



NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

First Sunday of Advent | December 1, 2024, 10:00 am

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME

PRELUDE

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" | *arr. Edward Bairstow (1874-1946)*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

...Let us pray:

Emmanuel, God with us and within us, we celebrate the Advent of the past with its precious words and traditions, and we light an Advent candle of hope in all seasons for all your children. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God our Savior, for you we wait.

Night and day we pray for your return.

Come and fulfill your promise to us.

Come and deliver your people!

*HYMN NO. 93

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" | *TRURO*

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



Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
 thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner

draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

Beginning as a paraphrase of Psalm 24:7-10, this text then applies the door imagery to the singer's heart, and concludes with the individual's welcome of the approaching Savior. It is set to a very effective anonymous 18th-century English tune that has served many texts.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of hope, God of arrival,
the days are coming, and your promise is arriving,
yet we struggle to wait.

East side: We forget how to live as your people.
In our impatience, we choose despair,
forgetting that in darkness, new life grows.

All: Turn us back to your hope.

West side: In our anxiety, we choose ways of violence,
believing that our own strength will save us.

All: Turn us back to your peace.

East side: In our want, we believe stories of scarcity,
forgetting what you have done and given us.

All: Turn us back to your joy.

West side: In our insecurity, we forget we are beloved,
choosing ways of self-protection over self-giving.
Turn us back to your love.

All: Grant us sacred attention to this Advent season,
that we might bear witness to your coming,
always in our midst and on the way.

*SILENT CONFESSION

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, receive these words of assurance:
The God who formed us and keeps us in love
is always drawing near to Christ,
bringing life and salvation to all.
Rest in this promise:

**Christ has come, Christ is coming,
and Christ will come again.**

Let us rest in his forgiving grace.

Thanks be to God!

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



*RESPONSE

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



WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S TIME

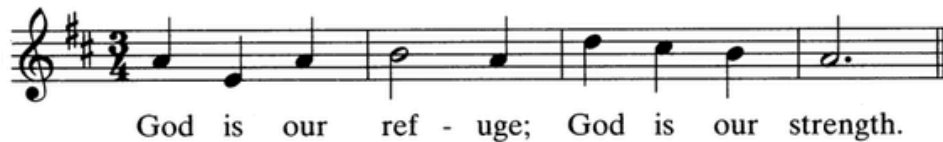
(Offerings added to the Joyful Noise Pail are for mission partner Heifer International)

Preschoolers are dismissed to Church School

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON | PSALMS

Psalm 46 | *Presbyterian Tone 6*



SECOND LESSON | GOSPEL

Luke 1: 5-25 | NT p. 56

SERMON

"Audacious Hope" | *Brian Shivers*

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



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from *Our World Belongs to God*, 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 in 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.

OFFERING

(please sign the pew pad and pass it to your neighbor)

OFFERTORY

"People, Look East" | *Traditional Besancon Carol, arr. Malcolm Archer (b. 1949); Chancel Choir*

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build, Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

(poem by Eleanor Farjeon, 1881 - 1965)

*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.

INVITATION TO THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

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.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

PICARDY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God of pow-er, God of might.

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san-na in the high - est!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est!

CHRIST HAS DIED; CHRIST IS RISEN

PICARDY

Christ has died, Christ is ri - sen, Christ will come a - gain!

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



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

PICARDY



SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

All are welcome. All bread is gluten-free.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Anthem: "Nova Nova" | 15th Century

Nova, nova, Ave fit ex Eva.

(News, news, "Ave" has been made from "Eve.")

Gabriel of high degree, he was sent from the Trinity,
to Nazareth in Galilee. Nova, nova.

He met a maiden in that place; there he knelt down before her face
and said, "Hail, Mary, full of grace." Nova, nova.

When the maiden heard his song, she was filled with confusion strong
and feared that she had done a wrong. Nova, nova.

Said the angel, "Have no fear; by conception without compare
the Savior Jesus shall you bear." Nova, nova.

"There are yet but six months gone since Elizabeth conceived John,
to be the herald of God's Son." Nova, nova

Said the maiden, "Verily, I am your servant right truly,
handmaid of the Lord now see." Nova, nova.

