

Northminster Presbyterian Church

December 13, 2020 *Welcomes You to Worship* 10:00 a.m.
3rd Sunday of Advent
Ministers: Everyone in the Congregation
The Reverend Dwight McCormick II, Pastor

Prelude "On Jordan's Bank" BURKHARDT

Welcome and Opening Prayer

***Call to Worship** Diana Harrison

Leader: When God restores our fortune, our dreams will come true.
People: We will sing "Glory!" to our God; we will rejoice in our Savior's birth.

Leader: Our mouths shall be filled with laughter; joy shall chime from our lips.

People: God has made it clear: those who serve are God's children.

Leader: Then we will proclaim: 'look what the Lord has done':

People: so others will know beyond any doubt how the Holy One has blessed us with hope.

Leader: We wept - now we will cheer "Joy! Joy!" We were lost - now we will run home laughing.

People: For God has picked us up where we fell; God has kept the promises made so long ago.

Hymn "Prepare the Way, O Zion" Glory to God

Call to Confession Diana Harrison

Union Prayer of Confession

We try not to do any evil, Anointing God, but it is so hard to let go of those little things we enjoy - gossiping about the pregnant girl in the neighborhood; making light of the accomplishments of a co-worker; daydreaming about someone else's partner. Forgive us, Loving God. You have freely given us salvation, yet we act as if we are the ones who paid for it. Help us to rejoice always in your grace, and to give thanks in every moment for that life we receive through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Silence is kept for individual confession of sin.

Leader: Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Diana Harrison

Leader: Go, and take God's Good News to others: to those held captive by sin; to those cradling broken hearts; to those grieving lost relationships. God forgives us all and makes us new.

People: Even as we rejoice in God's mercy, we will tell everyone we meet, "God has done such wondrous things for us, and wants to do the same for you!" Thanks be to God! Amen.

Joys and Concerns

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Kevin Creager

Leader: Joy is the celebration given by God through the light of the world.

People: Joy is the celebration given by God at the birth of the Christ Child.

Leader: Joy is the celebration when the angels sang "Glory to God in the highest."

People: Let us dance and sing and shout for joy. Christ is coming again.

(The candle is lit)

Leader: Let us pray:

People: Source of light, shine in our lives and in your world with your life-giving joy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

First Reading

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

People: Thanks be to God

Second Reading

New Testament Lesson

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

People: Thanks be to God

Special Music

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

arr. LANZ

Sermon

"The Middle Act"

Stewardship Reminder

Affirmation of Faith—Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

Glory to God

Benediction

Closing Chorus

“Go Now in Peace”

BESIG

Postlude

“People Look East”

Hymn Tune

Thank you to David Hapner and Dawn White for leading us in song

Special thanks to Presbyterian Mission Agency for today’s liturgy

Please visit these links as we continue to be the Body of Christ in new ways:

www.northminsterspringfield.org

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