





NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fourth Sunday in Advent | December 21, 2025, 10:00 am

*(*For those who are able, please stand)*

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME

PRELUDE

"Lord Christ, the Only Son of God", BWV 601 | *J. S. Bach (1685-1750)*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Celebrate this holy season with anticipation.

**As we wait,
Come, Lord Jesus.**

Celebrate this holy season with expectation.

**As we watch,
Come, Lord Jesus.**

Celebrate this holy season with eager hearts.

**As we worship,
Come, Lord Jesus.**

* HYMN NO. 110

"Love Has Come" | *BRING A TORCH*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: WE CONFESS AND ARE FORGIVEN

from Isaiah 40: 3-5

Hear these words of the prophet Isaiah,

"A voice cries out:

**'in the wilderness
prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.**

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;

**the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.**

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Love Has Come

110



1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!



Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all
 Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is



heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of
 glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her
 Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our



joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of



Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.
 Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."

We light this candle in love,
the love we have in Jesus, our Savior.
Prepare now the way of the Lord.

(The candle of Love is lighted.)

Holy God, love surrounds us in this holy season,
and we confess that often we miss it.
We worry that family gatherings will be difficult.
We fear that friends will overlook us.
We panic that we'll forget
a detail we think is truly important.
Forgive us.
Open our hearts to welcome
the love all around us,
the love the world awaits.
Help us prepare the way of the Lord.

* **SILENT CONFESSION**

Siblings in Christ, there is good news.
The candle of Love reminds us that
in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

* **RESPONSE**

Hymn No. 106: "Prepare the Way, O Zion"



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw-ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro-claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re-sound-ing, for grace and joy a - bound-ing.
All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.

Refrain



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

*** 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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1: 46-55 | NT p. 57, Spark Bible p. 202

CHILDREN'S TIME & SERMON

Brian Shivers

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

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

PROCESSIONAL

"Procession" (from *Ceremony of Carols*) | Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Following processional, children are dismissed to Church School

A CEREMONY OF CAROLS

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

(Text available beginning on following page)

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

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming, Op. 122" | Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

A Ceremony of Carols

OP. 28 for treble voices and harp
Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, scored for three treble voices, two soloists, and harp, was first conceived during a trans-Atlantic voyage as he returned to England from America during World War II. When asked how the work came about, Britten said "one had to alleviate the boredom!"

The idea for this particular carol sequence appears to have come from his purchase of a copy of *The English Galaxy of Shorter Poems* while his ship stopped at Halifax, Nova Scotia. *There is no Rose, Balulalow, As Dew in Aprille, In Freezing Winter Night, and Adam lay ibounden* all come from this volume. After his return to England,



Britten substituted the plainsong Procession (No. 1 and 11) for his original *Hodie*. The music from this *Hodie* is now heard as *Wolcum Yole* (No. 2). Britten also at this time added the *Spring Carol* (No. 9) for two solo trebles. The ten carols are divided in two sections by the harp interlude whose melodic material harks back to the procession and the first chorus.

A Ceremony of Carols was first heard in December of 1942, performed in the Library of Norwich Castle, and remains one of Britten's most popular works to this day. Its melding of an exquisite selection of ancient carol texts, as well as the use of the harp as the only accompanying instrument, give the work a delightfully endearing quasi-medieval quality which is heightened by the use of the plainsong processional and recessional.

1. Procession "Hodie Christus natus est"

Hodie Christus natus est:
Hodie Salvator apparuit:
Hodie in terra canunt angeli,
laetantur archangeli
Hodie exultant justi, dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluia.

*Today Christ is born;
Today the Saviour has appeared; Today
the angels sing,
The archangels rejoice;
Today the righteous rejoice, saying:
Glory be to God in the highest. Alleluia!*

2. "Wolcum Yole!"*

Wolcum, Wolcum,
Wolcum be thou hevenè king.
Wolcum Yole!
Wolcum, born in one morning,
Wolcum for whom we sall sing.

Wolcum be ye, Stevene and Jon,
Wolcum, Innocentes every one,
Wolcum, Thomas marter one,
Wolcum, be ye, Good Newe Yere,

Wolcum, seintes lefe and dere,
Wolcum Yole, Wolcum Yole, Wolcum!
Candelmesse, Quene of bliss,
Wolcum bothe to more and lesse.

Wolcum, Wolcum,
Wolcum be ye that are here.
Wolcum Yole,
Wolcum alle and make good cheer.
Wolcum alle another yere.
Wolcum Yole. Wolcum!

3. "There is no Rose"

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu:
Alleluia.

