

## NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Second Sunday of Advent | December 8, 2024, 10:00 am

#### WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

#### **WELCOME**

#### **PRELUDE**

"Vivace - Allegro" (from Christmas Concerto, Op. 6, No. 8) | Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)

#### LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

...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 peace in all seasons for all your children. Amen.

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

God our Savior, for you we wait.

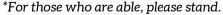
Night and day we pray for your return.

Come and fulfill your promise to us.

Come and deliver your people!

#### \*HYMN NO. 102

"Savior of the Nations, Come" | NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND





# Savior of the Nations, Come 102



#### \*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.

All: Turn us back to your love.

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 wholeness to all.

Rest in this promise:

Christ has come, Christ is coming,

and Christ will come again.

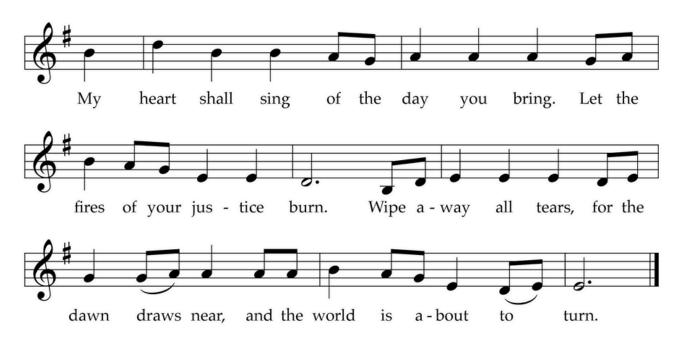
Let us rest in his forgiving grace.

Thanks be to God!



#### \*RESPONSE

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



### \*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



#### **CANTATA NO. 36**

"Schwingt freudig euch empor," BWV 36 | J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

#### **Erster Teil**

#### 1. Chor

Schwingt freudig euch empor zu den erhabnen Sternen, Ihr Zungen, die ihr itzt in Zion fröhlich seid! Doch haltet ein! Der Schall darf sich nicht weit entfernen, Es naht sich selbst zu euch der Herr der Herrlichkeit.

## 2. Choral (Duett) | Sopran & Alt

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, Der Jungfrauen Kind erkannt, Des sich wundert alle Welt, Gott solch Geburt ihm bestellt.

## 3. Arie | Tenor

Die Liebe zieht mit sanften Schritten Sein Treugeliebtes allgemach. Gleichwie es eine Braut entzücket, Wenn sie den Bräutigam erblicket, So folgt ein Herz auch Jesu nach.

#### 4. Choral

Zwingt die Saiten in Cythara
Und laßt die süße Musica
Ganz freudenreich erschallen,
Daß ich möge mit Jesulein,
Dem wunderschönen Bräutgam mein,
In steter Liebe wallen!
Singet,
Springet,
Jubilieret, triumphieret,
dankt dem Herren!
Groß ist der König der Ehren.

#### Part One

#### 1. Chorus

Soar joyfully upwards to the exalted stars, you tongues that now are joyful in Sion! Yet stop! The sound need not travel so far, the Lord of Glory himself approaches you.

## 2. Chorale (Duet) | Soprano & Alto

Now come, Savior of the heathens, known as the Virgin's child, over whom the whole world marvels, that God had ordained such a birth for him.

## 3. Aria | Tenor

Love approaches his beloved with gentle and slow steps. Just as a bride is delighted when she beholds her bridegroom, so a heart follows after Jesus.

#### 4. Chorale

Strike the strings of the Cythera and let the sweet music resound full of joy, so that I might, with little Jesus, my fairest bridegroom, travel in constant love! Sing, leap, rejoice, triumph, thank the Lord! Great is the King of honor.



## FIRST LESSON | PROPHETS

Isaiah 41: 4-5, 8-10 | OT p. 669

## SECOND LESSON | GOSPEL

Luke 1: 26-38 | NT p. 56-57

#### **SERMON**

"Implausible Peace" | Brian Shivers

#### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

#### **OFFERING**

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

#### **OFFERTORY**

Cantata No. 36: "Schwingt freudig euch empor," BWV 36 | J.S. Bach

Zweiter Teil	Part Two
5. Arie   Bass	5. Aria   Bass

Willkommen, werter Schatz! Die Lieb und Glaube machet Platz Vor dich in meinem Herzen rein, Zieh bei mir ein!

