and a savior thousands of years ago. As we prepare the way for the gift of the divine this season, meditate on the journeys you have taken, and the directions you wish to head. The constellations and the positions depicted are the ones we will see on Christmas Eve night. Which ones do you recognize?

Advent and Christmas Worship Services

Children's Christmas Eve Service | Today | 4:00 pm

Make a Joyful Noise with the children of Northminster and the community. Join the throng of sheep, angels, and shepherds as we welcome the Christ Child. There are ways for all to participate!

Traditional Christmas Eve Worship | Today | 6:30 pm Choral Prelude; 7:00 pm Service

We welcome the Christ Child through readings, sermon, holy communion, and music. The Northminster Chancel Choir sings a 30-minute choral prelude prior to the service, including familiar and newly composed music of the Christmas season.

First Sunday of Christmas Lessons & Carols | Dec. 31 | 10:00 am

Join us for Sunday worship! Come as you are in person or join us online by visiting our website. Childcare is available!

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Seasonal Decoration Donations

The Angotti Family | *In memory of Art Angotti*
Robert Barrows | *In memory of Frances Barrows*
Elizabeth Brandes | *In memory of my father Raymond A. Brandes*
Matthew & Monica Brase | *In memory of Jane & Tom Freuchtenicht*
Matthew & Monica Brase | *In honor of our delightful daughters Meredith & Elizabeth*
Christie Call | *In memory of Edna Walker*
Sandra Corbito | *In memory of my parents*
Dolly & Don Craft | *In memory of our parents*
Tim & Molly Craft | *In honor of Don & Dolly Craft*
David & Susan Crook | *In honor of Dale & Linda Theobald*
David & Susan Crook | *In honor of Alex (in his confirmation journey) Crook*
Nancy & Bill Dynes | *In memory of Richard & Elinore Koch*
Becky & Bill Erdel | *In honor of the Northminster staff*
Debbie Everett | *In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Alistair Stuart*
Nancy Flamme | *In memory of Bill & Jean Flamme*
Timothy & Olivia Foster | *In honor of the Northminster Family*
Pat Freije | *In memory of my "Beloved Bill"*
Sally & Jerry Gray | *In memory of family members*
Sharon Gremel | *In memory of our parents*
Cheri & Bob Gudgel | *In memory of Mary Lee Ryan*
Cheri & Bob Gudgel | *In memory of Ann (Gudgel) McDonald*
Neil Handley | *In memory of Jackie Schmidt*
Neil Handley | *In honor of Janet Ingram*
Susan Hedrick | *In memory of Stephen Hensel*
The Herbst-Kim Family | *In memory of Keun Sook Kim*
Jeni & Bill Hilgedag | *In memory of Ray & Betty Hilgedag*
Jeni & Bill Hilgedag | *In memory of Bill & Dotty Fryback*
Mason King & Rebecca Huehls | *In memory of Sharon Huehls*