For in this rose containèd was
Heaven and earth in little space:
Res miranda. (*Miraculous thing*)

By that rose we may well see
That be one God in persons three:
Pares forma. (*Equal in form*)

The aungels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gaudeamus. (*Let us rejoice*)

Leave we all this werldly mirth,
and follow we this joyful birth.
Transeamus. (*Let us cross*)

Alleluia, Res miranda, Pares forma.
Gaudeamus. Transeamus.

4. "That yongë child"

That yongë child when it gan weep
With song she lulled him asleep: That
was so sweet a melody
It passèd alle minstrelsy.

The nightingalë sang also:
Her song is hoarse
and nought thereto:
Whoso attendeth to her song
And leaveth the first
then doth he wrong.

* Wolcum Yole (Middle English): Welcome, Christmastide

5. "Balulalow"

O my deare hert, young Jesu sweat,
Prepare thy creddil in my spreit,
And I sall rock thee in my hert
And never mair from thee depart.

But I sall praise thee evermoir
With sangës sweat unto thy gloir;
The knees of my heart sall I bow,
And sing that richt Balulalow!

6. "As Dew in Aprille"

I sing of a maiden that is makèles*:
King of all kings to her son she ches*.

He came al so stille
There his moder was,
As dew in Aprille
That falleth on the grass.

He came al so stille
To his moder bour*,
As dew in Aprille
That falleth on the flour*.

He came al so stille
There his moder lay,
As dew in Aprille that
Falleth on the spray.

Moder and mayden
Was never none but she;
Well may such a lady
Goddess mother be.

* *makèles* : matchless; mateless;
ches: chose;
bour: bower; dwelling
flour: flower

7. "This Little Babe"

This little Babe so few days old
Is come to rifle Satan's fold;
All hell doth at his presence quake
Though he himself for cold do shake;
For in this weak unarmed wise
The gates of hell he will surprise.

With tears he fights and wins the field,
His naked breast stands for a shield; His
battering shot are babish cries,
His arrows looks of weeping eyes,
His martial ensigns Cold and Need
And feeble Flesh his warrior's steed.

His camp is pitched in a stall,
His bulwark but a broken wall;
The crib his trench, haystacks his stakes;
Of shepherds he his muster makes;
And thus, as sure his foe to wound,
The angels' trump alarum sound.

My soul, with Christ join thou in fight,
Stick to the tents that he hath pight.
Within his crib is surest ward;
This little Babe will be thy guard.
If thou wilt foil thy foes with joy;
Then flit not from this heavenly Boy.

8. "Interlude" (*harp solo*)

9. "In Freezing Winter Night"

Behold, a silly tender babe.
In freezing winter night,
In homely manger trembling lies
Alas, a piteous sight!

The inns are full; no man will yield
This little pilgrim bed.
But forced he is with silly beasts
In crib to shroud his head.

This stable is a Prince's court,
This crib his chair of State;
The beast are parcel of his pomp,
This wooden dish his plate.

The persons in that poor attire
His royal liveries wear;
The Prince himself
is come from heav'n;
this pomp is prizèd there.

With joy approach,
O Christian wight,
Do homage to thy King;
And highly praise his humble pomp,
wich he from Heav'n doth bring.

10. "Spring Carol"

Pleasure it is to hear iwis,
the Birdès sing.
The deer in the dale,
the sheep in the vale,
the corn springing.

God's purveyance For sustenance.
It is for man.

Then we always to him give praise,
and thank him than.

11. "Deo Gracias (Adam lay i-bounden)"

Deo gracias! Deo gracias!
Adam lay ybounden,
bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter
thought he not too long.

Deo gracias! Deo gracias!
And all was for an appil,
An appil that he tok,
As clerkès finden
written in their book.

Deo gracias! Deo gracias!
Ne had one appil takè ben,
the appil takè ben,
Ne haddè never our lady
a ben hevenè quene.

Blessèd be the time
that appil takè was.
Therefore we moun singen.
Deo gracias!

12. "Recession" (Hodie Christus natus est)

Hodie Christus natus est,
hodie Salvator apparuit,
hodie in terra canunt angeli,
laetantur archangeli:
hodie exsultant justi, dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Alleluia!

* **DOXOLOGY**

GLORIA

Praise to God, Creator, sing!
Praise to God the Son, we bring!
Praise to God the Spirit be
Ever and eternally.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

* **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

* **HYMN NO. 129**

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" | *ES IST EIN' ROS'*

* **BLESSING AND CHARGE**

Go into the world to live this holy season.

We go, seeking God among us now.

We go, watching
for the living Christ in our midst.

**We go with eager hearts,
waiting for the miracle
of God's love to be born.**


May the One
who waits and watches with us,

**fill us with
wonder, reverence, and awe.
Come, Lord Jesus!**

RESPONSE

"Recession" | *Benjamin Britten*

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming 129




1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung,
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in mind;
 3 This flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,



of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, by faith - ful proph - ets sung.
 with Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind.
 dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark-ness ev - ery-where.



