

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 17, 2017 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT THE WORLD IS ABOUT TO TURN



A SERVICE OF MUSIC AND 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

Josef, lieber Josef Mein

K. Chapman

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*CAROL

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Purple, No. 87

*CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Joy is the space between your breath and your laughter.

Joy is a hand wrapped around yours.

The Service of Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve at King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England, in 1918. Due to its desire to gather together Old Testament prophecies, Advent themes, and the Nativity in one service, it is the only service before Christmas Day when Christmas Carols are included in Advent worship.

Joy is your heart beating in sync with someone else's heart.

Joy is that first day of a new season, and the intoxicating hope it brings.

Joy is dancing in the kitchen and singing in your car.

Joy is the first cry of a newborn baby.

Joy is contagious.

Joy is a song.

Joy is the daughter of gratitude.

Joy is the heart of praise. Today, we plant our feet in joy.

For much of Advent we assume the position of leaning forward, longing for the moment where God will break into this world once more.

However, today we stop leaning to remember with gratitude and celebration all that God has already done for us, through us, and around us.

Thus, today we light the candle of joy ...who knows us by name.

Let us sing; let us worship, let us rejoice!

Our opening collect was written by Rev. Dr. Walter Brueggemann and is found in his prayer collection, "Awed to Heaven, Rooted to Earth." It is used here by permission.

Today's version of the Lord's Prayer can be found in the Purple hymnal on page 35 and uses "debts" and "debtors."

This Advent Carol was originally written by Pastor Michael to honor the music director of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, Manju Durairaj, who is leaving that position after 17 years this Christmas Eve.

***COLLECT AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*In our secret yearnings, we wait for your coming,
and in our grinding despair we doubt that you will.*

*And in this privileged place we are surrounded by witnesses
who yearn more than do we*

and by those who despair more deeply than do we.

*Look upon your church in this season of hope
which runs so quickly to fatigue and in this season of yearning
which becomes so easily quarrelsome.*

*Give us the grace and the impatience
to wait for your coming to the bottom of our toes,
to the edges of our fingertips.*

We do not want our several worlds to end.

*Come in your power and come in your weakness
in any case; come, make all things new, even us, your children
whom you taught to pray... **Our Father...***

SECOND LESSON

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***CAROL**

Lord of Light in Darkness Born
Tune in Purple, No. 440

See Insert

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

THIRD LESSON *Isaiah 55:1-9, 12*
The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

HOMILY *A Holiday Feast*

CAROL *In the Bleak Midwinter* Arr. A. Betinis
Chancel Choir

FOURTH LESSON *Luke 1:26-38*
The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

CAROL *O Holy Night* Arr. A.L. Page
Adult Bell Choir

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

RESPONSE Purple, No. 92, Verse 2
While We Are Waiting, Come

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

*CAROL *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Purple, No. 129

OUR WORSHIPFUL WORK TOGETHER

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory *Ding Dong! Merrily on High* Arr. C. Dobrinski
Adult Bell Choir

*Response and Prayer of Thanksgiving *Old Hundredth*
***All praise, eternal Christ to thee,
Whose Advent sets your children free;
Once more upon your people shine,
And fill the world with love divine. Amen.***

Today in Sunday School, the children are learning about the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

"In the Bleak Midwinter" is one of two well-known hymn texts written by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894). The other is "Love Came Down at Christmas." Rossetti was the youngest of four children born to poet and political exile Gabriele Rossetti and Frances Polidori, confidante of Lord Byron. All of her siblings were also accomplished artists or writers. She famously modelled for the Madonna in paintings by both her brother Dante and Pre-Raphaelite artist James Collinson.

William Chatterton Dix wrote the words to this famous carol while recovering from a near fatal illness at the age of 29.

SIXTH LESSON *Luke 2:1-7*
The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

CAROL *What Child Is This* Arr. J. Rouse
Chancel Choir

SEVENTH LESSON *Luke 2:8-12*
The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

CAROL *Joy to the World* Arr. J. Rutter
Chancel Choir

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE *And the Glory of the Lord* G. F. Handel

If you leave during the Postlude, please show respect for those who remain in their seats to listen. Thank you.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Preaching—Rev. Michael D. Kirby

Liturgist—Rev. Jessica Gregory

A Time with the Children—Ted Wanberg

Musicians—Dr. Christopher Owen, Paul Vander Weele, the Chancel Choir, the Adult Bell Choir

Choral Soloists—Johanna Moffitt, soprano; Jackie King, alto; Steve Uliana, tenor

Ushers—Lee Knohl, Molly McDowell, Ethan Sparrow

Acolytes—Henry & Ashlyn Rogowski

Advent Candle Lighters—Chad, Laurie & John Davidson

Our Northminster Family at Work

PROGRAM AND WORSHIP STAFF

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

Rev. Jessica C. 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*

Lisa Martinez—*Sunday Nursery Supervisor*

Carey Garrison—*Director of Mom's Morning Out*

Claudinetta Voltaire—*Mom's Morning Out Assistant/
Sunday Nursery Assistant*

ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT STAFF

Sharyn Wilson Woods—*Parish Administrator*

Athina Sato—*Financial Secretary*

Davit Hovakimyan—*Facilities Manager*

Alex Villegas—*Sunday Sexton*

CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Greg Boyer—*Clerk of Session*

Tom Buess—*Moderator of Deacons*

Members—*Ministers*

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