

# CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE LESSONS & CAROLS

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## NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 24, 2016

CHRISTMAS EVE

AND ON EARTH PEACE



### PRELUDE

*While Shepherds Watched* - Robert Powell  
*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* - Johannes Brahms  
*Greensleeves* - Ralph Vaughan Williams  
*In Dulci Jubilo* - Marcel Dupré

*Good evening! We are thrilled you have joined us for this Christmas Eve celebration in song, scripture and prayer!*

### WELCOME

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES/CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather tonight to rejoice in the birth of the one who is the light of the world.

***We are here to worship God, and so to welcome the Son, the infant Jesus—born this night in Bethlehem of Judea through the action of the Holy Spirit.***

We light the candle of hope to remind us of the prophetic promises that God would raise up a deliverer, a savior for all the nations.

***Christ is our hope and our salvation, calling us by word and deed to share our hope in him with all the world.***

We light the candle of peace to remind us that it is in God that we can find true peace.

***Christ brings God's peace to us, calling us to let that peace dwell in us and to share this peace with all of God's children.***

*You are invited to join in saying all text that appears in **bold italics** and to stand where indicated by an asterisk (\*).*

*The tradition of the Advent/Christmas wreath in worship comes from 16th century German protestant pastor Johann Wichern, who served a very poor parish. Every day in December during worship, his students would ask if Christmas had come. He devised the Advent wreath (originally with 21 small candles and 4 large ones for Sundays) to help them prepare. It was first used in this country by German Lutheran immigrants in the 1930s.*

We light the candle of joy as a reminder that the heart of God, born in humility this night, shines with the Divine will that all might know joy.

***As Mary and Joseph rejoiced in the birth of Jesus—so his birth in us brings us joy, calling us to be witnesses of our joy, sharing it with all we encounter.***

We light the candle of love to remind us that Jesus is God's gift of love incarnate—and that in him, the light of love triumphs over every shadow.

***Divine love never fails—it transforms all those who give it and receive it, inspiring us to bear it into the world, so that all will know that they are loved.***

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Purple, No. 141

*On This Day Earth Shall Ring*

OPENING PRAYER

RESPONSE

*Refrain, Purple, No.113*

*Angels We Have Heard on High (Gloria)*

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

CAROL

*Come Emmanuel, Come*  
Chancel Choir

J. Rouse

SECOND LESSON

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

\*CAROL

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

Purple, No. 106

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 35:1-10

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

CHRISTMAS EVE LITANY

K. Morse, alt

We were heavy with sorrow, but joy interrupted.

We were deep in the night, but a star appeared.

We were silent with sadness, but the heavens rang.

***And the splendor shone around them***

***When the time had fully come.***

We were hardened by conflict, but love intervened.

We were frightened by shadows, but light took them away.

We were haunted by fears, but a child brought us hope.

***And she laid him in a manger  
When the time had fully come.***

We were arrogant and angry, but his innocence disarmed us.  
We were cruel and clumsy, but his grace made all things new.  
We were selfish, narrow, greedy, but his joy we had to share.

***And they offered him their treasured gifts  
When the time had fully come.***

CAROL                    *Still, Still, Still*                    *Trad., Arr. P. Ledger*  
Chancel Choir

FOURTH LESSON                    Matthew 1:18-25  
The Word of the Lord.                    ***Thanks be to God.***

\*CAROL                    *O Little Town of Bethlehem*                    Purple, No. 121

SIXTH LESSON                    Luke 2:1-12  
The Word of the Lord.                    ***Thanks be to God.***

\*CAROL                    *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*                    Purple, No. 123

\*SHARING THE PEACE

CHANGING OF THE PARAMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

We light the Christ candle to proclaim that, out of love for the world,  
God dispelled darkness forever through the birth of Jesus Christ, the  
Light of the world.

***May the Lord Jesus Christ chase the shadows from our  
hearts, now and forever. Amen.***

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION                    Verse 1, Purple, No. 134  
*Joy to the World*

REFLECTION                    *And on Earth Peace*

\*CAROL                    *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*                    Purple, No. 127

SEVENTH LESSON                    John 1:1-4; 14-16  
The Word of the Lord.                    ***Thanks be to God.***

CAROL                    *There's a Star in the East*                    Purple, No. 135

*Tonight's reflection shares the title of our theme for Advent and Christmas, "And on Earth Peace." It is taken from the angels' joyous announcement to the shepherds on Christmas Eve of the coming of the Christchild. The Peace the angels reference is steeped in Jesus' Jewish background, and means far more than the absence of conflict or violence.*

*To avoid dripping wax, when lighting one candle from another, it is best to hold the lit candle still and let the unlit candle be the one tilted for ease of lighting.*

## WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory *Away in a Manger*

M. Wilberg

Prayer of Thanksgiving

\*PASSING OF THE LIGHT

*Silent Night*

See insert

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CAROL

*Joy to the World*

*Verses 3 & 4, Purple, No. 134*

POSTLUDE

*Joy to the World*

Gerre Hancock

*Please join us immediately following this service for a Christmas Reception in the Guild Room.  
Exit through the right front door of the Sanctuary.*

## TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

*Preaching*—Rev. Michael D. Kirby

*Liturgist*—Rev. Jessica Gregory

*Candle Lighters*—Greg Boyer & Douglas Meekhof

*Musicians*—Dr. Christopher Owen, Paul Vander Weele, Northminster Chancel Choir

*Choral Soloists*—Sarah Schroeder, soprano; Jackie King, alto;

Dennis Kalup, tenor; Steve Uliana, bass

*Ushers*—Tom Abendroth, Steve & Tom Davies, Barbara & Bob Janes

## Our Northminster Family at Work

### PROGRAM AND WORSHIP STAFF

Rev. Michael D. Kirby—*Senior Pastor & Head of Staff*

Rev. Jessica Gregory—*Associate Pastor*

Rev. Ann Ohlrogge Johnson—*Parish Associate*

Dr. Christopher Owen—*Director of Music*

Paul Vander Weele—*Organist*

Kate Lee—*Director of Youth Music*

Margaret Parcell—*Director of Northminster Nursery School*

Meredith Rogowski—*Director of Children's Ministry*

Alex DeMarco—*Director of Youth Ministry*

Gina DiBenedetto—*Director of Mom's Morning Out*

Ami Bauman—*Coordinator of Mom's Morning Out*

Lisa Martinez—*Sunday Nursery Supervisor*

Claudinette Voltaire—*Sunday Nursery Assistant*

### ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT STAFF

Sharyn Wilson Woods—*Parish Administrator*

Mike Jin—*Financial Secretary*

Davit Hovakimyan—*Facilities Manager*

Alex Villegas—*Sunday Sexton*

### CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Greg Boyer—*Clerk of Session*

Jim Kirk—*Moderator, Deacon Board*

Members of NPC—*Ministers*

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