

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 26, 2021

The First Sunday of Christmas

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Liturgist, John Lange

CALL TO WORSHIP — based on Isaiah 9:2

Leader: The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;

**People: on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned.**

Leader: Jesus Christ is our life and light.

People: In his name and in his power, let us worship God!

***OPENING CAROL #173**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

***OPENING PRAYER**

***CAROL #157**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

O God, in the beginning you spoke, and creation was born, the object of your loving care. In the fullness of time you spoke, and the Word became flesh, Jesus, gift of your love. We wonder at the miracle of creation; we stand in awe before the mystery of the incarnation. Forgive us earthbound creatures, feeble in faith, empty of hope, lacking in love. This year let the miracle and mystery of Christmas happen for us again. We wait upon you with ready hearts, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** — Westminster Confession of Faith 8.3

We believe that His human nature being thus united to the divine, the Lord Jesus was sanctified and anointed with the Holy Spirit beyond all measure. He had in him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, and in him it pleased the Father that all fullness should dwell. God's purpose was that Jesus, being holy, harmless, undefiled, and full of grace and truth, should be completely equipped to execute the office of mediator and guarantor. Jesus did not take this office himself but was called to it by his Father, who gave and commanded him to use all power and judgment. 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 26-JANUARY 2

Today:

9:45 am – Adult Sunday School

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

Tuesday, December 28:

12 pm - Lynchburg Daily Bread Meal Distribution

Saturday, January 1:

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Sunday, January 2:

9:45 am – Adult Sunday School

11 am – Worship - Rev. Bob Mills will be preaching.

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.

SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE will NOT meet December 26 nor January 2.

The group will resume January 9. Watch your newsletter for details on what these youth are studying.

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 (resumes Jan. 5)

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.



ANTHEM Lovelace
"Festival Variations on God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"
Liz Boothe, Organ

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Luke 24:13-35, pg. 1642
Pastor: The Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God

SERMON: “A Continued Witness”
They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”
— Luke 24:32

*CLOSING CAROL #146 Joy to the World

*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 26

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Luke 24:13-35, pg. 1642

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Northminster

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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

¹³ That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” ¹⁹ And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²² Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” ²⁵ And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹ but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” ³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Luke 24:13-35 (ESV)