

# CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

## NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 24, 2018

CHRISTMAS EVE

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN



### PRELUDE

*In Dulci Jubilo*  
*Lullaby for the First Nowell*  
*Puer Nobis*

J.S. Bach  
June Nixon  
Everett Titcomb

*Good evening! We are thrilled you have joined us for this Christmas Eve celebration in song, scripture and prayer!*

### WELCOME

\*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES/CALL TO WORSHIP  
We gather tonight to rejoice in the birth of the one who is the light of the world.

***We are here to worship God, and so to welcome the Son, the infant Jesus—born this night in Bethlehem of Judea through the action of the Holy Spirit.***

We light the candle of hope to remind us of the prophetic promises that God would raise up a deliverer, a savior for all the nations.

***Christ is our hope and our salvation, calling us by word and deed to share our hope in him with all the world.***

*You are invited to join in saying all text that appears in **bold italics** and to stand where indicated by an asterisk.*

*The tradition of the Advent/Christmas wreath in worship comes from 16th century German protestant pastor Johann Wichern, who served a very poor parish. Every day in December during worship, his students would ask if Christmas had come. He devised the Advent wreath (originally with 21 small candles and 4 large ones for Sundays) to help them prepare. It was first used in this country by German Lutheran immigrants in the 1930s.*

We light the candle of peace to remind us that it is in God that we can find true peace.

***Christ brings the peace of God to us, calling us to let that peace dwell in us and to share this peace with all of God's children.***

We light the candle of joy as a reminder that the heart of God, born in humility this night, shines with the Divine will that all might know joy.

***As Mary and Joseph rejoiced in the birth of Jesus—so his birth in us brings us joy, calling us to be witnesses of our joy, sharing it with all we encounter.***

We light the candle of love to remind us that Jesus is God's gift of love incarnate—and that in him, the light of love triumphs over every shadow.

***Divine love never fails—it transforms all those who give it and receive it, inspiring us to bear it into the world, so that all will know that they are loved.***

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Purple, No. 140

*Once in Royal David's City*

FIRST LESSON

*Genesis 17:1-7*

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

\*CAROL

*Blest Be the God of Israel*

Purple, No. 109

SECOND LESSON

*Isaiah 11:1-4a*

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

\*CAROL

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Purple, No. 129

THIRD LESSON

*Jeremiah 31:31-34*

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

PRAYER FOR A WORLD THAT WAITS

\*CAROL

Purple, No. 100, vs. 1 & 3

*My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

*This Christmas Eve marks the 100th anniversary of the Service of Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge in Great Britain. Tonight's service is a condensed version of that traditional service with a few changes in the featured texts.*

FOURTH LESSON      *Luke 1:26-35; 38*  
The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

\*SHARING THE PEACE

ANTHEM                      *Coventry Carol*

M. Shaw

FIFTH LESSON      *Luke 2:1; 3-16*  
The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

ANTHEM                      *Sussex Carol*

D. Wood

CHANGING OF THE PARAMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

We light the Christ candle to proclaim that, out of love for the world, God dispelled darkness forever through the birth of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

***May the Lord Jesus Christ chase the shadows from our hearts, now and forever. Amen.***

REFLECTION

\*PASSING OF THE LIGHT      *Silent Night*

See insert

SIXTH LESSON      *Matthew 2:1-12*  
The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

CAROL                      *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Purple, No. 133

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory      *For unto Us a Child Is Born*

G. Handel

SEVENTH LESSON      *John 1:1-14*  
The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*HYMN                      *Joy to the World*

Purple, No. 134

POSTLUDE                      *Regent Square*

Lani Smith

*This evening we will be collecting for the PCUSA's Christmas Joy offering. A gift to this offering provides financial aid to current and former church workers and their families and enables deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools. Please place this offering in a pew envelope and label it Christmas Joy.*

*Our theme for Advent, "For unto Us a Child Is Born" is taken from the 9th chapter of Isaiah. It is also a centerpiece choral selection in the Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah. Though originally about an infant king in the 5th century BCE, we now see it as one of the first promises of the coming of the one who would be Messiah, Christ, Savior and Friend.*

## TONIGHT'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

*Preaching*—Rev. Michael D. Kirby

*Liturgist*—Rev. Ann Ohlrogge Johnson

*Candle Lighters*—Greg Boyer & Douglas Meekhof

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

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

Steve Uliana, tenor; Doug Balkin, bass

*Ushers*—Tom Abendroth, Greg Boyer, Steve Davies, Douglas Meekhof



### **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*

Claudinette 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*

***Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2515 Central Park Ave., Evanston IL 60201***

***847.869.9210 [www.northminpres.org](http://www.northminpres.org)***