

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 18, 2016

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

AND ON EARTH PEACE

Love

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 *Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her* Johann Pachelbel

A Thought as You Prepare for Worship

"The song of Mary is ...at once the most passionate, the wildest, one might even say the most revolutionary Advent hymn ever sung. This is not the gentle, tender, dreamy Mary whom we sometimes see in paintings.... It is instead a hard, strong, inexorable song about the power of God and the powerlessness of humankind."—D. Bonhoeffer

INTROIT

Veni
Adult Bell Choir

J. Krug

*THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We shall light the Advent candles ... to remind us to open ourselves to joy.

Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives and shine among us now.

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, having already visited the themes of Hope, Peace and Joy, we are invited to acknowledge that Love "came down at Christmas."

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**.*

Let us pray that waiting for Christmas may show us how to be patient when things take time, how to live for Christ day by day, and how to wait for promises not yet fulfilled.

Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives and shine among us now.

The prophet Isaiah declares..."and on earth peace."

Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives and shine among us now. Amen.

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

*OPENING HYMN *In the Bleak Midwinter* Purple, No. 144
Verses 1 and 2 only

*OPENING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

ADVENT PRAYER FOR GRACE AND A WORD OF PROMISE

O Christ who is on the way, as we anticipate your coming, rescue us from today's captivities: from the need to have more; from having our identity and self-worth defined by what we possess.

Savior Christ set us free:

From paralysis and confusion, in the face of so many needs, so much information, so many choices.

Savior Christ set us free:

From hyper-activism that denies our human limitations and from apathy when success seems impossible.

Savior Christ set us free:

From trying to replace you as Lord of life, by taking the world on our own shoulders.

Savior Christ set us free:

From all ignorance or denial of what drives us, and from captivity to selfish drives and needs.

Savior Christ set us free.

Friends, let us trust and believe the promises of God as given by the Apostle Paul: *The grace of God has been given to you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him.*

Thanks be to God! Amen!

*RESPONSE *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* Purple, No. 93
Verse 3 only

*SHARING THE PEACE

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

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

PREPARATION/ *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* Purple, No. 88
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Verse 2 only

FIRST READING Luke 1:26-45 NT, p. 56-57

HOMILY TEXT *Magnificat in G minor* A. Vivaldi
*Magnificat, Et exultavit, Fecit potentiam, Deposuit potentes,
Esurientes, Suscepti Israel, Sicut locutus
Luke 1:46-55*

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

ADVENT PLEA *Tune, Purple No. 372*
***God let the choirs of heaven sing, calm our impatient fear.
We crave your love, your grace, your peace.
Come, Infant, meet us here.***

HOMILY *How Can I Keep From Singing?*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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

SHARING OUR LIFE AND MINISTRY

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory *On This Day Earth Shall Ring* Michael Helman
Adult Bell Choir

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

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Holy One, we bring back to you only what is already
yours. Use it to your good for the benefit of your
world and your Good News breaking into the world.
Use us too, that we might be living beacons of your
love not simply in this season of the year, but all our
days. Amen.***

Today in Sunday School, Northminster's children will learn about the nativity, the text for our Christmas Eve celebrations on Saturday: Luke 2.

The principle preaching text will be sung by the Chancel Choir. A translation can be found on an insert in your bulletin.

The tune for today's bell anthem was originally published as "Personent Hodie" in Finland in 1582 by a Swedish Lutheran cleric, Jaako Suomalainen. It is believed to have been learned by him while studying in medieval Prague.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*Our closing hymn,
originally published in
1983, is written in the
same key, G minor, as
Vivaldi's Magnificat*

*CLOSING HYMN Purple, No. 98
To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CLOSING RESPONSE *Magnificat in G minor* A. Vivaldi
Gloria

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Preaching—Rev. Michael D. Kirby

Liturgists—Rev. Jessica Gregory, Ann Whitney, Michael Whitney

Candle Lighting—Maureen Ang, Martha Henrikson, Mason & MayLee Ang-Henrikson

A Time with the Children—Michael Whitney

Musicians—Dr. Christopher Owen, Paul Vander Weele,

Northminster Chancel Choir, Adult Bell Choir

Gerardo Martinez, Debbie Crosser, Violin 1

Daniel Ventura, Martha Henrikson, Claire Whitney, Violin 2

Paul Vanderwerf, Viola, John McGuire, Bassoon

Leslie Geibel, Nancy Kim Philips, Flutes

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

Dennis Kalup, tenor; Steve Uliana, bass

Ushers—Lee Knohl, Molly McDowell, Elaine Wall

Acolytes—Annabelle Brown & Valerie Larsen

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*

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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