



NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany | February 1, 2026 | 10:00 am

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

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME AND MOMENT FOR GENEROSITY

* INTROIT

"Lift Every Voice and Sing" | arr. Rollo Dilworth

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed are...

**the poor in spirit,
those who mourn,
the meek.**

We gather to hear Christ,
who calls blessed...

**those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
the merciful, the pure in heart,
the peacemakers, the persecuted.**

We are blessed...

Let us worship the triune God.

* HYMN NO. 372

"O for a World" | AZMON

* CALL TO CONFESSION

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,
we fail to do what is right.
We follow evil and do not speak the truth.
Even when we try our best to be faithful,
still we turn away from you.
We often neglect those we see as different,
those who don't quite fit into our scheme of things.
You ask us to be humble, yet we are such proud people.

Humble us this day, O God,
and remind us again of your steadfast love and faithfulness.
Forgive us, that we may seek to do what you call good,
and give us the strength we need to follow your will.



O for a World

372

1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re-spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re-lieved,
3 We wel-come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,

where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
where truth is spo - ken, chil-dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
that o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out-casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Everything longed for in this text is a reminder of how far our present world is from what God wants. Yet this is not just wishful thinking; it is a call to action, a summons to participate in the fulfillment of God's desire for all earth's people to live in radical *shalom*.

* **SILENT CONFESSION**

* **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Siblings in Christ, our sins are forgiven by the faith of Christ,
who chose love over hatred and forgiveness over blame.

Rejoice and be glad, for God's mercy is great;

Jesus brings healing, justice, and peace.

* **JESUS LOVES ME | JESUS LOVES ME**

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong. They are weak but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM

"Joy in My Heart" | *arr. Rollo Dilworth*

Joy in my heart, I've got this joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart,
Down in my heart, yes, down in my heart.

Ain't gonna let nobody turn me around.

No one can quench this joy that I have found.

This joy that I have can't be taken away.

I believe in myself and I know that this joy is in my heart to stay.

Joy in my heart, I've got this joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart,
Down in my heart, yes, down in my heart.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Preschoolers are dismissed to Church School

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON | PROPHETS

Micah 6:1-8 | OT p. 866

SECOND LESSON | GOSPELS

Matthew 5:1-12 | NT p. 4, *Spark Bible* p. 264

SERMON

"Blessed-ness" | *Brian Shivers*



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from "Our World Belongs to God" (The Christian Reformed Church)

Our world belongs to God—
not to us or earthly powers,
not to demons, fate, or chance.
The earth is the Lord's.

Made in God's image
to live in loving communion with our Maker,
we are appointed earth keepers and caretakers
to tend the earth, enjoy it,
and love our neighbors.
God uses our skills
for the unfolding and well-being of the world
so that creation and all who live in it may flourish.

Together,
all genders,
single and married,
young and old—
every hue and variety of humanity—
we are called to represent God,
for the Lord God made us all.
Life is God's gift to us,
and we are called to foster
the well-being of all the living...

Even now,
as history unfolds
in ways we know only in part,
we are assured
that God is with us in our world,
holding all things in tender embrace
and bending them to God's purpose.
The confidence that the Lord is faithful
gives meaning to our days
and hope to our years.
The future is secure,
for our world belongs to God.



OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"How Can I Keep from Singing" | *American folk, arr. Eric Nelson (b. 1965)*

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,
I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die? My Savior still is living.
What though the shadows gather round? A new song Christ is giving.
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Love commands both heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?

* DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

INVITATION TO 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

Sanctus (Haugen)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er, God of might, heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

CHRIST HAS DIED; CHRIST IS RISEN

Memorial Acclamation (Haugen)

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.
Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

