



NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Third Sunday of Advent | December 15, 2024, 10:00 am

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME

PRELUDE

"Prelude on DIVINIUM MYSTERIUM" | *Wilbur Held (1914-2015)*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

...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 joy 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!

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



***HYMN**

"Beloved People, Sing! Rejoice!" | *PUER NOBIS*



1. Be - lov - ed peo - ple, sing! Re - joice! Lift up your
 2. The Lord is with you! Nev - er fear. Let trou - bles
 3. Your en - e - my will not pre - vail. The old op -
 4. Come home at last; cast off your sin. With hymns of

heart and raise your voice. For on this great and
 go; your help is here. A night - y Sav - ior
 pres - sor's plans will fail. But you will dance in
 praise be gath - ered in. Your love re - newed, your

joy - ous day the Lord has washed your sin a - way.
 from a - bove calls out to you with songs of love.
 vic - to - ry; the Lord has come to set you free.
 life re - stored: thus will I bless you, says the Lord.

*For those who are able, please stand.



*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.

West 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.

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

All: Turn us back to your peace.

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

All: Turn us back to your joy.

East 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!

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



***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.)

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



WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM

"Lead Us Homeward" | *DIVINIUM MYSTERIUM*, arr. Earlene Rentz

In a deep, unbounded darkness, long before the first light shone,
you, O God, beyond all merit worked a wonder faith makes known:
in your mercy, in your mercy, you embraced us as your own,
evermore and evermore.

Though our world is ever-changing, you are constant, firm, and sure,
faithful to your covenant promise. Trusting you, we live, secure:
singing praises, singing praises, long as heart and breath endure,
evermore and evermore.

Joy transforms our lips to boasting only in your matchless grace,
sending Christ to dwell among us, Word made flesh in time and space:
Friend and Savior, Friend and Savior, in whose life we glimpse your face,
evermore and evermore.

God of Hagar, God of Sarah, God of nomad Abraham;
God of Miryam, God of Moses, Fiery Pillar, great I am:
lead us homeward, lead us homeward, to the love-feast of the Lamb,
evermore and evermore.

CHILDREN'S TIME

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

Children are dismissed to Church School

FIRST LESSON | PROPHETS

Isaiah 12: 1-6 | OT p. 641

SECOND LESSON | GOSPEL

Luke 1: 39-45 | NT p. 57

SERMON

"Contagious Joy" | *Karen Herbst-Kim*

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



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AND RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Octavian Nikolas Boyd | Baptism

Jon & Lucy Boyd | New Members

Statement of Purpose

***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,
Jesus 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 the Christ.

Come, Lord Jesus:
we are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you.

Presentation

Questions

Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ and representatives of Northminster Presbyterian Church, promise to live in loving Christian community and walk the journey of faith together?

We do.

Prayer Over the Water

Baptism & Blessing

Prayer

Welcome

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



ANTHEM

"Mariam Matrem Virginem" | *Michael McGlynn (b. 1964)*

Mariam Matrem virginem
natura mirante
Tu quae genuisisti
Ave peccatorum miserere

*With nature marveling at Mary,
the Virgin Mother, hail
You who gave birth to him
Look with pity on us sinners*

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

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

OFFERTORY

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN NO. 88

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

(Stanzas 1-4, and 7)

*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.

**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-joyce! Re-joyce!
 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.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> |
|--|--|
- 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.

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:

Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)	Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)	Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)
Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)	Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)	
Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)	Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)	

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Gaudete" | 16th-Century

Gaudete! Gaudete!
Christus est natus ex Maria virgine.
Gaudete!

*Rejoice! Rejoice!
Christ is born of the Virgin Mary.
Rejoice!*

Tempus adest gratiae,
hoc quod optabamus;
carmina laetitiae devote reddamus.

*At this time of grace,
and longed-for songs of joy;
Let us give back faithfully.*

Deus homo factus est
natura mirante;
mundus renovatus
est a Christo regnante.

