

Northminster Presbyterian Church

Welcomes You to Worship

**Fourth Sunday
in Advent**

December 22, 2013

10:00 A.M.

The Reverend Dwight McCormick II, Pastor

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“Wachet Auf” (Sleepers Wake!)

J. S. BACH

Prayer of Invocation and The Lord’s Prayer (debts and debtors)

Introit

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

PRAETORIUS

***Call to Worship**

Charles Vanarsdall

Leader: We come as people of peace,

People: and people who may not always act peaceful.

Leader: We ask for peace from God, trusting in God’s goodness that in this season of shopping and spending, baking and planning,

People: we will see angels, shepherds, and a baby in a stable.

Leader: And we will know peace has come to live among us in Christ.

ALL: Let us worship God!

***Hymn No. 8**

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

Blue Hymnal

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

God, you are the source of all our hope, love, joy and peace. Too often we forget that. We think we can manage on our own. And we do, until trouble comes! We know that you are there, waiting for us to turn to you, and we are thankful for that. Forgive us for our failure to turn to you in every circumstance, and teach us to place our hope in you and receive peace in your loving care for humanity. In this season, in every season, let us be beacons of peace and hope to a hurting world. For we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Silence is kept for individual confession of sin.

Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: God passes down the heirloom of peace-filled hope from generation to generation, always loving, always forgiving, always calling us to new life. As we open our hearts to God, we are filled with the joy that was sung at the Birth, with the Prince of Peace that walked among us, with the grace which is always with us.

People: Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Congregational Response “Grant Us Peace”

Dona nobis pacem, pacem.

Dona nobis pacem.

Joys and Concerns

Congregational Prayer Response

*O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;
when I call answer me.*

*O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;
come and listen to me.*

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise.

All my hope comes from God.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise.

God, the well-spring of life.

Anthem

“My Soul in Stillness Waits”

HAUGEN

Children’s Time

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Joe and Marta Stalder

Leader: Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. This is a season of hope, a season of love, a season of joy, and a season of peace. We light the first candle as we remember that Jesus Christ comes to us as grace embodied, and transforms us into one body.

People: Let the light of hope shine in our hearts!

Leader: We light the second candle as we remember that the meaning of the season is love.

People: Let the light of love shine in our lives!

Leader: We light the candle of joy as we rejoice in God’s amazing works; nothing is impossible with God.

People: Let the light of joy be seen in us!

Leader: We light the candle of peace to remind us that the Prince of Peace is about to be born in Bethlehem. God has not forgotten us! In Jesus Christ, we find peace that passes all understanding, no matter what happens.

People: Let the light of peace make every moment bright.

First Reading

Psalm 13

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Dwight McCormick II

Affirmation of Faith (see insert)

***Hymn No. 90**

“View the Present Through the Promise”

Green Hymnal

Minute for Mission

Christmas Joy Offering

Joe Stalder

Invitation to the Offering

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“Peace Be with You”

HUTSON

***Response of Praise**

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Savior, Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

Loving God, these are gifts of hope, love, joy and peace. We bring them in faith that you will use them to share love and joy and hope with the world, through us. Amen.

***Hymn No. 9**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Blue Hymnal

***Choral Blessing**

“Make Way”

KENDRICK

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

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*Those who are able are invited to stand.

Please stay for fellowship in the Family Room following worship.