

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT  
NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 3, 2017

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE WORLD IS ABOUT TO TURN



Hope

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.*

A Thought as You Prepare for Worship

*Optimism and hope are radically different attitudes. Optimism is the expectation that things—the weather, human relationship, the economy, the political situation, and so on—will get better. Hope is trust that God will fulfill God's promises to us in a way that leads us to true freedom. —Henri Nouwen*

*The three "hope" quotes used in the candle liturgy this morning are from (in the order spoken): Bishop Desmond Tutu, poet Emily Dickenson, and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel.*

PRELUDE

*Divinum Mysterium*

Stanley Vann

INTROIT

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*  
Adult Bell Choir

arr. M. Mazzatenta

\*CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Hope is....Hope is....Hope is....hungry for hope.

***So today we light the candle of hope as a prayer, a protest, and a reminder that darkness will not win.***

*When you see an asterisk (\*) you are invited to stand in body or in Spirit as you feel led and are able. Please join in speaking or singing all parts in **bold italics**.*

Violence will not win. Cancer will not win. Death will not win.  
Bigotry will not win. Racism will not win. Terrorism will not win.

***Love will win!***

For, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with  
God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with  
God. All things came into being through him.

***In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The  
light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not  
overcome it."***

(The candle is lighted. )

***Thanks be to God.***

*Today we dedicate the  
new blue paraments  
for Advent. These  
paraments were  
designed and  
constructed by Jeff  
Wunrow, a liturgical  
artist based in St.  
Louis, in collaboration  
with the Worship,  
Music and the Arts  
Committee. Their  
purchase was made  
possible by a generous  
donation from the  
Jacob Best  
Foundation.*

\*HYMN      *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*      Purple, No. 104

OPENING PRAYER

DEDICATION OF ADVENT PARAMENTS

\*RESPONSE      *Gloria*      Purple, No. 113, Refrain

\*SHARING THE PEACE

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

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM      Mark Burrows

*Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord*

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

HYMN OF PREPARATION      Purple, No. 92, Verse 1

*While We Are Waiting, Come*

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.***

SERMON READING      Daniel 3:1, 8-30      OT, pp. 822-823

SERMON      *Hope in the Fiery Present*

SERMON HYMN      Purple, No. 93

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

*Today in Sunday  
School the children  
are learning about the  
annunciation from  
Luke 1:26-38.*

# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

## OUR WORSHIPFUL WORK TOGETHER

### WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory *Come, Emmanuel, Come* J. Rouse

\*Response *Prepare the Way of the Lord* Purple, No. 95, 2x

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

***In gratitude and thanksgiving, we bring our offerings and our very lives. Take and transform them so that all that we do, say, and are may further your coming reign of peace, justice, and love. Amen.***

## SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

\*HYMN

Purple No. 507, Verses 1 and 4

*Come to the Table of Grace*

### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God be with you.

***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts.

***We lift our hearts in prayer.***

Let us give thanks to God.

***It is good to give God thanks and praise.***

...

We join in the Advent prayer of all your people,

***"O come, Emmanuel."***

And, as we wait and watch for your coming among us,

we proclaim our Advent hope.

All sing: ***O come, O come, Emmanuel,***

***And ransom captive Israel,***

***That mourns in lonely exile here***

***Until the son of God appear.***

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

THE LORD'S PRAYER (using "debts" and "debtors")

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RECEPTION OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Our brief communion hymn is a relatively new text and melody from 2009. Barbara Hamm intentionally chose to make the text fit the four theme weeks of Advent (Hope, Peace, Joy and Love) together with the central theme of Grace. Today we sing only the verses which fit this week in Advent.*

*Today, as a sign that God comes to us where we are, in the midst of life, we receive communion in our seats. Remembering that we are each loved for our unique selves, when the bread comes, you are invited to eat it individually. (The bread is gluten free). Remembering too, that we are part of a larger community of believers, we hold the cup until all have received and drink together.*

# BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

\*CLOSING HYMN Purple, No. 100, Verse 1  
*My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*CHORAL RESPONSE *Amen*

POSTLUDE *Savior of the Nations, Come* Paul Manz

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

*The Chancel Flowers today are given to the Glory of God  
by Laurie, Chad and John Davidson in loving memory  
of Paige and Betty Carlin.*

## TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

*Preaching*—Rev. Michael D. Kirby

*Liturgist*—Rev. Jessica C. Gregory

*A Time with the Children*—Pastor Jessica

*Musicians*—Dr. Christopher Owen, Paul Vander Weele, the Chancel Choir,  
the Elementary Sunday School Choir

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

*Ushers*—Pat Drinkwine, Kent Geibel, Ryan Gregory, Dennis Trautvetter

*Acolytes*—Jasper & Anabelle Brown

*Advent Candle Lighters*—Jim & Nancy Neal

## 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*

Claudinette 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*

***Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2515 Central Park Ave., Evanston IL 60201***  
***847.869.9210 [www.northminpres.org](http://www.northminpres.org)***