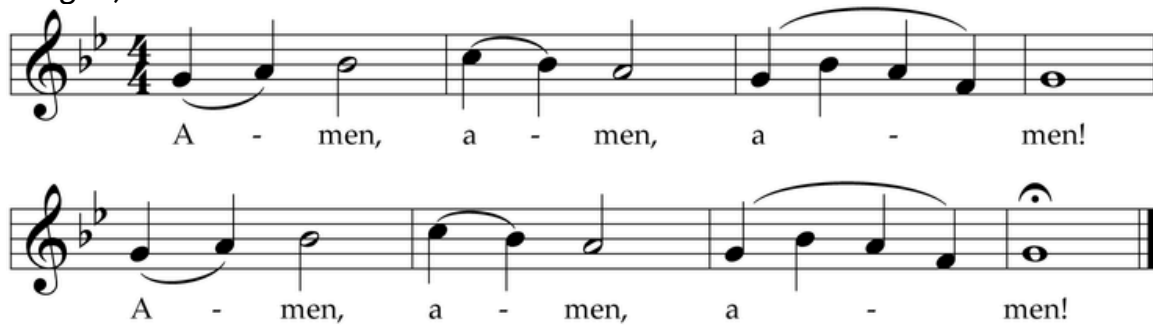
The musical score is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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

Amen (Haugen)

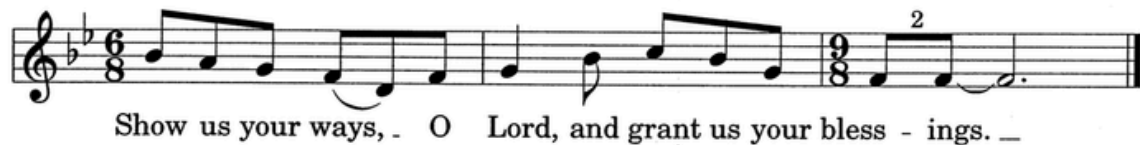


SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

All are welcome and all bread is gluten-free

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

"The Beatitudes" | Austin Lovelace (1919-2010)



Blest are the pure in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heav'n.

Blest are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. **(Refrain)**

Blest are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness:
for they shall be filled.

Blessed are they merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. **(Refrain)**

Blest are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Blest are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Blest are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs. **(Refrain)**

PRAYER AFTER THE MEAL

We bless you, O God,
for the gifts of bread and cup,
and for sustaining us in hope
every day of our lives.
We pray for your strength
to prepare us now for your service
as we offer to you lives of witness and worship
in the world you have made.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.



WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

* SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

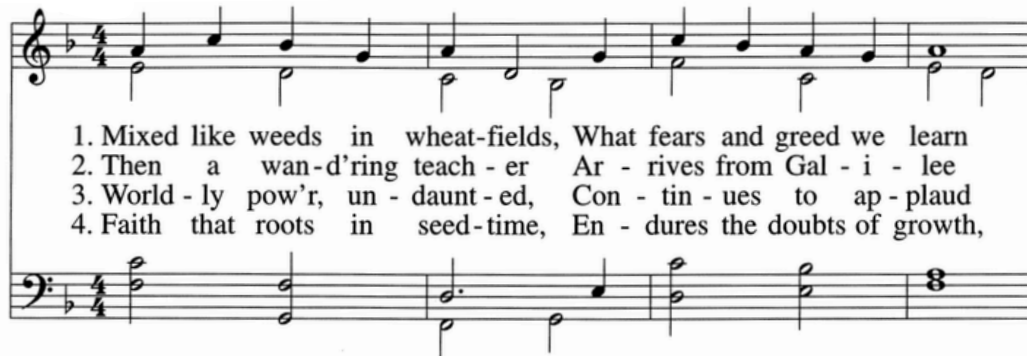
The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all;

And also with you.

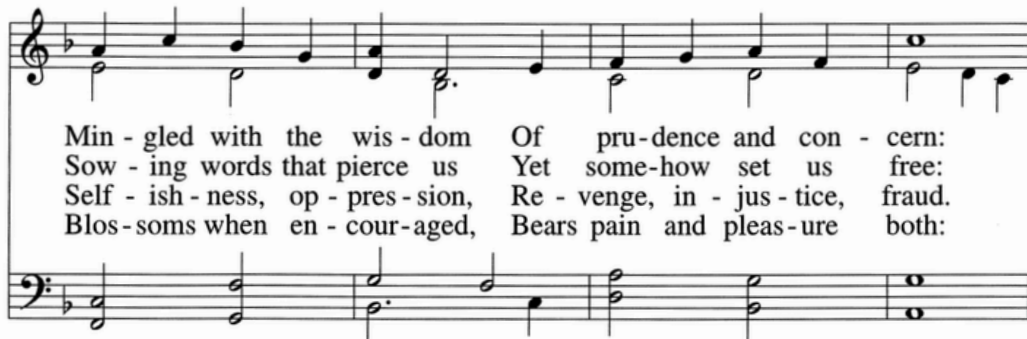
Worshippers may greet one another with words of Christ's peace

