

# FAMILY SERVICE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

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## NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 24, 2018

CHRISTMAS EVE

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN



### 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    *There's a Song in the Air/ Silent Night*    Wilbur Held

A Thought as You Prepare for Worship  
*"The child in the manger is none other than God himself.  
Nothing greater can be said: God became a child."  
—Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

INTROIT    *"Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"*    Youth Bells  
(Jesus Your King Is Born)

### PROCESSION OF THE STAR

#### \*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end....We light the first candle with hope, for God is to be among us and will shine a great light in the midst of our night.

***Jesus, Light of the World, shine in our lives and shine among us now.***

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

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

*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 four large ones for Sundays) to help them prepare. It was first used in this country by German Lutheran immigrants in the 1930s.*

*The children are welcome to come forward and participate in a conversation with church member Joan LePontois.*

*The Wise Men began their journey to visit Jesus upon hearing of his birth, but did not arrive to meet him until Jesus was a toddler. Contrary to most nativity scenes, they were not present at Jesus' birth.*

We light the second candle as we seek peace in our hearts and the world.

***Jesus, Light of the World, shine in our lives and shine among us now.***

We light the third candle to remind us to look for all of the joy in the world.

***Jesus, Light of the World, shine in our lives and shine among us now.***

We light this final candle as a sign of God's loving presence in Jesus Christ, now and always, that we may trust that God is with us and live in the promise of the angels' declaration at his birth, "Glory to God...and on earth peace."

***Jesus, Light of the world, shine in our lives and shine among us now. Amen.***

\*HYMN

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
Verses 1 & 2

Purple, No. 133

\*OPENING PRAYER

***Creator of the Universe and of each of us, you are God.  
You are full of power.  
You have the whole world in your hands.  
We praise you, for you are a great and wonderful God!  
But you came to earth as a baby.  
You were born tiny and weak, just like us.  
You grew and played, just like us.  
We rejoice that you came, celebrate your birthday  
and we look forward to when you come again.  
Amen.***

\*SHARING THE PEACE

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

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

HYMN (Seated)

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
Verses 3 & 4

Purple, No. 133

SCRIPTURE READING

The Gospel of our Lord.

Luke 2:1-20

***Thanks be to God.***

NT, p. 58

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY TABLEAU

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM      *Away in a Manger*      Preschool and  
Elementary Sunday School Choirs

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

A mother and a father finally find rest in a barn...

***The birthday boy is coming!***

Angels sing and shepherds run...

***The birthday boy is coming!***

The stars shine bright; the Wise Men begin their journey...

***The birthday boy is coming!***

This afternoon, we joyfully light the Christ Candle,  
remembering the night when God's love came down at the  
birth of the King. God loves us!

### MESSAGE

HYMN                      *What Child Is This*                      Purple, No. 145

### WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory                      *O Holy Night*                      Adolphe Adam

\*Response                      *Gloria, Gloria*                      Purple, No. 583

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Holy God, you have done and are doing great things for us, and wonderful is your name. Bless all we give to you—ourselves, our time, and all of our things—that through us your light might shine brightly in the world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.***

### \*PASSING OF THE LIGHT

*(Please hold candles upright after they are lit. Do not tip a lit candle! Unlit candles only should be tipped to receive flame from lit ones. We will extinguish our candles together during the charge and blessing. Thank you.)*

\*SPECIAL MUSIC                      *Christmas Melodies*

\*HYMN                      *Silent Night, Holy Night!*                      See insert

### \*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*HYMN                      *Joy to the World*                      Purple, No. 134

POSTLUDE                      *Joy to the World*                      Wilbur Held

*This hymn comes from a British poem, "The Manger Song," published in 1865. The tune, Greensleeves, preceded the hymn by almost a century.*

*This afternoon 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.*

*Candles are a symbol of Divine Presence in many religious traditions.*

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

*Preaching*—Rev. Michael D. Kirby

*Candle Lighters*—Valerie Larsen and Sydney Ross;

Amy Stewart Smith, Mark Smith, Claire Smith & Alice Smith

*Liturgists*—Rev. Autum Lum, Julie and Nicholas Antonoglu, Connor Lum,

Ashlyn Rogowski, Merritt Wooldridge

*A Time with the Children*—Joan LePontois

*Cantors*—Jackie King & Steve Uliana

*Musicians*—Paul Vander Weele, Johanna Moffitt, Christopher Gottardi-Littell,  
Grace Naquin, Youth Bell Choir, Preschool & Elementary Sunday School Choirs

*Ushers*—Adam & Kent Geibel, Kevin & Joe Doyle,

Owen & Jud Brooks, Valerie & Diane Larsen

*Acolytes*—Henry Rogowski & Shane Macris

*Nativity Cast*—Lead Star: Annabelle Brown; Star of Bethlehem: Emma Hayes;

Mary: Claire Smith; Joseph: Calvin Wooldridge; Innkeeper: Luke Hayes;

Shepherds: Jasper Brown, Henry Fennell, Watson Steers;

Wise Women: Avin Steers, Julia Tingley, Alice Smith;

Gifts: Emma Beaudoin, Alec Carroll, Aidan Lum

Heavenly Host of Angels: Lorelai Brown, Brynn Clair, Chloe Ross, Tea Vuckovic

