

# 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.



### \*HYMN NO. 88

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" | VENI EMMANUEL



### \*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.

Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus, nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen. Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

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





#### 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.

<sup>\*</sup>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**

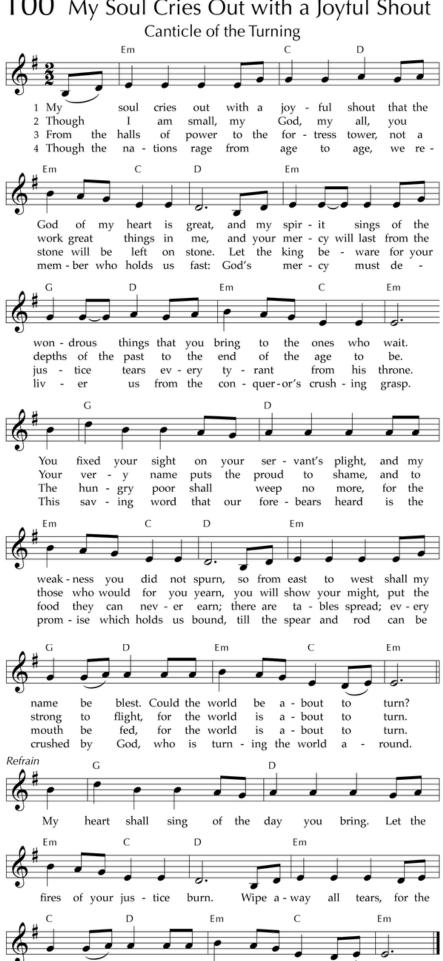
"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" | Michael Praetorious (1571-1621); Jill de las Alas, Glockenspiel, Chancel Choir

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.



# $100\,$ My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout



dawn

draws near, and the world

is a-bout

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!



# NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

**Brian Shivers** 

Pastor/Head of Staff

John Wright

Director of Music Ministries

**Alexis Gonzales** 

Church Operations

Administrator

Hannah Plunkett

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Shiloh O'Rourke

Director of Preschool

Michael de las Alas

Custodian

Karen Herbst-Kim

Associate Pastor

Marko Petričić

Music Associate/Organist

Jonathan Elliott

Financial Administrator

Emma Longo

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Denise Harrington

Director of Senior Ministries

Teri Thomas

Pastor Emerita

Carol McDonald

Parish Associate

Cheryl Plunkett

Office Administrator

**Timothy Foster** 

**Director of Communications** 

Melissa Hopkins

Director of Children's Ministry

Tim McElroy

Lead Custodian

Donald R. Durrett

Associate Pastor Emeritus

Tony Dzwonar Rod Mail

Stephen Ministry Leader 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.

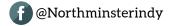
## Weekly Email Newsletters

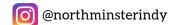
Stay up to date with everything going on at Northminster by subscribing to our newsletter at northminster.church/newsletter

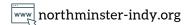
#### **Prayer Lists**

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

# Connect with us!







(317) 251-9489

office@northminster-indy.org

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



