

GATHERING

Greeting

Prelude

Christmas Fantasia
Florence Snyder, guest organist

Carl F. Mueller

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship – based on Psalm 148

Praise God from heaven,
praise God from the mountaintops;
Praise God, all you angels,
praise God, all you God's people,
Praise God, sun and moon,
praise God, you morning stars;
Praise God, high heaven,
praise God, heavenly rain clouds;
Praise, oh let them praise the name of God—
God spoke the word, and there they were!

Let them praise the name of God—
it's the only Name worth praising.
God's radiance exceeds anything in earth and sky;
God's built a monument—God's very own people!
Praise from all who love God!
The redeemed of the Lord, intimate friends of God.
Hallelujah!

Hymn #145

What Child Is This

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

When we allow darkness to overcome the light,
forgive us, Lord.
When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel,
have mercy on us, Father.
When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing and hearing and touching,
let your grace consume us, O God.
When the wars around us are of no concern,
forgive us, Lord, and move us to compassion for those who suffer.

When our caring is not extended to action,

move us to seek justice for our brothers and sisters.

We come to confess our sinfulness before you and before each other.

We are but dust without your love.

Remove all barriers that divide us,

and let there be no obstacle to our love for you and for one another.

Hear our prayers ...

Assurance of Forgiveness

Response to Forgiveness #145

What Child Is This, verse 3

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.

Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

Affirmation of Faith – Apostle’s Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

LISTENING

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Prayers of the People

*Hymn #140

Once in Royal David’s City

Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood’s pattern; day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feels for all our sadness, and he shared in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Scripture – Colossians 3:12-17

Musical Interlude

In Dulci Jubilo

Jerry Van Der Pol

Scripture – Luke 2:41-52

Sermon in Words **“But they did not understand what he said to them”**

*Hymn #159

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

O sing a song of Bethlehem, of shepherds watching there,
and of the news that came to them from angels in the air.
The light that shone on Bethlehem fills all the world today.
Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth the angels sing always.

O sing a song of Nazareth, of sunny days of joy;
O sing of fragrant flowers' breath, and of the sinless boy.
For now the flowers of Nazareth in every heart may grow.
Now spreads the fame of his dear name on all the winds that blow.

O sing a song of Galilee, of lake and woods and hill,
of him who walked upon the sea and bade its waves be still.
For though, like waves on Galilee, dark seas of trouble roll,
when faith has heard the Mater's word, falls peace upon the soul.

O sing a song of Calvary, its glory and dismay,
of him who hung upon the tree, and took our sins away.
For he who died on Calvary is risen from the grave,
and Christ, our Lord, by heaven adorned, is mighty now to save.

DEPARTING

*Benediction

*Sung Response

Northumbria Community

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever he may send you. May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm. May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you. May he bring you home rejoicing, once again into our doors.

Postlude

*Ding Dong Merrily on High
As with Gladness*

Jerry Van Der Pol

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Information & Announcements

Welcome to our guests!

Whether you are sharing in the worship of God with us for the first time, visiting with family or friends, or returning for a visit to your home church, we welcome you today in the name of Jesus. Please share some contact information with us so we can follow up with you and make a place for you in our weekly fellowship. You may email our church office at admin@northminstermacon.org.

PRAYER CONCERNS

If you have a need or a request for prayer, please contact the church office.

Current Member Concerns: Ann R. Smith; Jewel James; Ann Hall; Jane Ebey; Jon Geerlings; Kathy Wheeler; Betty Barlow; Donna Shuford; Frank Clark; Janet Kelly; Jewell James

Current Friends and Family Concerns: Margaret Yawn; Donna Carole Kitchens; Nelda Crow; Joel Jones

Military Personnel Prayer List: Austin Riley; Joshua Sulkers; Isaac Falkenstine (Bonnie Diboll's grandson)

Holiday Office Hours

The office will be closed the week of December 27th through 31st. In case of any emergencies, please contact Pastor Ralph at 478-250-3355 or pastorhawkins@northminstermacon.org.