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



PRAYER AFTER THE MEAL

God, our Provision,
we rejoice that you satisfy our needs.
By your presence in this meal, you have fed us and strengthened us,
as a mother nourishes her baby.
In this waiting season, fill us with hopeful expectation
that we may see the signs of your kingdom all around us
and rejoice in your coming glory. Amen.

*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 ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN NO. 82

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus | HYFRYDOL

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

May God bless us on this Advent journey,
that we may accept the gifts of God's grace,
and that we may join the angels who sing above the stable,
"Glory to God in the highest, and peace, good will to all the earth."

Now friends, go forth in the name of Jesus.
Let us do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.
Magnify the Lord and rejoice,
for nothing is impossible with God.

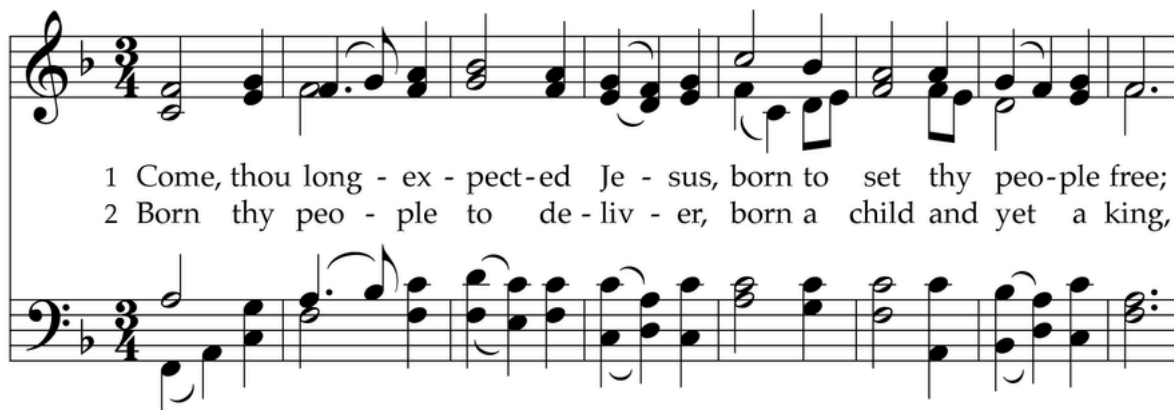
POSTLUDE

"Of the Father's Love Begotten" | arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

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



Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's strength and con-so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf-fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

IN WORSHIP

For today's Offertory, the Chancel Choir sings an arrangement of the merry French carol "People, Look East," text by the English poet Eleanor Farjeon (1881 – 1965), who also wrote the hymn "Morning Has Broken." The carol expresses the hope and excited expectation of Christ's coming. Christ is called "love, guest, rose, star, and Lord." This particular arrangement is by the British composer, organist, and conductor Malcolm Archer (born 1949). Archer has served as a church musician at Norwich, Bristol, and Wells Cathedrals, and St. Paul's Cathedral, London. He is currently the Director of Chapel Music at Winchester College, where he trains and conducts choirs and teaches organ and composition.

During the Eucharist, the Chancel Choir sings the 15th-century English tune "Nova, Nova." The story tells of the angel Gabriel's visit to Mary at the Annunciation, which will culminate in the Nativity. The refrain, "News, news, Ave has been made from Eve," may be in need of some explanation. The Virgin Mary is sometimes called the "new Eve," and the name Eve in Latin is Eva. Medieval authors noted that the first word Gabriel spoke to Mary was "Ave," which is, coincidentally, "Eva" spelled backward. Many Medieval and Renaissance composers used the word "Ave" when referring to Mary to illustrate that she "undid" or reversed what Eve had done. It was a subtle comment that the obedience of Mary cured the disobedience of Eve.

In worship throughout Advent, we will be using the texts that Rev. Dr. Wilda Gafney has selected for Year C in her four-volume lectionary, *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church*. Gafney is a widely praised womanist bible scholar and priest. For this lectionary, she selects scripture readings that emphasize women's stories. Focusing especially on the Gospel of Luke in Year C, Rev. Dr. Gafney presents her fresh, inclusive, and thought-provoking translations alongside commentary on each reading. Designed for liturgical use or scriptural study, this resource offers a new perspective on the Bible and the liturgical year.

