

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 11, 2016

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

AND ON EARTH PEACE



GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME

As the welcome pads are passed down your aisle, please help us to celebrate your worshipping with us today by signing the register.

PRELUDE

Picardy

John Joubert

A Thought as You Prepare for Worship

“When we lay the soil of our hard lives open to the rain of grace and let joy penetrate our cracked and dry places, let joy soak into our broken skin and deep crevices, life grows. How can this not be the best thing for the world?

For us?” –Ann Voskamp

INTROIT

Awake the Sleeping World with Song

C. Schalk

*THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Light shines in the darkness,

and the darkness does not overcome it.

Three candles are lit.

Three candles now shine as God's promise draws near—lights of hope, peace and, now, joy, beckoning us to be good news in body and spirit.

Justice awakens in us an expectant joy, a spark to brighten the way—

Sometimes a bright flash, sometimes a feeble flame, yet always breaking through the gloom; a long time coming, mostly unexpected.

The third Sunday of Advent, having already tasted Hope and Peace, we are invited to open ourselves to the Joy of the incarnation. Next week is the Sunday we celebrate Love.

An asterisk indicates that you are invited to stand in body or in Spirit as you feel led and are able.*

Please join in speaking or singing all words printed in bold italics.

**Watching and waiting, we prepare him room.
Christ is coming to make all things new, and we are
opening to the Light.**

We traditionally use the
“debts” and “debtors”
form of the Lord’s Prayer.

*OPENING HYMN *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper* Purple, No. 94

*OPENING PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR NEED OF GRACE

***Gracious and Holy One, open our eyes to the presence of
your Spirit upon us, within us, among us. In the Prophet’s
call we hear your promises to those who live under the
yoke of oppression, want and brokenness. For our apathy
in the presence of oppression, forgive us. If we have
contributed to the broken-heartedness of anyone, forgive
us. For our participation in systems that enslave, forgive
us. When we are deaf to the joy of your good news, have
mercy and open our ears. When our mouths remain too
tightly closed, loosen our lips with songs of praise. Hear
our prayer, O God, and forgive our failings. Hold us in
your mercy, in the light of your incarnation now and
forever. Amen.***

ASSURANCE OF RESTORATION

The gracing love of Christ is ours now and forever!

Let us rehearse the Good News!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* Purple, No. 93
(verse 2)

*SHARING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you. ***And also with you.***

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

PREPARATION *While We Are Waiting, Come* Purple, No. 92
(verse 1)

Today in Sunday School,
Northminster’s children
will learn about Mary’s
visit with her cousin,
Elizabeth, mother of John
the Baptist.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Unstop our ears, O God, that we may hear your Word proclaimed this day. Open our minds and hearts to be changed. Free us from worry, fear, destruction, and self-centered pride. Teach us, Lord, that we may follow you more faithfully. Amen

ANTHEM *There Is No Rose of Such Virtue* Joubert

SERMON READING Isaiah 61:1-11 OT pp. 691-692
This is the word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

ADVENT PLEA *Tune, Purple No. 372*

***We hear again the prophet's call, in hope, prepare the way.
Our God, long-hidden, is at hand; come, Joy, transform dismay.***

SERMON *Since Love Is Lord of Heaven and Earth*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night* Purple, No. 97

STATEMENT OF FAITH

***We are an Advent people, a people of hope.
For us, Advent is a time of waiting. We wait for the coming of the One who is the fulfillment of God's promise, the fulfillment of hope. Even so, we are not a naïve people. We know that the world in which we live will continue to be filled with sorrow and violence. But because we are an Advent people, we know that none of these things will win in the end. The Holy One is coming, to make holy once again all that was, is, and ever will be. And in our waiting and our hoping, we work and worship, pray and play, in all things living so that peace, love and joy reign in our lives and in our world, now and forever.***

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

RESPONSE *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* Purple, No. 87
(verse 3)

SHARING OUR LIFE AND MINISTRY

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory *Lo, in the Time Appointed* H. Willan

*Response *Prepare the Way of the Lord* Purple, No. 95

Each of the sermon titles this Advent is taken from lines in the refrain of the late 19th Century hymn, "How Can I Keep from Singing" (Purple, No. 821). Since our Advent theme is "And on Earth Peace," part of the angels' song on Christmas night, we declare our willingness to join in their song with these four sermons and with our own sung Advent Plea, words by Pastor Michael.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Kind and Loving One, for all that we have, for who you have made us to be, we are grateful and humbled. Let what we offer here be used so that those who need may have, those who lament may find hope, those who wander may find welcome and home. Amen.

**BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD
INTO THE WORLD**

Today's closing hymn is a foretaste of next Sunday's service, which is centered on Mary's Magnificat.

If you depart during the postlude, please be mindful of those still in worshipful contemplation.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Purple, No. 100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***CHORAL RESPONSE** *The Love That We Have Always Known* C. Schalk

POSTLUDE *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns* David Johnson

The Chancel Flowers today are given to the Glory of God by the Phillips Family in memory of Rev. Mark S. Kim.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Preaching—Rev. Michael D. Kirby

Liturgists—Rev. Jessica Gregory, Becky & Ted Wanberg

Candle Lighting—The Wanbergs: Becky, Ted, Jack, Will & Sonia

A Time with the Children—Greg Boyer

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—Barbara & Bob Janes, Tom Buess, Leslie Noble

Acolytes—Sydney & Chloe Ross

Greeters—Carol & Bob Wooldridge, Gretchen, Michael, Calvin & Merritt Wooldridge

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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