

# CAROL SERVICE FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

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## NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 25, 2016

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

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

*And the Glory of the Lord*  
from *Messiah* by G.F. Handel

\*CALL TO WORSHIP *There's a Star in the East* Purple, No. 135

\*OPENING PRAYER Let the Celebrations Begin A. Siddall  
Like eager children waiting for dawn...  
and from hearts filled with Your love.  
***Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,***  
***and Amen!***

\*HYMN *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Purple, No. 119

#### \*SHARING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you.

***And also with you.***

*Today's service is a reward for an Advent devoid of Christmas carols. While the rest of the world has turned its sights on the coming New Year, liturgically, Christmas Day begins the 12 Days of Christmas to Epiphany. So we will celebrate the Nativity by singing the carols of Christmas as the prayers they are meant to be.*

*The children will remain in worship. There is no Sunday School today and the Proclamation is for the child in all of us.*

*The First Nowell was written in 1823, but you would hardly recognize that version. Today's text comes from an 1871 revision of the carol by composer John Stainer. He also made revisions to the Cornish tune that was originally written down by William Sandys.*

*This prayer has been widely published in a number of slightly altered forms, but it is believed to have been written by the famed novelist for publication in a collection of Christmas themed stories written by others.*

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### HYMN OF PREPARATION/PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*Silent Night, Holy Night* Verses 1 & 3, Purple, No. 122

READING Luke 2:8-20 NT, p. 58

This is the word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

REFLECTION *Barrington Bunny*

From *The Way of the Wolf* by Martin Bell

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*HYMN *The First Nowell* Purple, No. 147

\*PROFESSING THE FAITH OF THE CHURCH

*What Child Is This* Purple, No. 145

PRAYERS OF JOY AND INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

RESPONSE *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* Purple, No. 132

SHARING OUR LIFE AND MINISTRY

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory *Go Tell It on the Mountain* Arr. H. Burleigh

\*Response *In the Bleak Midwinter* Verse 4, Purple No. 144

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving Robert Louis Stevenson, alt

***Loving God,***

***help us remember the birth of Jesus,***

***that we may share in the song of the angels,***

***the gladness of the shepherds,***

***and worship of the wise men.***

***Close the door of hate***

***and open the door of love all over the world.***

***Let kindness come with every gift***

***and good desires with every greeting.***

***Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,  
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.***

***May this Christmas morning make us happy to be your  
thankful and generous children, and Christmas evening  
bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving  
and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.***

# BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

\*HYMN *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* Purple, No. 143

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*POSTLUDE *The First Nowell* Arr. June Nixon

*Regent Square, the  
tune of our closing  
hymn, is the name  
of a London Scottish  
Presbyterian  
congregation that  
was once called the  
Presbyterian  
cathedral.*

## TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

*Preaching*—Rev. Michael D. Kirby

*Liturgist*—Rev. Jessica Gregory

*Musicians*—Dr. Christopher Owen and Dennis Kalup, Tenor Soloist

*Ushers*—Tom Abendroth, Bruce Eddy, Scott Kellogg, Leslie Noble

*Acolyte*—Nathan Gregory

## 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*

***Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2515 Central Park Ave., Evanston IL 60201***

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*Merry Christmas!*