

# WAIT FOR THE LORD

the season of **ADVENT** 2024

December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30am

Chimes

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Prelude

Call to Worship — based on Psalm 80

Turn Your ear toward us, Shepherd of Israel,

**You who lead your children like a shepherd of a flock.**

You who sit enthroned above heaven's winged creatures,

**radiate Your light and life!**

Let Your protective hand rest on your servant shepherd,

**the child of man whom You have raised and nurtured for Yourself.**

Then we will not turn away from You.

**Bring us back to life! And we will call out for You!**

Bring us back to You, O God.

Turn the light of Your face upon us

**so that we will be rescued from the sea of darkness.**

\*Hymn #13

*The Mighty God with Power Speaks*

The Mighty God with power speaks, and all the world obeys;  
from dawn until the setting sun, God's wonder earth displays.  
The perfect beauty all around from Zion's height shines forth;  
and stars across the firmament so brightly beam their worth.

God comes not with a silent form, but riding on the winds;  
before God's face, the raging storm its blast of thunder sends.  
All hail the Judge, in bold array, whose promise is to bless;  
who sees our sins, yet also feels our thirst for righteousness.

The heavens declare your justice, Lord, as endless as the sky;  
against the taunts of disbelief, our God will testify.  
Receive my heartfelt gift of thanks, as honor to your might;  
refresh my faith with each new day; protect me through the night.

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

**O God  
of Elizabeth and Mary,  
of Zechariah and Joseph,  
you visited your servants with news of the world's redemption  
in the coming of a promised Savior.**

**Make our hearts, like thiers, leap with joy,  
and fill our mouths with songs of praise,  
that with our lives we may share glad tidings of peace,  
and welcome your Christ in our midst.**

**Forgive us our sins.  
Set us free from our pasts.  
Grant us courage for your future.**

**We make our prayers through Jesus Christ our Brother.  
Hear our confessions ...**

Scripture – Hebrews 10:5-10

Assurance of Forgiveness

Response to Forgiveness #90

*Wait for the Lord*

Affirmation of Faith – Presbyterian Study Catechism (1998)

Question 2. How do we live by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ?

**I am not my own. I have been bought with a price. The Lord Jesus Christ loved me and gave himself for me. I entrust myself completely to his care, giving thanks each day for his wonderful goodness.**

Question 3. How do we live for the love of God?

**I love because God first loved me. Amazed by grace, I live for the Lord who died and rose again, triumphant over death, for my sake. Therefore, I take those around me to heart, especially those in need, knowing that Christ died for them no less than for me.**

Question 4. How do we live in the communion of the Holy Spirit?

**By the Holy Spirit, I am made one with the Lord Jesus Christ. I am baptized into Christ's body, the church. As a member of this community, I trust in God's Word, share in the Lord's Supper, and turn to God in prayer. As I grow in grace and knowledge, I am led to do the good works that God intends for my life.**

\*Passing the Peace

Announcements and Invitations

Gathering of our Offerings

Offertory Music

Response #654

*In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful;  
in the Lord I will rejoice!  
Look to God; do not be afraid.  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.  
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

Prayers of Intercession, Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, Who art in Heaven, Hallowed by Thy name, Thy Kingdome 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.**

Scripture – Luke 1:39-55

Hymn #92 (remain seated)

*While We Are Waiting, Come*

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.  
With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.  
Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Sermon – Mary: “The Mighty One has done great things for me”

\*Hymn #100

*Canticle of the Turning*  
Rosie Miles, Soprano  
Congregation, please join on the refrain

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,  
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. *(Refrain)*

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;  
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. *(Refrain)*

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,  
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. (*Refrain*)

\*Charge and 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



## Information & Announcements

### Welcome Friends and 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 in the red book located in the pew so we can follow up with you and make a place for you in our weekly fellowship.