It came, a flower - et bright, a - mid the cold of
 To show God's love a - right she bore for us a
 En - fleshed, yet ver - y God, from sin and death he



win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.
 saves us and light - ens ev - ery load.

Although the early copies of this 15th-century German text include many more stanzas than are printed here, this simpler, shorter form has much to commend it. This early 17th-century harmonization of the traditional chorale melody invites and rewards singing in parts.

IN WORSHIP

The liturgy for the Advent season was written by Carol McDonald. The Doxology text is from ironsermons.org and is sung to the tune of Hymn No. 113, "Angels We Have Heard on High."

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Brian Shivers | *Pastor*

Karen Herbst-Kim | *Pastor*

Marko Petričić | *Organ*

Theobald and Crook Families | *Advent Candle Lighters*

Chancel Choir

Katie Ray | *Soloist*

Elisabeth Kleinmsith | *Soloist*

Erin Brooker-Miller | *Harpist*

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Events and Announcements

Youth Group Christmas Party | Tonight | 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Bring a dish to share (think appetizer) and a wrapped ornament that costs \$10 or less for the gift exchange. We will enjoy food, games, and decorating cookies together! Contact Emma Moore for directions.

Comfort & Joy | Tonight | 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Sponsored by Spiritual Wholeness and Wellness at Northminster, Comfort and Joy will include a sound bath with live music, a Longest Night self-guided liturgy, and a labyrinth walk. Free and open to all ages. Childcare available!

Advent Seasonal Decorations Donation | Deadline Mon., Dec. 22

Consider a donation for plants and décor in honor of or in memory of a loved one which will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletins. Scan the QR code, visit our website, or contact the office to make your donation before the 22nd!



Christmas Eve at Northminster | Wed., Dec. 24 | 4:00 pm & 6:30 pm

Join us at 4:00 pm for the Children's "Joyful Noise" worship service as we welcome the Christ Child. There are ways for all to participate! Then, join us at 6:30 for a choral prelude followed by our traditional Christmas Eve service.

December Mission Donation: Canned Fruit

For the month of December, the Mission Team is collecting canned fruit of any kind for our partner, Westminster Neighborhood Services. Please consider a donation in the yellow bin in The Gathering Place!

Clothe-A-Child Donations | Donate Now Through End of December

We are 60% of the way to our goal to raising \$11,000 to fund next year's Clothe-A-Child! Please consider donating to this event using the QR code or by including a check in the designated envelopes located in the pews.



Northminster T-Shirt Sale

Northminster T-Shirts are now 50% off! Adults sizes small through xl are available in limited quantities so order yours today for just \$7 and pickup at the church for free. All proceeds will go to support Clothe-A-Child for 2026!



Update Photos in Member Directory

Help us keep ShelbyNext up to date with your photo! Use the app, website, or email photos to Roz. Roz will also be available on the 1st and 4th Sunday of each month before and immediately following worship.

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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

Amy Hughley
Interim Director of Music Ministries

Cheryl Plunkett
Office Administrator

Melissa Hopkins
Director of Children's Ministry

Timothy Foster
Director of Communications

Denise Harrington
Director of Senior Ministries

Emma Moore
Operations Administrator & Youth Ministry Coordinator

Krista Wright
Spiritual Wholeness and Wellness Coordinator

Elisabeth Kleinsmith
Family Engagement Coordinator

Ynfinity Taylor
Bookkeeper

Steve Williams
Finance Administrator

Shiloh O'Rourke
Director of Preschool

Tim McElroy
Lead Custodian

Jonathan McGee
Custodian

Valerie Boak
Custodian

Rod Mail
Stephen Ministry Leader

Tony Dzwonar
Stephen Ministry Leader

Teri Thomas
Pastor Emerita

Donald R. Durrett
Associate Pastor Emeritus

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.

Parenting and Sensory Rooms

Behind the sanctuary in the Narthex are Parenting and Sensory Rooms.

The Parenting Room offers a private space for feeding, changing diapers, and calming children. Toys, games, and books are also available! The Sensory Room provides a quieter, darker space with tools for those with sensory needs. Both rooms have TVs for livestreaming the service via YouTube.

Fidgets and noise-dimming headphones are available outside the Sensory Room.

Children in Worship

We rejoice in all ages worshipping together! There are red worship bags available with activities as well as a quiet activity table and rocking chairs available on the east side of the sanctuary. We also have nursery care and church school happening simultaneously to worship if that is preferred.

Prayer Lists

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

Connect With Us



@Northminsterindy



@northminsterindy



northminster-indy.org

(317) 251-9489

office@northminster-indy.org

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

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