

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT
NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2, 2018

FIRST 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

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

David Johnson

A Thought as You Prepare for Worship
Perhaps home is not a place but simply an irrevocable condition.

—James Baldwin

INTROIT *My Soul Gives Glory to My God* Miriam Therese Winter

*CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES
People of God, prophets like Isaiah pointed to a future hope, one who would be called Messiah.

No one knew when he would come.

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**.*

Our Advent theme this year is "For unto Us a Child Is Born," taken from section 12 of Part 1 (The Christmas Portion) of "The Messiah," composed by George Frideric Handel in 1742. The libretto is made up entirely of Biblical passages that were edited and shaped by Charles Jennens. Mr. Jennens serves as today's Advent Visitor, as he writes an imagined letter to Handel asking him to set it to music. The sentiments are taken from other writings of Mr. Jennens, a frequent Handel collaborator and his dear friend.

Today in Sunday School the children are learning about Ezekiel's astonishing encounter with God in the valley of the dry bones, as told in Ezekiel 37.

They only hoped they would recognize him, this Son of God.

We wait with hope for the One who has come and is coming.

Today we light a candle to symbolize our hope.

We hope in the One who will come, who will comfort his people.

(Light the candle of Hope.)

People of God, a New Hope is coming.

***Those stranded in valleys of despair will be lifted up!
We will rejoice in the Lord!***

*HYMN *Prepare the Way, O Zion* Purple, No. 106

OPENING PRAYER

*SHARING THE PEACE

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

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

HYMN OF PREPARATION Purple, No. 92, v. 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.

ADVENT VISITOR

SERMON READING Isaiah 40: 1-5 OT, p. 667

SERMON *Startling Comfort, Renewed Hope*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OUR WORSHIPFUL WORK TOGETHER

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Call to Offering

Offertory *A New Song* James MacMillan

*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 *Come to the Table of Grace* Purple No. 507, vs. 1 & 4

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

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

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. 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Praise God* Miriam Therese Winter

POSTLUDE *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne* Timothy Matthews

*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 Joanne Allen and Margaret Gordon in loving memory
of their parents, Lorraine and Robert Allen.*

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Preaching—Rev. Jessica C. Gregory

Liturgist—Rev. Michael D. Kirby

A Time with the Children—Michael Whitney

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

Acolytes—CJ Dominello & Shane Macris

Advent Candle Lighters—Kristen Westman and David and Jenny Rankin

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 and Family Ministries*

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

Lisa Martinez—*Sunday Nursery Supervisor*

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

Claudinetta Voltaire—*Mom's Morning Out Assistant/
Sunday Nursery Assistant*

ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT STAFF

Sharyn Wilson Woods—*Parish Administrator*

Athina Sato—*Financial Secretary*

Mark Larsen—*Interim Facilities Manager*

Alex Villegas—*Sunday Sexton*

CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Greg Boyer—*Clerk of Session*

Gretchen Wooldridge—*Moderator of Deacons*

Members—*Ministers*

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