

SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

December 11, 2022Third Sunday in Advent

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Liturgist: Sharon Bryant

CALL TO WORSHIP — based on Phil. 4:4-5
Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always.
People: I will say it again: Rejoice!
Leader: Let your gentleness be evident to all.
People: The Lord is near.
Leader: We rejoice in the hope of Christ's coming.
People: Let us worship God!

*OPENING SONG

Here I Am to Worship

*OPENING PRAYER

*ADVENT HYMN #167

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

GUIDED PRAYER

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — From 1 John 1:5-7
We believe that this is the message we have heard from him and proclaim, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

ANTHEM

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
Arr. by John Carter

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

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

Tuesday, December 13:
12:00 pm – Lynchburg Daily Bread Meal Distribution

Wednesday, December 14:
12:00 pm – Weekly Prayer (Sanctuary)
1:00 pm – Worship Committee Meeting
7:00 pm – Choir Practice

Next Sunday, December 18:
9:45 am – Sunday School for all ages
11:00 am – Worship
12:00 pm – Congregational Meeting
4:00 pm – Christmas Caroling
6:30 pm – Youth Group Christmas Party

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.

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

YOUTH GROUP – TONIGHT @ 6:30 pm
Join us for our Christmas series, “Messy Christmas.” Tonight we'll be looking at, “You weren't meant to be the one who keeps it all together.” 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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – SUNDAY DEC. 18 AFTER WORSHIP
The Session has called a congregational meeting for next Sunday, December 18 following the worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect elder-nominees Michael Henderson and Anne Wilkins, to share the 2023 operating budget, and approve the pastor's terms of call. Copies of the 2023 budget and pastor's terms of call will be available on the table outside the Sanctuary following the worship service today.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 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 today, 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 today.

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE – 11:00 a.m.
What a privilege to celebrate the birth of our Savior by coming into His house to worship and adore Him. We will not have Sunday school on Christmas day, only the 11:00 service.

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 9:1-7
Pastor: The Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: HANGING THE LIGHTS
SERIES: CHRISTMAS TRADITION
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.
— Isaiah 9:2

*CLOSING HYMN #131 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

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ELDERS Pastor, David Garrison
Ron Reyburn, Bob Mills, Director of Music
John Lange, Liz Boothe, Organist
Sharon Bryant, Judy Reyburn, Sharon Bryant, Sunday School Superintendent
Maggie Brockman Kristin Kidd, Treasurer

SERMON NOTES, December 11
OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 9:1-7
SERMON: HANGING THE LIGHTS
SERIES: CHRISTMAS TRADITION
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— Isaiah 9:2



9 But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.
2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.
3 You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
4 For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.
5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.
6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. — Isaiah 9:1-7