



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 22, 2024, 10:00 am

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME

PRELUDE

"Advent (Winter)" | Hilary Tann (1947-2023)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

...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 love 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. 123

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" | GLORIA


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




123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear




1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un - furled,
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf-fered long;
 4 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
 5 For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:
 be - neath the heaven-ly hymn have rolled two thou-sand years of wrong;
 who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
 when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gra-cious King":
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,
 and we at war on earth hear not the tid - ings that they bring;
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing:
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,



the world in sol - emn still-ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless-ed an - gels sing.
 O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing!
 O, rest be-side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing.
 and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

The "it" of the first line of this text by a Unitarian minister does not refer to the birth of Jesus, but to "that glorious song of old," the angelic tidings of peace on earth. The restored third stanza laments how often the noise of human strife has obscured that message.

*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.*



*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

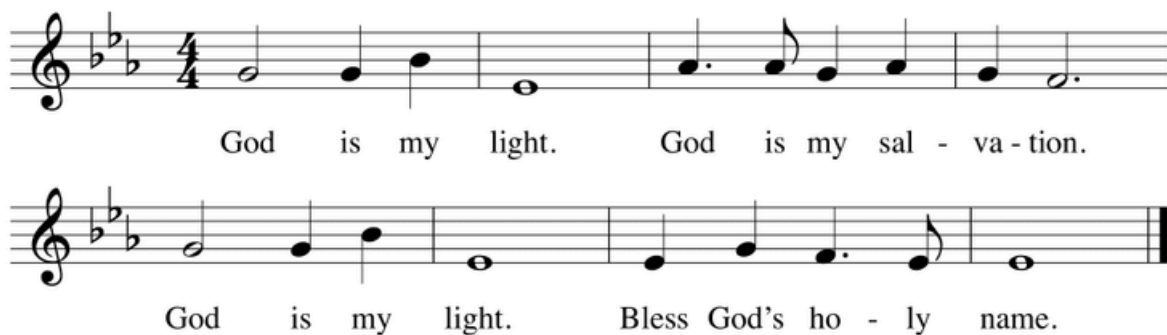
(Offerings added to the Joyful Noise Pail are for mission partner Heifer International)

Children are dismissed to Church School

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON | PSALMS

Psalm 91 | Presbyterian Tone 6



SECOND LESSON | GOSPEL

Luke 1: 46-56 | NT p. 57

SERMON

"Courageous Love" | 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,
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.

ANTHEM

"There is no rose" (from *Ceremony of Carols*) | Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

There is no rose of such vertu as is the rose that bare Jesu.
Alleluia, alleluia.
For in this rose contained was heaven and earth in little space,
Res miranda, res miranda. (*a miraculous thing*)

By that rose we may well see there be one God in persons three,
Pares forma, pares forma, (*of equal form*)
The angels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis,
gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gaudeamus, gaudeamus. (*we rejoice*)

Leave we all this worldly mirth, and follow we this joyful birth.
Transeamus, transeamus, transeamus. (*we pass over*)
Alleluia, res miranda, pares forma, gaudeamus,
Transeamus, transeamus, transeamus.

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



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Joining our voices to those of all God's holy people who have come before us,
let us pray for the church and for the world.*

We pray...

God of the prophets, give your church courage to speak truth, and to tell of your love.

God of the prophets, hear us and help us!

We pray...

God of the angels, give your church voice to sing your presence into the world,
and give the world a freedom song.

God of the angels, hear us and help us!

We pray...

God of Elizabeth and Zechariah, of Mary and Joseph,
give your church dreams and visions, and the courage to follow them.

God of our elders, hear us and help us!

We pray...

God of the shepherds, give your church humility, and to all who sit in gloom,
alone and afraid, give light from heaven proclaiming hope.

God of the shepherds, hear us and help us!

We pray...

God of the Holy Innocents, give your church power to stand against violence
and to protect the powerless.

God of the victim, hear us and help us!

God of all people, we lift our prayers to you.

God of all people, hear us and help us!

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.**

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



OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

"Magnificat" (from *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis*) | Roland Martin (b. 1954)

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm.
He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things.
And the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,
as he promised to our forefathers Abraham, and his seed forever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever.
Amen.

