



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

...making disciples, growing in faith together and serving others in Christ

December 18, 2022

4th Sunday of Advent

10:30am

GATHERING

Greeting

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Call to Worship — based on Isaiah 60

Get up out of bed, O people of God!

Wake up. Put your face in the sunlight.

God's bright glory has risen for you.

The whole earth is wrapped in darkness,

all people sunk in deep darkness,

But God rises on you,

God's sunrise glory breaks over you.

Nations will come to your light, O God,

everyone to your sunburst brightness.

Pouring in from the south and the north,

loaded with gold and frankincense,

preaching the praises of God.

Hymn #105

People, Look East

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.

People look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.

Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.

People look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.

Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.

People look east and sing today: Love, the Bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

CONFESSING

Scripture – Isaiah 7:10-16

Prayers of Confession — based on Isaiah 60

Arise, shine: for your light has come.

**O God, we live as if the light
had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.**

And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**We confess that we ignore the Christ
you sent to be among us, to be in us.**

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;

but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

**We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season
and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts.**

And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time.

Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming.

It's time that we prepare for your coming.

Let the earth ring with song. Let the light break forth.

Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love.

Let Christ come into the fullness of our time.

Hear our prayers ...

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Response to Forgiveness #113 *Angels We Have Heard on High, refrain*

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Scripture — Psalm 80, selections

*Passing the Peace

Announcements and Invitations

Gathering our Offerings

Offertory Music

Response — Doxology #606

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

LISTENING

Prayers of Thanksgiving and for Illumination

Scripture – Romans 1:1-7

Hymn #128 (remain seated)

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels sings, noels ringing, tidings bringin:
Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tiding of the gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!

Scripture – Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon – What a difference a dream makes

Hymn #110

Love Has Come

Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers. Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us! Love is everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

DEPARTING

*Benediction

*Sung Response

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.

Northumbria Community

Postlude



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; Ann Hall; Jane Ebey; Kathy Wheeler; Frank Clark; Lynn Southerland; Steve, Helene, and baby Amelia Olk; Ricky Smith; Tom Jones; Nancy Miles; Ann Weaver; Fran Mayhew; Kathy McCord

Current Friends and Family Concerns: Margaret Yawn; Donna Carole Kitchens; Joel Jones; Cindi Shuford Akins; Nelda Crow; Sara Walcott

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

Sanctuary Flowers

Flowers today have been given to the glory of God by Emory and Genny Whitaker in celebration of their 53rd Anniversary.

Christmas Worship

All are invited to worship with us Christmas Eve at 6:00^{PM} for our annual candlelight communion service. Because we will worship robustly on Christmas Eve, we will not hold a worship service on Sunday morning, December 25. However, Pastor Ralph and fiancé Deb are hosting a brunch at 10am Christmas morning, at the church, for anyone who would like to join them. They especially want anyone without family in town or otherwise alone that morning to come and fellowship. There is nothing for anyone to bring except themselves! They only ask that you RSVP so they have a happy headcount. Let Ralph or Jennifer know if you would like to attend!

Church Directory Updates and Photos

Throughout the Advent season, we will be taking photos and asking everyone to review the contact information we have for you. We plan to publish an updated pictorial directory at the start of 2023.

Christmas Joy Offering

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time on need. More information about this special offering, including an offering envelope, are included in today's bulletin.

End-of-year Giving

All donations received by Saturday, December 31 will be applied to the 2022 giving year. Jennifer will be in the office Friday, December 30th from 9:00-2:00 if you would like to bring your donation in.

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Our calling at Northminster is to make disciples, to grow in faith together, and to serve others in Christ.

CONGREGATION: Ministers of the Good News; SESSION of Ruling Elders: Kari Alderman; Barbara Fatkin; Roland Hill; Jan Hirsh; Melissa McDougald; Jinny McDuffie; Ray Mosely; Michael Napier; Minor Vernon; Genny Whitaker

RALPH HAWKINS, Pastor and Teaching Elder PAUL EVANS, Parish Associate GUNNER CHANCEY, Director of Music
KAREN JONES, Clerk of Session JENNIFER WHITEHEAD, Ministry Assistant

In-Office hours this week: Sunday, Monday, Thursday 9:00-1:00
Jennifer Cell: 478-318-7911