Seasonal Decoration Donations

Nancy Jarrell | In memory of my parents Betty & Ken Vinton

Nancy Jarrell | In honor of my grandchildren

Kristin Keltner | In honor of Northminster Moms

Mick & Elle Keppler | In memory of our parents

Susie & Bill Koriath | *In memory of our parents*

Emily Lapworth | *In memory of Bob & Mary Schwegman and Jean Foster*

Hitch & Sandy Learned | *In memory of Susan Learned*

John & Mary Lisher | *In memory of our parents*

Bill Lord | *In memory of Catherine Lord*

Carol McDonald | *In memory of David McDonald*

Jenny & Neil Moehring | *In memory of Carol Campbell*

Gayle-Sue Murphy | *In memory of my mother Mimi Harrison*

Loui Lord Nelson | *In honor of Bill Lord*

Loui Lord Nelson | *In memory of Cathy Lord*

Adam & Andrea Newsom | *In memory of Raymond Brandes*

Adam & Andrea Newsom | *In memory of Drex Newsom*

Sharon Parsley | *In memory of family and friends*

John & Cheryl Plunkett | *In memory of our parents*

John & Maureen Purcell | *In memory of our parents*

Brenda Reed | *In memory of my husband John Reed*

Rob & Gail Rothrock | *In memory of Robert "Robbie" Rothrock IV*

Max & Mary Ann Ruegger | *In honor of Max Schlegel's 90th birthday*

Gary Ryan | *In memory of Mary Lee Ryan*

Frank Sauer | *In memory of Frank & Ethel Sauer*

Aimee & Charlie Scheuermann | *In memory of Gary & Nancy Scheuermann*

The Schmahl Family | *In memory of Bob Eppich*

The Shivers Family | *In memory of our loved one*

Don Knebel & Diane Thompson | *In honor of Carol McDonald*



Events and Announcements

Northminster Community Yoga | Jan. 7 | 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Join Krista Wright for Yoga in Room 210. \$10 adults, \$5 students. All are welcome, no experience is needed, and prior registration isn't required. For those new to yoga who may not have supplies, mats, and blocks are available to borrow!



"The Sum of Us" Book Study | Jan. 10 | 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Adults and youth are invited to join this 5-week book study, reading either the original edition or the young reader edition. We'll explore two chapters each week and meet in person in the boardroom or online via Zoom.



Northminster Housing Advocates Meeting | Jan. 14 | 11:15 am - 12:15 pm

Members acting as Court Watchers will meet on January 14th after worship to discuss their court experiences. If you'd like more information or to learn how to get involved, please contact Susan Holewinski!

Annual Meeting | Feb. 4 | 11:15 am

Save the date for the 2024 Annual Meeting on February 4th! We will meet following worship to discuss the annual report and the health of the church. If you have any questions, please contact our office.

Sound & Spirit: Rob Dixon Trio | Feb. 18 | 4:00 pm

Jazz saxophonist and artistic director of the Indy Jazz Fest, Rob Dixon, and his band play their unique brand of arrangements and new compositions. Check out upcoming performances or support Sound & Spirit using the QR code!



Food Pantry Volunteering | Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays

Volunteer with us! Westminster needs help during our regular pantry hours on Mondays and Thursdays as well as volunteers to do guided shopping with our neighbors for Senior Pantry days on the third Wednesday of each month.



School 55 Volunteer Opportunity

After a 3 year hiatus, School 55 is welcoming volunteers into the school to help the students in various ways! The level of commitment is up to you. Contact Karen Herbst-Kim for more information!

January 2024 Church School Teacher Sign-Up

Would you like to show your love of God by caring for the youngest members of our Church Family? We are in need of people to help out in our Nursery, Preschool, and Children's Church Classes for January!



Volunteer with F.A.S.T.

F.A.S.T is a program whose mission is to uplift two-parent households at the working poverty level. They are in need of long-term volunteers as either adult mentors or child/youth tutors. For more information, please contact Karen Herbst-Kim!

Additional events and information can be found on our website at northminster.church/events



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Brian Shivers
Pastor/Head of Staff

Karen Herbst-Kim
Associate Pastor

Carol McDonald
Parish Associate

John Wright
Director of Music Ministries

Marko Petričić
Music Associate/Organist

Cheryl Plunkett
Office Administrator

Alexis Gonzales
*Church Operations
Administrator*

Jonathan Elliott
Financial Administrator

Timothy Foster
Director of Communications

Hannah Plunkett
Youth Ministry Coordinator

Emma Longo
Youth Ministry Coordinator

Melissa Hopkins
Director of Children's Ministry

Shiloh O'Rourke
Director of Preschool

Denise Harrington
Director of Senior Ministries

Tim McElroy
Lead Custodian

Michael de las Alas
Custodian

Teri Thomas
Pastor Emerita

Donald R. Durrett
Associate Pastor Emeritus

Tony Dzwonar
Stephen Ministry Leader

Rod Mail
Stephen Ministry Leader

Matthew 25

As a Matthew 25 congregation, we focus on building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.

Covenant Network of Presbyterians

As a member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, we seek equity for LGBTQIA2S+ people in church and society. We welcome, honor, celebrate, and include all.


Weekly Email Newsletters


Stay up to date with everything going on at Northminster by subscribing to our newsletter at northminster.church/newsletter


Prayer Lists

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

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9am - 3pm (M-Th) | Closed Friday



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