

SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

December 4, 2022

Second Sunday in Advent

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Liturgist: John Lange

CALL TO WORSHIP — Based on Luke 1:46-50
Leader: Our souls magnify the Lord!
People: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!
Leader: The mighty One has done great things for us!
People: Holy is God’s name!
Leader: Let us worship God.
**People: For God is our Maker and our Redeemer;
from generation to generation God gives mercy.**

*OPENING HYMN #135 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

*OPENING PRAYER

*PRAISE SONG Love Came Down at Christmas

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)
Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love but also our refusal to forgive. We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love but also our resistance to follow you without question. In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should. Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you with joy, as the shepherds; with gratitude, as Simeon; with obedience, as Mary; with love, as you have loved us. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — Westminster Confession of Faith 34.3
We believe that the Holy Spirit, whom the Father is ever willing to give to all who ask him, is the only efficient agent in the application of redemption. He regenerates men by his grace, convicts them of sin, moves them to repentance, and persuades and enables them to embrace Jesus Christ by faith. He unites all believers to Christ, dwells in them as their comforter and sanctifier, gives to them the spirit of adoption and prayer, and performs all these gracious offices by which they are sanctified and sealed unto the day of redemption. Amen.

FOR OUR GUESTS:

WELCOME TO

NORTHMINSTER EVANGELICAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are glad you are here. We hope the information listed on these pages will help you choose your next steps in connecting at Northminster. If you need help finding anything or have questions, just ask an usher or the pastor. To learn more about activities here, please pick up our newsletter from the rack in the hallway or foyer table. You can also learn more about us on our website: www.npcmh.com, and on Facebook: www.facebook.com/npcmh

CALENDAR FOR THE COMING WEEK

Today, December 4:
9:45 am – Sunday School for all ages
11:00 am – Worship

Tuesday, December 6:
12:00 pm – Lynchburg Daily Bread Meal Distribution
6:30 pm – Canoeing the Mountains

Wednesday, December 7:
12:00 pm – Weekly Prayer (Sanctuary)
1:30pm – Session Monthly Meeting
7:00 pm – Choir Practice

Next Sunday, December 11:
9:45 am – Sunday School for all ages
11:00 am – Worship
12:15 pm – Christ Cake Celebration
6:30 pm – Youth Group

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children are welcomed in the service. A nursery is provided for infants – 4 years. Others needing childcare may leave worship after the ANTHEM.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 9:45 am
Pastor David is teaching a series on the book of Mark. Please join us as we explore this powerful gospel.

YOUTH GROUP – TONIGHT @ 6:30 pm
Join us for our new Christmas series, "Messy Christmas." Tonight we'll be looking at, "You're Not Alone When Life Gets Messy." All youth grades 6-12 are invited to join us.

WEDNESDAY PRAYER – WEDNESDAYS @ Noon
Please join us on Wednesdays at noon for a time of prayer in the sanctuary as we bring our needs before our loving God.

CHRIST CAKE CELEBRATION – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 @ 12:15 pm
We will continue our annual tradition of celebrating Jesus' birthday with the Christ Cake. Meet us in the fellowship hall after the service for a time of celebration.

CHRISTMAS CAROLLING – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 from 4-6:30 pm
Join us for our annual tradition of going caroling to our home-bound members. We'll meet at the church and carpool together as we enjoy fellowship and make a joyful noise singing our favorite Christmas tunes. This is a great opportunity for folks of all ages to come together as we spread some Christmas cheer!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS
The deadline to order Christmas Poinsettias has been extended through Sunday, December 11. Each Poinsettia costs \$6. If you would like to place an order, please sign your name on the bulletin board list and fill out the form provided for payment. Turn in the form with payment in the offering plate or the office no later than December 11.



LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

ANTHEM We Will Know Him
by Don Besig

WORSHIPING GOD WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory
*Offertory Response –
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord.

*Prayer of Dedication

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Luke 1:67-80
Pastor: The Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON
SERIES: CHRISTMAS TRADITION
And the child grew and became strong in spirit. — Luke 1:80

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
Words of Introduction, Invitation, Institution
Partaking of the Communion Elements
Closing

*CLOSING HYMN #145 Of the Father's Love Begotten

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

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ELDERS Ron Reyburn, John Lange, Liz Boothe Sharon Bryant, Judy Reyburn Maggie Brockman	<i>Pastor, David Garrison</i> Bob Mills, Director of Music <i>Liz Boothe, Organist</i> Sharon Bryant, Sunday School <i>Superintendent</i> Kristin Kidd, Treasurer
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SERMON NOTES, December 4
NEW TESTAMENT READING: Luke 1:67-80
SERMON: THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON
SERIES: CHRISTMAS TRADITION
And the child grew and became strong in spirit. — Luke 1:80



⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,
⁶⁸ “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people
⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us;
⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant,
⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear,
⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins,
⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

⁸⁰ And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.