* HYMN

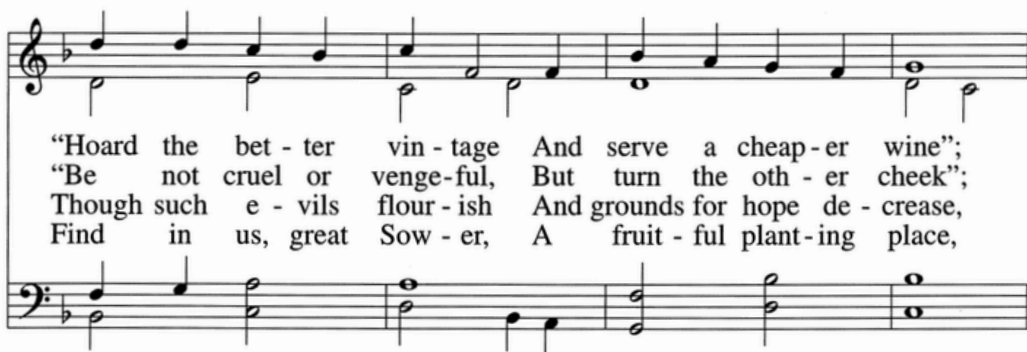
"Mixed Like Weed in Wheatfields" | DARNEL



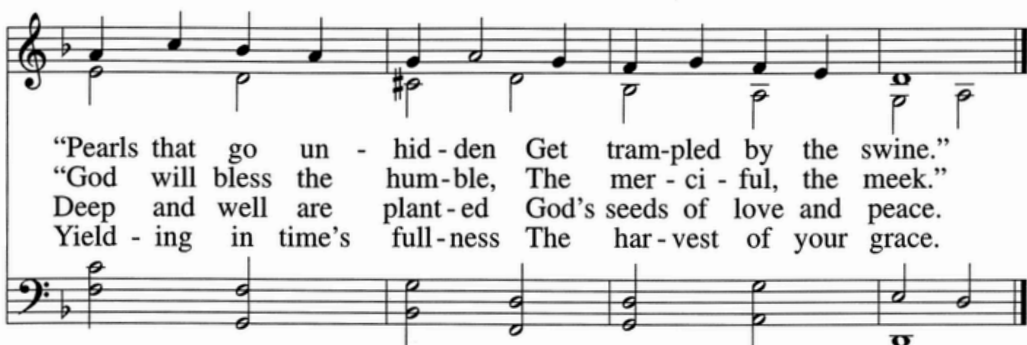
1. Mixed like weeds in wheat-fields, What fears and greed we learn
2. Then a wan-d'ring teach-er Ar-rives from Gal-i-lee
3. World-ly pow'r, un-daunt-ed, Con-tin-ues to ap-plaud
4. Faith that roots in seed-time, En-dures the doubts of growth,



Min-gled with the wis-dom Of pru-dence and con-cern:
Sow-ing words that pierce us Yet some-how set us free:
Self-ish-ness, op-pres-sion, Re-venge, in-jus-tice, fraud.
Blos-soms when en-cour-aged, Bears pain and pleas-ure both:



"Hoard the bet-ter vin-tage And serve a cheap-er wine";
"Be not cruel or venge-ful, But turn the oth-er cheek";
Though such e-vils flour-ish And grounds for hope de-crease,
Find in us, great Sow-er, A fruit-ful plant-ing place,



"Pearls that go un-hid-den Get tram-pled by the swine."
"God will bless the hum-ble, The mer-ci-ful, the meek."
Deep and well are plant-ed God's seeds of love and peace.
Yield-ing in time's full-ness The har-vest of your grace.