6. Choral | Tenors

Der du bist dem Vater gleich, Führ hinaus den Sieg im Fleisch, Daß dein ewig Gotts Gewalt In uns das krank Fleisch enthalt.

7. Aria | Sopran

Auch mit gedämpften, schwachen Stimmen Wird Gottes Majestät verehrt. Denn schallet nur der Geist darbei, So ist ihm solches ein Geschrei, Das er im Himmel selber hört.

8. Choral

Lob sei Gott, dem Vater, g'ton, Lob sei Gott, sein'm eingen Sohn, Lob sei Gott, dem Heilgen Geist, Immer und in Ewigkeit! Welcome, worthy treasure! Love and faith make room for you in my purified heart, draw near to me!

6. Chorale | Tenors

You who are like the Father, lead the victory forth in the flesh, so that your eternal Godly power may sustain our weak flesh in us.

7. Aria | Soprano

Also with muted, weak voices is God's majesty honored. For if the Spirit only resounds with it, it becomes such an outcry, that it is heard in heaven itself.

8. Chorale

Praise be to God, the Father, praise be to God, His only Son, praise be to God, the Holy Spirit, for ever and in eternity!



#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

#### 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.

#### WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

#### \*HYMN

"When Stars Fall Down" | MORNING SONG, arr. Adam M. L. Tice (b. 1979)





#### \*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**

"Gloria - Finale" (from Magnificat VI) | Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

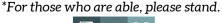
#### **IN WORSHIP**

Bach's Cantata No. 36, "Schwingt freudig euch empor"

Cantata No. 36 "Schwingt freudig euch empor" (Soar joyfully upwards) began life in 1725 as a congratulatory secular cantata for a teacher at St. Thomas School in Leipzig, Germany, where Bach served as music teacher. The following year, he rewrote most of the texts and presented it as a birthday present for a former employer's wife. In 1731, Bach revisited the cantata, replacing the texts to function as a work for the first Sunday of Advent at Thomaskirche, where he served as music director. He composed eight movements, dividing the work into two parts, with a break in the middle for the sermon. The cantata is structurally unusual for Bach in the way its opening chorus and three arias are separated not by recitatives but by chorale stanzas. Four of the eight movements are based on chorale melodies – three on Martin Luther's hymn tune "Now come, Savior of the Heathens" (Hymn No. 102 "Savior of the Nations, Come," and another, the fourth movement, on Philip Nicolai's "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star" tune (Hymn No. 827 "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright.") The orchestra consists of violins, violas, cello, bass, bassoon, keyboard, and two oboes d'amore (slightly larger than an oboe, with a pear-shaped bell, possessing a more tranquil, mellow tone).

#### No. 1 Chorus

The cantata begins in D Major, in triple time. With their sixteenth note triplets, oboes and first violins seem to represent the Trinity. From the very first measure, the orchestra establishes the mood of joy and lightness. The choir enters with vitality, starting with the basses, then tenors, altos, and sopranos, soaring aloft. In the next phrase, sopranos reach for the stars ("Sternen") on a high A. A particular dramatic effect occurs twice when the choir sings "Doch haltet ein!" (But stop!), at which point even the orchestra falls silent for a moment.





## No. 2 Chorale (Duet - Soprano and Alto)

In contrast to the lively opening movement, the duet for soprano and alto is a setting of Martin Luther's Advent hymn "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland" (Now come, Savior of the Heathens). The hymn tune is present throughout in the two vocal lines, which are doubled by the two oboes, as basso continuo plays a richly ornamented accompaniment.

## No. 3 Aria (Tenor)

The first of the two tenor arias is a gentle *da capo* (a Baroque vocal form of ABA where the first part – A – returns as the final section) movement with one oboe d'amore providing the *obligato* (a musical line, typically played by a solo instrument, that is indispensable or "obligatory"). The text tells of the ancient concept of the drawing together of Bride and Groom - Soul and Christ - in the truest of love trysts. Bach seems to stress this relationship is not an immediate process, as is exemplified in the long melismas and later long sustained note on "allgemach" (gradually).

