

In the spirit of hope, O God, we light the first candle of Advent.

(The candle of hope is lit.)

We see in this candle a symbol of your Child, our brother Jesus, our saving Christ.

Let your light shine to liberate us from all that would keep us from your hopeful heart.

This Advent, show us how to claim our place as your children, liberated and free.

Redeeming God, let our lives witness to your hopeful, generous, liberating peace. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

Purple, No. 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

*OPENING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR NEED OF GRACE

Imminent Lord, as we wait and watch and yearn and ache, we look around for signs of your presence. But what we mostly see are indications of our sinfulness. The poor are too often overlooked. Selfishness has the upper hand. Enmity and violence triumph over just peace and reconciliation. Our commitments waver; our resolve weakens; and we find ourselves drifting from the path for which you have marked us in Christ. We long for a word of forgiveness and direction, and for a sense of purpose and meaning. With mercy and grace, come quickly Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF RESTORATION

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

Let us declare 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 3: ***Redeemer come!***

I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.

Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

*SHARING THE PEACE

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

We traditionally use the "debts" and "debtors" form of the Lord's Prayer.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

PREPARATION *Be Still and Know That I Am God* Purple, No. 414

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we many know that your reign of peace is near, and so be alert and abounding in hope for ourselves and one another. Amen.

ANTHEM *Come, Emmanuel, Come* J. Rouse

SERMON READING Daniel 6:1-28 OT, pp. 826-827
This is the word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

ADVENT PLEA Tune, Purple, No. 372

***Immanuel, your world awaits its foretold Savior King.
Creation groans for want of You; come, Hope, for you we sing.***

SERMON *No Storm Can Shake My Inmost Calm*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN Purple, No. 107
Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

RESPONSE *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* Purple, No. 87
(Verse 1)

SHARING OUR LIFE AND MINISTRY

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory *The White Dove* J. Brahms

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

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Generous One, whose heart abounds with gifts for creation, receive this offering and our very lives as signs of our intention to live surrounded by your mercy, open to the joy of your presence, living your generosity every day. Amen.

Today in Sunday School, Northminster's children will have their last Children's Chapel of 2016 where they will receive communion in advance of our communion celebration next week.

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.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*CLOSING HYMN (Verses 1-2, 6-7) Purple, No. 88
O Come, O Come Emmanuel

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CLOSING RESPONSE
When This Old World Drew on Towards Night

POSTLUDE *O Come Emmanuel Variations* Daniel Pinkham

*The Chancel Flowers today are given to the Glory of God
in memory of William Garrison by his family.*

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Preaching—Rev. Michael D. Kirby

Liturgists—Rev. Jessica Gregory & Kimberly Gartner

Candle Lighting—The Gartner/Sitz Family

A Time with the Children — Miss Meredith

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, Bruce Eddy, Scott Kellogg, Linda Beckstedt

Acolytes—Henry & Ashlyn Rogowski

Greeters—Pam & Bill Swales, Sue & Tom Swigert

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*

Sarah Bartolome—*Interim Director of Youth Music*

Margaret Parcell—*Director of Northminster Nursery School*

Meredith Rogowski—*Director of Children's Ministry*

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

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

Lisa Martinez—*Sunday Nursery Supervisor*

Claudiette 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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