

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 19, 2021

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Liturgist, Sharon Bryant

CALL TO WORSHIP — based on Psalm 126

Leader: The Lord has done great things for us!

People: And we are filled with joy!

Leader: Our God has turned our weeping into singing,

People: our tears into songs of joy!

Leader: O Christ of God, come anew in our hearts this day,

People: and remain in us forever.

***OPENING HYMN #135** Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

*OPENING PRAYER

***PRAISE SONG** Love Came Down at Christmas

GUIDED PRAYER

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** — Westminster Confession of Faith 8.2

We believe that the Son of God, the second person of the Trinity, is truly the eternal God, of one substance and equal with the Father. In the fullness of time he took on himself the nature of man, with all the essential qualities and ordinary frailties of man—except that he was sinless. Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary out of her substance. These two complete, perfect, and distinct natures, the Godhead and the manhood, were inseparably joined together in the one person of Jesus without being altered, disunited or jumbled. The person Jesus is truly God and truly man, yet one Christ, the only mediator between God and man. 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 WEEK OF DECEMBER 19-26

Today:

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')

Tuesday, December 21:

12 pm - Lynchburg Daily Bread Meal Distribution

Friday, December 24:

7:00 pm - CHRISTMAS EVE candlelight service

Saturday, December 25:

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Sunday, December 26:

9:45 am – Adult Sunday School

11 am – Worship- We welcome to the pulpit Pastor Shawn Morrison.

Pastor David and family will be on vacation Dec. 25-Jan. 2.

The church offices will be closed during that time. Any pastoral concerns can be brought to the attention of an Elder or Bob Mills.

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.

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 a Tacky Christmas Sweater Contest, so be sure to wear your tackiest 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. 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! The Pastor's Midweek Bible Study resumes January 5.

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 Lange Family

ANTHEM “What Child Is This?” Timothy Mills

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: Isaiah 7:10-17, pg. 1070
NEW TESTAMENT READING: Matthew 1:18-25, pg. 1497
Pastor: The Word of the Lord
People: *Thanks be to God*

SERMON: “God With Us”
SERIES: O COME, EMMANUEL
“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). — Matthew 1:23

*CLOSING HYMN #133 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

*Please Stand, if able. Copyright License #254910

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 19

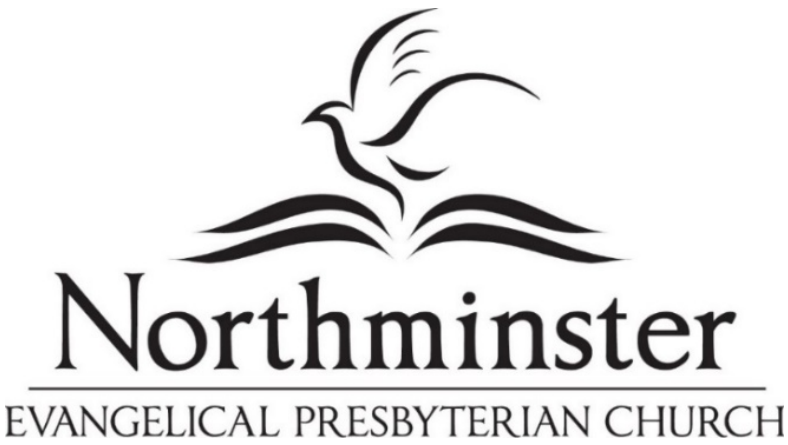
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Experiencing and sharing God's love
to transform our homes, community and world.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-25 (ESV)