### Prayer Concerns

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

Ongoing Prayer Requests: Our Flint River Presbytery and campus ministries

Current Member Concerns: Jane Prentice; Ann Hall; Jane Ebey; Evelyn Clark; Annette Hutto; Jeff, Lynn, Josh and Hannah Denny - Current Friends and Family Concerns: Margaret Yawn; Donna Carole Kitchens; Susan Garrett (colleague of Gregg Reed, cancer diagnosis) - Military Personnel Prayer List: Austin Riley; Joshua Sulkers; Isaac Falkenstine (Bonnie Diboll's grandson); Nicholas Sanchez (Kathy McCord's godson); James Watwood; Dawson Everett (Gwen Kitchens' great-nephew); Carter Eddlemon (Doug & Carol Holt's grandson)

### Adult/Youth Sunday School

Adult/Youth Sunday school will continue through December 15<sup>th</sup> in the Community room at 9<sup>AM</sup>. Children's Sunday school continues through December 22<sup>nd</sup>, taking a one-week break December 29<sup>th</sup>, then picking back up January 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30<sup>AM</sup>. All children, grades 5 and under, are welcome to arrive at 9<sup>AM</sup> so parents may participate in Sunday School. Childcare remains available through the end of worship.

### Children's Sunday School – Month of Thanks

Our children's Sunday school class is practicing gratitude all month. As they reflected on being thankful that they have warm clothes and homes, they decided they'd like to share that warmth with other children by collecting kids' winter coats, jackets and sweaters to donate to the Rosa Taylor clothing closet. They will have a box set up this Sunday for donations that can be brought in from now through Christmas.

### 2025 Directory

Since the time of our last pictorial directory, we have welcomed new faces and said goodbye to members who have passed. It is time for an update! Throughout the month of December, please stop by the Library any Sunday before or after worship to have your photo taken and make sure your contact information is correct. All who wish to be included in the directory, whether member or friend, are encouraged to participate.

## **Christmas Joy Special Offering - Today**

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. Offering envelopes and additional information about the mission of the Christmas Joy Offering are located on the welcome desk.

## **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Lunch – December 29<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, we invite you to join us in the fellowship hall after worship for 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday lunch. Please let us know on your blue response sheet if you plan to attend.

## **Holiday office hours**

The church office will be closed December 24-25<sup>th</sup> and December 31-January 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **End of Year Giving**

Please make sure your end-of-year gift is received by the church or post-marked by December 31<sup>st</sup> to be included in your 2024 giving. If you would like to know your pledge balance, please contact Nita McCord (478-957-1947) Monday or Thursday.

## **Many Thanks to the Northminster Family**

*From the Denny Family:* “Thank you more than words can say for being our ‘large crowd of witnesses all around us.’ From the beginning of our glioblastoma journey, you have been with us every step of the way showing us God’s love by texting us, sending us cards, hugging us, calling us, providing transportation, feeding us, housing us, loving us, praying for us and so much more. We are blessed beyond measure and are so grateful for our church family. May the peace of Christ be with you all.

*From Ann Weaver:* “Dear Church family and friends, Thank you so much for all the love my whole family has been given these last couple of months. The wonderful celebration of Andy’s life, the cards, phone calls, and especially the hugs, have been such a blessing! I’m so glad to be a part of this church family.”

*From Kathy McCord:* Thank you for prayers for Godson, Nicholas Sanchez, who has returned from deployment in the Middle East and is adjusting to being home with family. Prayers for his continued service are appreciated.

## **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; Mark Brown; Jeff Denny; Barbara Fatkin; Nita McCord; Michael Napier; Donna Shuford; Amanda Smith; Minor Vernon; Gail Walker  
RALPH HAWKINS, Pastor and Teaching Elder PAUL EVANS, Parish Associate  
KAREN JONES, Clerk of Session JENNIFER WHITEHEAD, Ministry Assistant

**Office hours:** Tuesday-Friday 9:00-1:00; Sunday 7:00-1:00; Jennifer Cell: 478-318-7911