Brian and Karen's stoles were designed and made by Rev. T. Denise Anderson and Mary Boris, respectively.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Brian Shivers | *Pastor*
Charles Manning | *Organ*
Karen Herbst-Kim | *Pastor*
Benjamin Plunkett | *Cantor*
Chancel Choir
Amy Hughley | *Conductor*

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Events and Announcements

Intergenerational Advent Event | Today | 11:15 am - 1:30 pm

Celebrate the beginning of Advent! Join us in the Gathering Place to decorate donuts, create Star-themed crafts, or just enjoy cider, hot chocolate, and fellowship. For more information, or if you have any questions, please contact Melissa Hopkins.



Lunch Packing for Wheeler Mission | Today | 11:15 am - 12:15 pm

Join us for the assembly on the east ramp of the church during the Advent event after today's worship. The Mission Team will supply all the items needed, so all you need to bring are your hands and holiday happiness!

Advent Labyrinth | Dec. 4th | 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Northminster invites you to experience a Chartres labyrinth (courtesy of Second Pres.) starting December 4th! We'll welcome Rev. Barbara Dahl, retired ELCA pastor, to talk history and offer insight on the effects of walking the labyrinth.



Clothe-A-Child | Dec. 5th | 9:15 am - 1:00 pm

Help support the clothing needs of students from School 55! We will meet at 9:15 am in The Gathering Place before heading to the Glendale Target and then come back to Calvin Hall after shopping for pizza and crafts. Scan the QR code to sign up or donate!



Bach Cantata: Schwingt Freudig Euch Empor | Dec. 8th | 10:00 am

Northminster's Chancel Choir, orchestra, and soloists Siyi Yab (soprano), Sara Dailey Muñoz (alto), Jonathan Elmore (tenor), and Sam Spade (bass), present Bach's Cantata 31 "Joyful Voices Raise" during the December 8th worship service.



All-Church Bake Sale | Dec. 8th | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Bring holiday treats in grab-and-go packaging to the Gathering Place before worship. After worship, take home your favorites with a donation of your choice. All proceeds support our Congolese refugee family!



Pastors' Holiday Hangout | Dec. 11th | 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Join Pastors Karen and Brian for a time of relaxed reflection, conversation, and questions. Please bring any topics or thoughts you'd like to share - from holiday joys to sorrows to anxieties to gratitude. Hot chocolate and holiday treats will be provided!

Comfort & Joy | Dec. 19th | 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Join us on Thursday, December 19th, for "Comfort & Joy", featuring a sound bath with live music, labyrinth walk, and a Longest Night liturgy. All are welcome to take a moment or two to find their place and simply "Come and Be."



December Mission Collection for Westminster

The Mission Team is collecting new, packaged rolls of toilet paper for Westminster Neighborhood Services. Their shelf is in critical need this holiday season and every donation helps! Donations can be made to the yellow bin in the Gathering Place.

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

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Christ-Centered | Grounded in the Word | Relevant | Inclusive | Nurturing | Serving

Brian Shivers
Pastor/Head of Staff

Karen Herbst-Kim
Associate Pastor

John Wright
Director of Music Ministries

Carol McDonald
Parish Associate

Marko Petričić
Music Associate/Organist

Cheryl Plunkett
Office Administrator

Melissa Hopkins
Director of Children's Ministry

Timothy Foster
Director of Communications

Shiloh O'Rourke
Director of Preschool

Emma Moore
*Operations Administrator &
Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Ynfinity Taylor
Bookkeeper

Denise Harrington
Director of Senior Ministries

Krista Wright
*Spiritual Wholeness and
Wellness Coordinator*

Elisabeth Kleinsmith
*Family Engagement
Coordinator*

Tim McElroy
Lead Custodian

Jonathan McGee
Custodian

Nate Boak
Custodian

Donald R. Durrett
Associate Pastor Emeritus

Teri Thomas
Pastor Emerita

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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