

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 16, 2018

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN



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

Messiah, Movement 1

A Thought as You Prepare for Worship

"It is not joy that makes us grateful; it is gratitude that makes us joyful."—Theologian David Rast

*THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We light the Advent candles praying that our preparation for Christmas may help us to look at the world with the eyes of the child who is coming.

We light the first candle with hope for the new day that is already here, yet still on its way.

The third Sunday of Advent, having already visited the themes of Hope and Peace, we are invited to acknowledge the "Joy to the world" that this season brings.

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**.*

We light the second candle to prepare for peace in our hearts and the world. And we light the third candle to remind us to open ourselves to joy.

We 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.

The prophet Isaiah declares, "His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

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

*OPENING HYMN

Purple, No. 105, verses 1, 4 and 5 only
People, Look East

*OPENING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

We traditionally use the "debts" and "debtors" form of 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 the things we have or seek,

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 endless activity 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.

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

Purple, No. 93, verse 3 only
Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

*SHARING THE PEACE

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

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

PREPARATION/PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Purple, No. 88, verse 2
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

HOMILY TEXT

Messiah

Section 1, Movements 2-4, 6-9, 11-12

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9, 11; Malachi 3:1-3;

Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 60: 1-3; Isaiah 9: 2, 6; Luke 2:8-11, 13-14

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ADVENT VISITOR

HOMILY

His Glory Shall Be Seen Upon Thee

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OUR WORSHIPFUL WORK TOGETHER

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory *Messiah, Pastoral Symphony*
Section 1, Movement 13

*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 the story of the Nativity.

The principle preaching text will be sung by the Chancel Choir. The libretto for the Messiah was written by Charles Jennens.

Today's Advent Visitor is a fictional character based on the actual events surrounding the Premiere of "Messiah" in April of 1742 in Dublin, Ireland.

The scene of the Shepherds in the field will close our worship this morning, other than a brief blessing delivered from the back of the church. There is no Postlude.

*HOLY NIGHT HYMN Purple, Words No. 152, Tune 675
What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

*CHARGE

THE HOLY NIGHT

Messiah,
Sec. 1, Movements 14a-17

BLESSING

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Preaching—Rev. Michael D. Kirby

Liturgists—Rev. Jessica C. Gregory, Ann Whitney

Candle Lighting—Jennifer, Brad, Luke, Emma & Owen Hayes

A Time with the Children—Chad Davidson

Musicians—Dr. Christopher Owen, Paul Vander Weele,
Northminster Chancel Choir

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

Orchestra—Gerardo Martinez & Martha Henrikson, violin 1;

Daniel Ventura, Kyle Dickson & Claire Whitney, violin 2;

Brittney Nelson & Hillary Ortiz, viola; Oleksa Mycyk, cello;

Sherry Kujala, flute; Dontave Caruth, oboe;

Katie Samayoa, trumpet 1; Robert Alonzo, trumpet 2;
Paul Vander Weele, organ

Ushers—Ben Buettell, Lee Knohl, Molly McDowell, Ethan Sparrow

Acolytes—Avery & Chloe Ross

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*

Margaret Parcell—*Director of Northminster Nursery School*

Meredith Rogowski—*Director of Children and Family Ministries*

Dr. Sarah Bartolome—*Director of Youth Music*

Rev. Autum Lum—*Interim Director of Youth Ministry*

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

Lisa Martinez—*Sunday Nursery Supervisor*

Claudiette Voltaire—*Mom's Morning Out Coordinator
& Sunday Nursery Assistant*

ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT STAFF

Sharyn Wilson Woods—*Parish Administrator*

Athina Sato—*Financial Secretary*

Alex Villegas—*Sunday Sexton*

Mark Larsen—*Interim Facilities Manager*

CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Greg Boyer—*Clerk of Session*

Gretchen Wooldridge—*Deacon Moderator*

Members of NPC—*Ministers*

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