*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

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



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

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

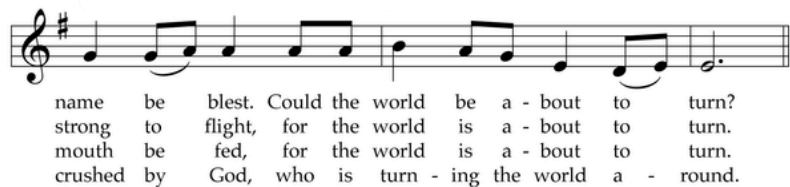
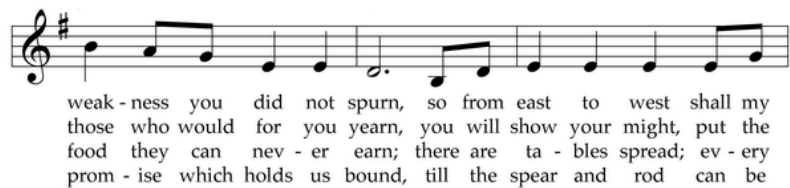
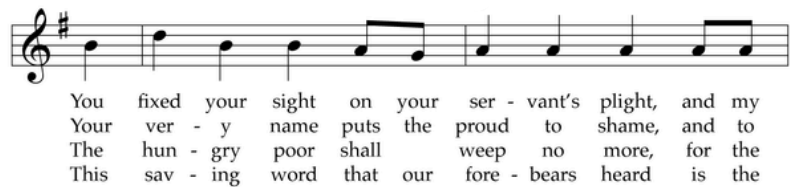
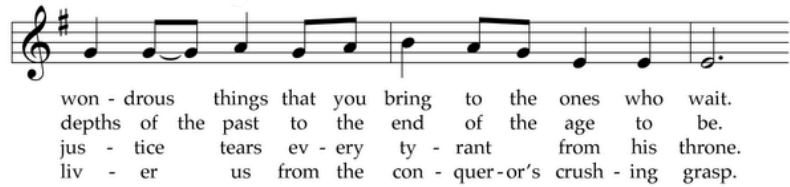
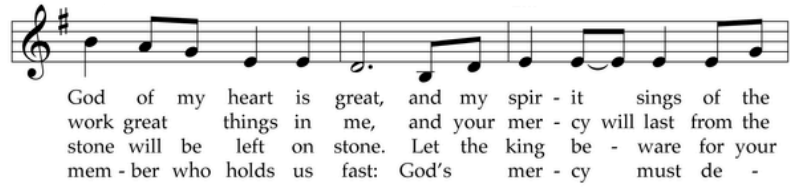
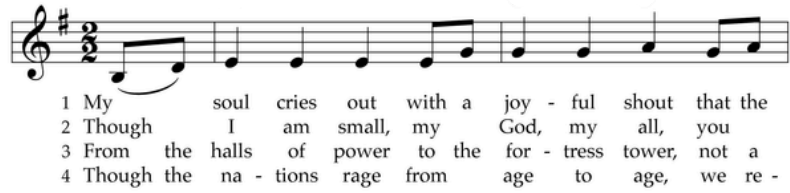
"Improvisation on MERTON" | *Richard Webster (b. 1953)*

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

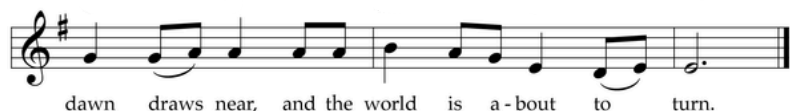


100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning



Refrain



By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

IN WORSHIP

Our first hymn, No. 123 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear,” is one of the best-known Christmas hymns, yet it does not refer to Jesus’ birth. It centers rather on the message of peace the angels bring. The “it” of the first stanza refers not to Jesus’ birth, but to “that glorious song of old: ‘Peace on the earth, good will to all, from Heaven’s all-gracious King.’” The hymn was written by Massachusetts native and Unitarian minister Edmund Sears (1810 – 1876) in 1849.

This morning’s final hymn, No. 100 “Canticle of the Turning,” is a paraphrase of today’s Gospel lesson, Luke 1: 46 – 55 by Rory Cooney. Cooney has said he “simply wanted to write a setting of the canticle that attempted to capture the revolutionary spirit of the gospel, of a God who ‘pulls down the mighty from their thrones and raises up the lowly.’” He chose the Irish folk tune STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN to give the text the flair it needs. A native of Delaware, Ohio, Rory Cooney (born 1952) has served as director of liturgy and music at St. Anne Catholic Community in Barrington, Illinois for the past 30 years. A composer of over 250 sacred songs, he also presents workshops on music in liturgy, and has written several articles on practical and pastoral aspects of church music.

TODAY’S WORSHIP LEADERS

Brian Shivers | *Pastor*
Marko Petričić | *Organist*
Karen Herbst-Kim | *Pastor*
Doug Shafer-Johnson | *Cantor*
Chancel Choir and Choir Trebles

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

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Events and Announcements

Youth Christmas Party | Today | 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.



Chapel Labyrinth

The labyrinth is open on Sundays after worship, Wednesday evenings, and anytime the church office is open. Free resources are available in the Chapel as you walk the labyrinth.

"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.



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.



Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference Deposit

We are looking forward to Summer 2025 and all the life-changing conferences for youth! If your middle schooler is interested, please show your interest by filling out the form and placing a \$100 deposit. Final registration will happen by April 2025.



Presbyterian Youth Triennium Application & Deposit

High school-aged youth from the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley are encouraged to attend this often once-in-a-lifetime experience! If you are interested in attending, please fill out the application below and pay a \$100 deposit using the appropriate form.



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

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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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office@northminster-indy.org

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

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