



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

Lessons and Carols 2022

Sunday, December 4, 10:30^{AM}
2nd Sunday of Advent

Prelude - Generation Fusion String Quartet

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Responsive Reading

Sing to the Lord a new song;
Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Sing to the Lord and bless God's name;
Tell the good news of salvation from day to day.

Declare God's glory among the nations,
God's marvelous works among all the peoples.
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.
Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world, and those who live in it.

Let the whole creation sing for joy
at the presence of God, who is coming.
**God is coming indeed,
to judge the earth with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity and truth.
Praise the Lord!**

Opening Hymn #140

Once In Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a 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 shares 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.

First Lesson – Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Adam and Eve disobey God's command and disrupt the order and goodness of creation.

Carol #108 verses 1, 2, 5

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega;
he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see evermore and evermore!

By his Word was all created;
he commanded; it was done: heaven and earth and depths of ocean,
universe of three in one, all that sees the moon's soft shining,
all that breathes beneath the sun, evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven, adore him.
Angel hosts, his praises sing. Powers, dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be silent;
every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore! Amen.

Second Lesson – Genesis 22:15-18

God promises that, through Abraham, all the people of the world will be blessed.

Carol #88 verses 1, 2, 7

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strive, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Third Lesson – Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people who walk in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah

Carol #123 verses 1, 4, 5

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all-gracious King”:
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

And you, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Fourth Lesson – Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse to restore the peace of creation

Carol #129 verses 1, 3

Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming

Lo, how a rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse’s lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load.

Fifth Lesson – Luke 1:26-35, 38

An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child

Carol #119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
please in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Sixth Lesson – Luke 2:1-7

Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child

Carol #115

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Seventh Lesson – Luke 2:8-16

Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah

Carol #113

Angels We have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Glo-ria in excelsis Deo! Glo-ria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Glo-ria in excelsis Deo! Glo-ria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Glo-ria in excelsis Deo! Glo-ria in excelsis Deo!

Eighth Lesson – Matthew 2:1-11

Magi from the East come seeking the Messiah and offer gifts to the baby Jesus

Carol #147 verses 1, 5, 6

The First Noel

The first Noel the angels did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Ninth Lesson – John 1:1-14

The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us, full of grace and truth

Carol #122 verses 1, 3, 4

Silent Night, Holy Night

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright 'round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

*Closing hymn #134

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

*Benediction

*Postlude

Hallelujah

G F Handel/Robert Frost

Special thanks to today's choir and Generation Fusion Quartet:

Patricia McCall, violin

Kyla Gwyn, violin

Jaris Tobler, viola

Spencer Brewer, cello

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; Jon Geerlings; Kathy Wheeler; Frank Clark; Lynn Southerland; Steve, Helene, and baby Amelia Olk; Ricky Smith; Tom Jones (kidney issues); Nancy Miles; Ann Weaver; Fran Mayhew

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

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

Annual Alternative Christmas Fair

It's here! Stay after worship and join us in the fellowship hall for our Alternative Christmas Fair. The Alternative Christmas Fair is an opportunity to give to a charity or mission of your choice in honor of someone else. What a perfect gift! It always fits, never expires, and makes everyone feel good. Christmas cookies and punch!

Blue Christmas

Tonight at 5PM, we welcome all to join us for a simple service of music and readings for those who may find some added peace and hope to a season that may be especially challenging. A time of fellowship with cookies and hot cocoa will follow.

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 – December 18

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.

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