*God is made human
with nature marveling;
The world is cleansed
through the rule of Christ.*

Ezechiellis porta
clausa pertransitur;
unde lux est orta,
salus invenitur.

*The closed gate of Ezekiel
now opens to us;
Sending forth transforming light,
through which holiness is found.*

Ergo nostra contio psallat iam in lustro;
Benedicat Domino; salus regi nostro.

*Therefore we meet in pure songs of joy;
We bless the Lord, King of our Salvation.*

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Karen Herbst-Kim | *Pastor*
Marko Petričić | *Organist*
Norah Ellington | *Liturgist*
Brian Shivers | *Pastor*
Peace Choir (Katie Ray, Director)
Chancel Choir
Becky Huehls | *Liturgist*
Liz Higgins | *Elder*
Chancel Choir Treble Octet
Katharine Hughley | *Soloist*
Krista Wright | *Flute*

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

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



IN WORSHIP

Today we hear two settings of the ancient hymn tune DIVINUM MYSTERIUM. Many of our worshippers may know this as the tune to Hymn No. 108 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten.” First, Dr. Marko Petričić plays Wilber Held’s arrangement as the organ prelude. A Chicago native, Wilber Held (1914 – 2015) was organist, composer, and university professor. For over 30 years he served as Professor of Organ and Church Music and head of the keyboard department at Ohio State University. During this time he was also organist/choirmaster at Trinity Episcopal Church in Columbus, Ohio. A little later in the service, the Peace Choir and Chancel Choir sing the anthem “Lead Us Homeward,” also based on DIVINUM MYSTERIUM. The text was written by Dr. Mary Louise Bringle, Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Brevard College, North Carolina. The music was arranged by Earlene Rentz, a choral composer and arranger who resides in Asheville, North Carolina. “Lead Us Homeward” was written for the 2024 Montreat Conference on Worship and Music Middle High Choir.

A treble octet sings Michael McGlynn’s haunting anthem “Mariam matrem virginem,” with visiting soloist Katharine Hughley. Although the piece sounds as if it were written in the Middle Ages, it was composed in 1995, using text from the 11th century. McGlynn (born 1964) is a composer, producer, director, conductor, and founder of Anúna, the National Choir of Ireland. A senior at North Central High School, soprano Katharine Hughley is an accomplished pianist, singer, and dancer. As a pianist, she has been selected as a soloist in North Central’s Orchestra’s concerto competition. As a singer, she serves as a choral scholar at the Choir School at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. And as a dancer, she has spent over ten years with the Richens-Timm Academy of Irish Dance, competing at the national level.

As we are sent forth to serve, the Chancel Choir sings the 16th century anthem “Gaudete,” which comes from the 1582 Finnish collection of medieval songs, *Piae Cantiones*. This collection includes 74 Latin and Swedish songs, both sacred and secular. The form of “Gaudete” is typical for a 16th century carol, originally a uniform series of 4-line stanzas, each preceded by a two-line refrain. Carols could be on any subject, but they were typically about the Virgin Mary or Christ’s birth.

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Events and Announcements

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

If you weren't able to join us last week, join us following today's worship as Rev. Barbara Dahl gives a talk on the history and use of the labyrinth! The labyrinth will be open through Advent and Christmastide for all to use.

"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.



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

Make a joyful noise at our 4:00 children's service where there are ways for all to participate! Then, join us starting at 6:30 for our traditional Christmas Eve service featuring a 30-minute choral prelude followed by worship.

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.

2025 Yoga Workshops | Beginning Jan. 10th | 12:15 - 2:15 pm

Beginning in 2025, these two-hour intensives on the second Friday of every month will focus on a different subject matter. All are welcome, and yoga teaching professionals can earn two CEUs. For more information on CEUs, visit kimallenyoga.com.

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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northminster-indy.org

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

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