#### No. 4 Chorale

Bringing the first section of the cantata to a close, No. 4 is a setting of Philip Nicolai's well-known hymn tune "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright." At "Rejoice, triumph, thank the Lord," the bass singers move in eighth notes to underline the cries of jubilation exalting the Lord.

#### No. 5 Aria (Bass)

The soloist welcomes Jesus into the hearts of the faithful in this spirited movement for singer and string orchestra. As in the opening chorus, first violins play joyous triplet figures, which support the stately and energetic mood.

## No. 6 Chorale (Tenors)

The second setting of "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland," this time the fourth stanza, is encased by two oboes and basso continuo, moving in sixteenth notes and eighth notes respectively. The tenors speak directly to Jesus – "You, God's equal, lead the conquest over the flesh so that your great power may sustain our weak flesh." Is the flurry of activity in the instruments meant to convey a sense of the Savior's vitality which we may draw upon and take into ourselves? Is the spare vocal melody a depiction of the earthly human spirit surrounded by the dynamism of divine forces?

## No. 7 Aria (Soprano)

The final aria features soprano as solo violin plays an obligato. The soprano proclaims that no matter how weak our utterances ("with subdued, weak voices"), they are sufficient to honor the Divine, and they are heard. The playful interchanges between violin and soprano come across as almost confidential. The violin passages are subdued, representing the frailty of the human voice, and the entire movement evokes a dignified and resigned atmosphere through which frailty is recognized and accepted.

#### No. 8 Chorale

The final movement employs full chorus and orchestra singing a chorale setting of "Now come, Savior of the Heathens." This Advent hymn would have been well known to the St. Thomas congregation, who most likely would have joined in singing in praise to the Trinity, bringing Cantata 36 to a close.

### TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Brian Shivers | Pastor Marko Petričić | Organ Karen Herbst-Kim | Pastor

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

## **TODAY'S SOLOISTS**

## Siyi Yan, Soprano

Chinese Soprano Siyi Yan, was most recently a resident artist with Opera North, where she performed the roles of Gilda in Verdi's Rigoletto, Juno in Offenbach's Orpheus in the Underworld, and Florinda in Sondheim's Into the Woods. Roles in past productions include Perla's An American Dream, Puccini's La Rondine, Bernstein's Candide, Mozart's Die Zauberflöte, Bizet's Carmen, and Verdi's La Traviata. In January 2025, Yan will be representing the guest artist at the Dallas Opera Showcase Concert. She received her bachelor's degree from the China Conservatory of Music and is currently pursuing an Artist Diploma at the Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University.

## Sara Daily Muñoz, Mezzo-Soprano

Mezzo-Soprano Sara Dailey Muñoz is a native of Chicagoland with a passion for performing new and underperformed works. She has sung new and modern repertoire with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Chamber Series, Fulcrum Point New Music Project, and NOTUS. Solo roles have included Meg Page in Verdi's Falstaff, Alma March in Adamo's Little Women, and the Mistress of the Novices in Puccini's Sour Angelica. Muñoz received a bachelor's and master's degree from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music.

#### Jonathan Elmore, Tenor

A native of southwestern Virginia, Tenor Jonathan Elmore excels in opera, oratorio and recital. In the 2024 – 2025 season, he appears as Governor & Vanderdenur in Bernstein's *Candide* with the Northern Lights Music Festival, Vocal Fellow with the Ravinia Steans Music Institute, Gabriel in Haydn's *Creation* with the Fresno Community Chorus, and Gabriel von Eisenstein in Mozart's *Die Fledermaus* with IU Opera and Ballet Theater. He has sung with the Indianapolis Opera, Tel Aviv Summer Opera, and the orchestras of Roanoke Symphony and Columbus Philharmonic. Elmore received the bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech and the master's degree from Indiana University, where he is currently a Doctor of Music degree candidate.

