

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 12, 2021

The Third Sunday in Advent

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

Liturgist, Sharon Bryant

**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 #145**

Of the Father's Love Begotten

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**\*PRAISE SONG**

Here I Am to Worship

**GUIDED PRAYER**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** — Adapted from 2 Peter 1:16-19

**We believe that we did not follow cleverly devised myths when the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ was made known to us, for the apostles were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," the apostles themselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for they were with him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which we will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in our hearts. 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](https://www.facebook.com/npcmh).

### CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 12-24

#### Today:

**9:45 am** – Adult Sunday School

**11 am** – Worship

**12:15 pm** – Congregational Meeting

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

#### Tuesday, December 14:

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

#### Wednesday, December 15:

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

**7 pm** – Choir Practice

#### Thursday, December 16:

**8:30 am** – Volunteers meet here to carpool to Gleaning for the world

#### Friday, December 17:

**9 am** – Christmas Cheer Box Packing (@ Amelon UMC)

#### Sunday, December 19 (Fourth Sunday in Advent):

**9:45 am** – Adult Sunday School

**11 am** – Worship

**12:15 pm** – Birthday Celebration for Jesus

**4:30 pm** – Christmas Caroling (Meet @ NEPC)

**7:00 pm** – Sunday Night Live Christmas Party (@ The Garrisons')

#### Friday, December 24:

**7:00 pm** - CHRISTMAS EVE candlelight service

## 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.

#### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – After the worship service

The Session has called a congregational meeting to be held after today's worship service to approve the pastor's terms of call for 2022.

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

We have contributed \$200 towards perishable items for the Christmas 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!

#### CHRISTMAS CAROLING – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 @ 4:30PM

Join us for our annual tradition of going caroling in our neighborhoods and visiting our homebound members. We'll divide up into groups, then come back to church and warm up with some delightful hot chocolate and wonderful fellowship. This is a great opportunity for folks of all ages to come together as we spread some Christmas cheer!

#### 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 are currently studying 1 Peter.

#### 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. We look forward to seeing you there!

#### 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 THIRD ADVENT CANDLE Bryant Family

ANTHEM “A Light Shall Shine” Lloyd Larson

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.

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: Hosea 6:1-3, pg. 1401  
NEW TESTAMENT READING: Luke 1:67-79, pg. 1590  
Pastor: The Word of the Lord  
People: *Thanks be to God*

SERMON: “A Light in The Dark”  
SERIES: O COME, EMMANUEL  
“...because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise [dayspring] shall visit us from on high...” — Luke 1:78

\*CLOSING HYMN #159 Sing We Now of Christmas

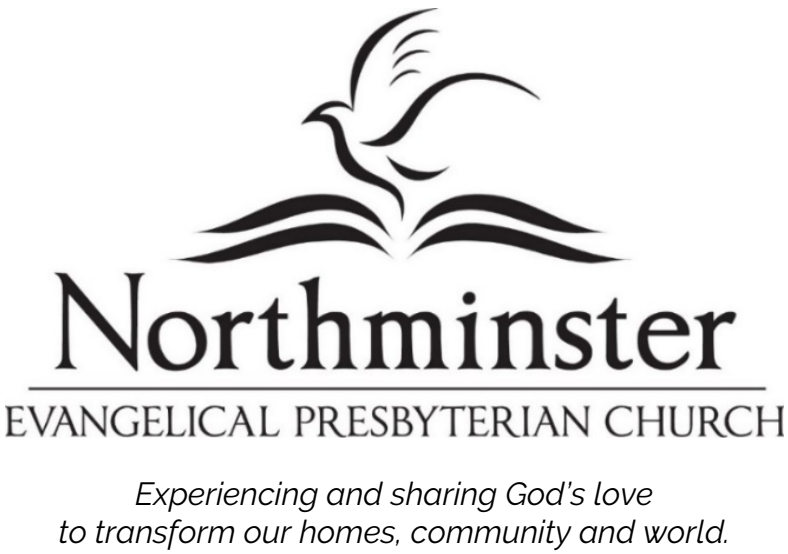
\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

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Pastor, David Garrison  
ELDERS Bob Mills, *Director of Music*  
Ron Reyburn, Judy Reyburn Liz Boothe, *Organist*  
John Lange, George Brine, Sharon Bryant, *Sunday School*  
Sharon Bryant, *Superintendent*  
Michael Babcock, Vonnie Rucker, *Treasurer*  
Maggie Brockman

SERMON NOTES, December 12  
OLD TESTAMENT READING: Hosea 6:1-3  
NEW TESTAMENT READING: Luke 1:67-79  
SERMON: “A Light In The Dark”  
SERIES: O COME, EMMANUEL  
“...because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise [dayspring] shall visit us from on high...” — Luke 1:78



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.”

Luke 1:67-79 (ESV)