* **BLESSING AND CHARGE**

May Christ, the Sun of Righteousness,
shine brightly on your path
as you walk the way of justice and peace.
And the blessing of God –
Creator, Healer, and Giver of Life –
bless you and keep you always.

Alleluia!

**In the spirit of the beatitudes,
let us commit to leading a life of blessing,
living in compassion, simplicity, and peace.
Amen.**

CHORAL RESPONSE

“Gloria” (from *Communion Service 3*) | *William Mathias (1934-1992)*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



IN WORSHIP

The opening hymn, No. 372 "O for a World," was written in 1982 for the Presbyterian Women's Triennial Conference by Miriam Therese Winter (born 1938). The text, set to the familiar tune AZMON, describes a world that does not yet exist except in the mind of God, but at the same time, it is a call to help that world come into being. A New Jersey native, Miriam Therese Winter is a Roman Catholic nun belonging to the Medical Mission Sisters, an organization that ministers to refugees in Cambodia, Ghana, Kenya, Ethiopia, and beyond. In addition to songwriting, Winter writes about and promotes feminist studies, liturgy, and spirituality.

This morning's Offertory anthem, "How Can I Keep from Singing," is a 2002 arrangement of an 1869 hymn by Baptist preacher and poet Robert Lowry. This is the same Robert Lowry who wrote "Shall We Gather at the River." Snippets of the hymn "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" can be heard in this arrangement for a cappella choir by Eric Nelson (born 1965). Nelson serves as Director of Choral Studies at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. He is also the Artistic Director of the Atlanta Master Chorale, a 45-voice adult chamber choir that specializes in a cappella repertoire. He will serve as Adult Choir Conductor for two weeks this summer at the annual Montreat Conference on Worship and Music, Montreat, North Carolina.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Brian Shivers | *Pastor*
Karen Herbst-Kim | *Pastor*
Marko Petričić | *Organ*
Peace Choir (*Katie Ray, Director*)
Nathan Matthews | *Soloist*
Jonathan Shinn | *Soloist*
Krista Wright | *Soloist*

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Events and Announcements

Northminster Annual Meeting | Today | 11:15 am

The Annual Meeting is today, following worship. Members are invited to stay to review the 2025 Annual Report and discuss the church's health. Both physical and digital copies of the Annual Report will be available.

Wednesday Night Adult Ed | Feb. 4 | 6:30 pm

Join us as we discuss Genesis 6-9. Let's talk about flood waters, animals 2x2, big boats, and a man named Noah. Register for dinner by scanning the QR code or visiting our events page!



Ashes To-Go | Feb. 18 | 12:00 - 1:00 pm & 4:00 - 5:15 pm

Receive the imposition of ashes without leaving your car! Come through the south parking lot to receive ashes and a blessing from Pastors Brian and Karen. Open to all!

Lenten Soup Supper | Feb. 18 | 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Come enjoy delicious soup & bread before the Ash Wednesday service! Need more info or want to volunteer to help? Please contact John Purcell or Donna Schmahl.



Sound & Spirit: East Nash Grass | Feb. 20 | 7:00 pm

Sound & Spirit is back for 2026 as we welcome East Nash Grass! Named IBMA's 2024 New Artist of the Year, East Nash Grass brings their sparkling instrumental solos and driving rhythms to Sound & Spirit.



Enneagram Workshop: Discovering Your Path | Feb. 21 | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Join us for a special Enneagram workshop led by Nancy Fortenberry! Pre-registration is strongly recommended and snacks, coffee, and tea will be provided. Learn more by scanning the QR code.



February Mission Team Donations: Canned Vegetables

The Mission Team is collecting canned vegetables for Westminster Neighborhood Services. Consider a donation to the yellow bin in The Gathering Place today!

The Ecumenical Yogi | Episode Two: Pelvic Floor with Kathryn Gonçalves

A new episode of "The Ecumenical Yogi" is now available, featuring Kathryn Gonçalves! Krista and Kathryn discuss the pelvic floor, including common symptoms of dysfunction and physical therapy.



More information on these events and others 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

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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