

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 5, 2021

The Second Sunday in Advent

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

Liturgist, John Lange

**CALL TO WORSHIP** — based on Philippians 4:4-5

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always.

**People: We 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. Let us worship God!

\***OPENING HYMN #173**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

\***OPENING PRAYER**

\***PRAISE SONG**

Jesus, I Come

#### 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 — 2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

**We believe that if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 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](http://www.npcmh.com), and on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/npcmh](http://www.facebook.com/npcmh).

#### CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 5

##### Today:

**9:45 am** – Adult Sunday School

**11 am** – Worship

**6:30 pm** – Sunday Night Live (Grades 4-12)

##### Tuesday, December 7:

**12 pm** - Lynchburg Daily Bread Meal Distribution

##### Wednesday, December 8:

**10 am** – Pastor's Midweek Bible Study

**7 pm** – Choir Practice

##### Thursday, December 9:

**10 am** – Women's Book Club will meet at Vonnie Rucker's home.

**6:30 pm** – Session

##### Sunday, December 12 (Third Sunday in Advent):

**9:45 am** – Adult Sunday School

**11 am** – Worship

**6:30 pm** – Sunday Night Live (Grades 4-12)

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

#### WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB – THURSDAY DEC. 9 @ 10:00 AM

The Women's Book Club will meet December 9 at 10 am at Vonnie Rucker's home. They will discuss THE CHRISTMAS TRAIN. This lighthearted book was also a Hallmark movie. Although predictable, it will warm your heart and get you into the Christmas spirit – if you are not already. The "Cookie Exchange" originally scheduled for this date has been postponed. Please let Vonnie know if you will attend.

#### CHRISTMAS CHEER BOX PACKING DAY – DECEMBER 17, 9AM

Northminster has contributed \$200 towards perishable items for the food baskets, as well as the many nonperishable items collected over the past five months. Thank you for your faithful support each month! If you would like to see the final result of your generous giving, please come to Amelon United Methodist Church on Friday, December 17, at 9 a.m. and help sort the donations for distribution. It only takes a couple of hours and it's a great opportunity to learn what God is doing in our community.

#### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR JESUS – SUNDAY, DEC. 19

Join us after worship on Sunday December 19 as we celebrate Jesus' birthday together! Bring your favorite cookies or dessert to share. We'll have an Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest, so be sure to wear your ugliest Christmas sweater to church that morning. We look forward to celebrating with you and seeing what sweaters you have!

#### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us in the Fellowship Hall from 9:45-10:45 as we explore God's Word together and are encouraged in our walk with the Lord. We're looking forward to seeing you then!

#### PASTOR'S MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY - WEDNESDAY @ 10:30 AM

Join us in person or online for a midweek bible study with Pastor David! We are currently working through the Book of Hebrews, with a focus on learning to study the Bible ourselves and apply it to our daily lives.

#### ELDERS AVAILABLE FOR PRAYER FOLLOWING WORSHIP

In James 5:13-14 we read, *"Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord."* Each Sunday, two elders will be available in the New Song room following worship for anyone who needs or would like prayer.

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES** Don & June Hedrick,  
Megan Aderholt

**ANTHEM** "A Light Shall Shine" Lloyd Larson

**WORSHIPING GOD WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**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 22:20-25

**NEW TESTAMENT READING:** Matthew 16:15-20

*Pastor: The Word of the Lord*

**People: Thanks be to God**

**SERMON:** "Open & Closed"

**SERIES: O COME, EMMANUEL**

*"The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David,  
who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens."  
— Revelation 3:7*

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**Words of Introduction, Invitation, Institution**

**Partaking of the Communion Elements**

**Closing**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #151** Go Tell It On The Mountain

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

**\*Please Stand** Copyright License #254910

**Pastor, David Garrison**

**ELDERS**

Ron Reyburn,  
John Lange, George Brine,  
Sharon Bryant, Judy Reyburn,  
Michael Babcock,  
Maggie Brockman

**Bob Mills, Director of Music**

**Liz Boothe, Organist**

**Sharon Bryant, Sunday School**

**Superintendent**

**Vonnie Rucker, Treasurer**

**SERMON NOTES, December 5**

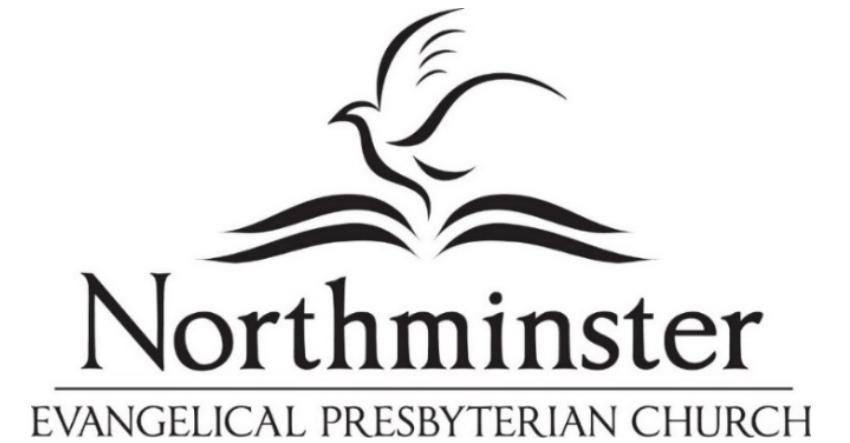
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*Experiencing and sharing God's love  
to transform our homes, community and world.*

<sup>20</sup> "In that day I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah,  
<sup>21</sup> and I will clothe him with your robe, and will bind your sash  
on him, and will commit your authority to his hand. And he shall  
be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of  
Judah. <sup>22</sup> And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house  
of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut,  
and none shall open. <sup>23</sup> And I will fasten him like a peg in a  
secure place, and he will become a throne of honor to his  
father's house. <sup>24</sup> And they will hang on him the whole honor of  
his father's house, the offspring and issue, every small vessel,  
from the cups to all the flagons. <sup>25</sup> In that day, declares the  
LORD of hosts, the peg that was fastened in a secure place will  
give way, and it will be cut down and fall, and the load that was  
on it will be cut off, for the LORD has spoken."

Isaiah 22:20-25 (ESV)

<sup>15</sup> He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup> Simon  
Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."  
<sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-  
Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my  
Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on  
this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not  
prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of  
heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in  
heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in  
heaven." <sup>20</sup> Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one  
that he was the Christ.

Matthew 16:15-20 (ESV)