

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 23, 2018 4TH 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

Veni Emmanuel

Rosalie Bonighton

The fourth Sunday of Advent, having already tasted Hope, Peace, and Joy, we are invited to experience the active, transforming Love of the incarnation.

A Thought as You Prepare for Worship

"We don't hear a single word from him...he only shows up in 16 verses...yet his impact on our faith, on Jesus, is profound."

—Rev. Adam Hamilton,

"Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph"

INTROIT

Wait for the Lord

J. Berthier

*THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

In the faint whispers already singing from tomorrow, we hear promises of the coming child and of the new world he brings. But we also hear the story of a messenger appearing in a dream.

Joseph was a righteous man who was willing to heed the call to not let his pride get in the way of God making a new family.

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**.*

In faith, he trusted in God's dependable, steadfast love.

When we know and trust God's love, we can extend it to others.

So today we light this new candle to symbolize the steadfast love of God.

We continue to hope in the One who will come.

We pray for God's peace to prevail.

We have faith our joy will come with the one Joseph is invited to call Immanuel, God with us.

People of God, remember you are God's beloved children.

We celebrate God's steadfast love! Let us worship God!

*OPENING HYMN

Purple, No. 94

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

*OPENING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR NEED OF GRACE

Gracious and Holy One, open our eyes to the presence of your Spirit upon us, within us, among us. In this season of anticipation we hear again your promises to those who live under the yokes of rejection, want and brokenness. For our apathy in the presence of hatred, forgive us. When we are deaf to the joy of your good news, have mercy and open our ears. When our mouths remain too tightly closed, loosen our lips with songs of praise. Hear our prayer, O God, and forgive our failings. Hold us in your mercy, in the light of your incarnation now and forever. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF RESTORATION

The gracing love of Christ is ours now and forever!

Let us rehearse the Good News!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE

*SHARING THE PEACE

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

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

PREPARATION

Purple, No. 92, verse 1

While We Are Waiting, Come

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

Today in Sunday School, Northminster's children will learn about the Nativity and celebrate Christmas with their classmates and teachers.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Un-stop our ears, O God, that we may hear your Word proclaimed this day. Open our minds and hearts to be changed. Free us from worry, fear, destruction, and self-centered pride. Teach us, Lord, that we may follow you more faithfully.

ADVENT VISITOR

FIRST READING Isaiah 7:10-16 OT, p. 636

ANTHEM Piano/Organ Duet

SERMON READING Matthew 1:18-24 NT, p. 1

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

SERMON *To Be Joseph*

Today's Advent Visitor explores the lasting legacy of the composition that has been the source material of our preaching texts throughout Advent: Handel's Messiah.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN *Awake! Awake!* Purple, No. 107

ADVENT STATEMENT OF FAITH

We are an Advent people, a people of hope. For us, Advent is a time of waiting. We wait for the coming of the One who is the fulfillment of God's promise, the fulfillment of all. Even so, we are not a naive people. We know that the world in which we live will continue to be filled with pain and sorrow. We know that hatred and violence will continue to exist. But because we are an Advent people, we know that none of these things will win in the end. The Holy One is coming, to make holy once again all that was, is, and ever will be. And in our waiting and our hoping, we work and worship, pray and play, in all things confident that peace, love and joy will reign in our lives and in our world, now and forever.

Contemporary hymnist Marty Haugen debuted our Sermon Hymn thirty-five years ago. Like this service, it draws from both Isaiah and Matthew for its lyrics and imagery.

Today's Advent Statement of Faith is adapted from one written in 2012 by Rev. Rebecca Harrison of the Spanish Springs Presbyterian Church in Sparks, Nevada.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

RESPONSE Purple, No. 93, verse 3

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

OUR WORSHIPFUL WORK TOGETHER

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory *E'en So Lord Jesus, Quickly Come* P. Manz

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

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*CLOSING HYMN		Purple, No. 104
	<i>O Lord, How Shall I Meet You</i>	
*CHARGE AND BLESSING		
*CLOSING RESPONSE	<i>Come, Come Emmanuel</i>	J. Cheppoinis
POSTLUDE	<i>Puer Nobis Nascitur</i>	David Schelat

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Preaching—Rev. Michael D. Kirby

Liturgists—Rev. Jessica C. Gregory

Candle Lighting—Cindy Clark, Bob & Peter Regan, Tom & Whitney Regan, Sally Rutherford

A Time with the Children—Pastor Jessica

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

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

Ushers—Tom Abendroth, Linda Beckstedt, Bruce Eddy, Scott Kellogg

Acolytes—Nate & Theo Janes-Smith

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*
Claudinetta 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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