#### Samuel Spade, Bass

A native of Des Moines, Iowa, Bass Samuel Spade has extensive experience singing oratorio and opera. His opera work includes appearances with San Diego Opera, Central City Opera and Indianapolis Opera. As an oratorio soloist, he has sung Bach's Cantatas 21, 78, 131, 140, Die Weihnachts-Oratorium, Handel's Messiah, Haydn's Creation, Orff's Carmina Burana, Mendelssohn's Elijah, and Brahms' Ein Deutsches Requiem. Spade received the bachelor's and master's degrees from the Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University.

## NORTHMINSTER CHANCEL CHOIR

Soprano	Alto	Tenor	Bass
Marilyn Baumgardt Morgan Bernat Mary Boris Peggy Brandes Elisabeth Kleinsmith Andrea Newsom Katie Ray Deb Ronco Rebekah Ryan Kathy Schick Clarice Stegall Stephanie Voll Krista Wright	Elizabeth Brandes Jill de las Alas Nancy Dynes Jennifer Dzwonar Carol Euliss Debbie Everett Nancy Flamme Mary Holland Amy Hughley Jackie Lutzke Gayle-Sue Murphy	Daniel Backfish-White John Brewer Benjamin Plunkett Lucas Shafer-Johnson Jonathan Shinn	Mike Boris Andy Longo Doug Shafer-Johnson Samuel Spade Russell Wareham Steve Younce
Clarice Stegall Stephanie Voll			

## **ORCHESTRA**

Violin I	Cello	Bassoon
Hua Jin	Kurt Fowler	Ivy Ringle
Davis Brooks		
Joseph Ohkubo	Bass	Organ/Harpsichord
	L. Bennett Crantford	Marko Petričić
Violin II		
Jennifer Farquhar	Oboe d'amore I	
Sarah Cook	Timothy Clinch	
Deborah Rodin		
	Oboe d'amore II	
Viola	Crystal Barrett	
Zachary Collins		
Kathryn Hershberger		
Beverly Scott		

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## Christmas Eve Services | Dec. 24th | 4:00 & 6:30 pm

Make a Joyful Noise at the 4:00 children's service! All are welcome and there are ways for everyone to participate. Then, join us at 6:30 pm for a 30-minute choral prelude followed by our traditional service at 7:00 pm as we welcome the Christ Child.



# **Events and Announcements**

## All-Church Bake Sale | Today | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Following today's worship, check out the holiday treats in the Gathering Place and take home your favorites with a donation of your choice. All proceeds support our Congolese refugee family!

## "Starry Nights" Advent Devotional

Designed for individuals, families, and congregations, the "Starry Nights" devotional enriches faith and guides readers toward hope, peace, joy, and love. Scan the QR code for a digital version or pick up a printed copy located throughout the church.



#### 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!

## Advent Labyrinth | Dec. 15th | 11:15 am - 12:15 pm

Rev. Barbara Dahl will be back on Sunday, December 15th, immediately following worship to again give a talk on the history and use of the labyrinth! The labyrinth will be open through Advent and Christmastide.

## Advent Seasonal Decoration Donations | Through Dec. 19th

Please consider a \$25 donation for plants and décor used throughout the Advent season in honor or memory of a loved one. These will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletins. Scan the QR code, visit our website, or contact the office for the form.



#### 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, a labyrinth walk, and a Longest Night self-guided liturgy. All are welcome to take a moment or two to find their place and simply "Come and Be."



#### Youth Christmas Party | Dec. 22nd | 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Join us at the Winkler's home for the annual Youth Christmas Party! Bring a \$5 gag gift for the exchange and a snack/dessert/dish to share. Enjoy fun, fellowship, and holiday games! Contact Emma for address information or if you have any questions.

## Christmas Joy Offering | Now Through Dec. 29th

The Presbyterian Church USA has special offerings throughout the year. The Christmas Joy Offering supports Presbyterian faith leaders in our Church and world – past, present and future.



#### **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.

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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

Shiloh O'Rourke

Cheryl Plunkett Music Associate/Organist Office Administrator Melissa Hopkins

**Timothy Foster** Director of Children's Ministry Director of Communications

Emma Moore

**Ynfinity Taylor** 

Denise Harrington

Director of Preschool

Operations Administrator & Youth Ministry Coordinator Bookkeeper

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

# Connect with us!



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