

Northminster Presbyterian Church

December 20, 2020 *Welcomes You to Worship*
4th Sunday of Advent 10:00 a.m.
Ministers: Everyone in the Congregation
The Reverend Dwight McCormick II, Pastor

Prelude “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” JS BACH

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Call to Worship Cathy Reid

Leader: O Leader from the lowly, You were born in poverty’s maternity ward:

People: come, so we may learn from those we ignore.

Leader: O Maker of haste, You did not hesitate to become one of us:

People: come, so we may stop moving so slowly, but run to embrace you.

Leader: O Prince of Peace, You came with only reconciliation in your hands:

People: come, so we might build bridges and not walls.

Leader: O Striver for justice, You called the outcasts to your side:

People: come, so we may lift up the outsiders in our midst.

Leader: O Mighty One, You set aside all power for us:

People: come, so we may see vulnerability as the gift needed in our world.

Leader: O Gazer upon our souls, You saw the emptiness deep within us:

People: come, so our eyes might be open to those who hunger, who live in poverty, who long for friendship.

Leader: O Least of all expected messiahs, You broke God’s heart to give us new ones:

People: come, so we might bring healing and hope to those we have damaged.

Hymn “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” Glory to God

Responsive Prayer of Confession Cathy Reid

Leader: O God who we blame for all of our troubles,

People: forgive us for the hurts we inflict on others in the name of love, justice, family, faith.

Leader: O Sower who scatters the arrogant in the soil of our pride,

People: you know how we have sought to keep your joy only for our families, to hoard your peace only for ourselves, to build walls from our fears to keep the outsiders far from us.

Leader: O Heart which never forgets the grace of compassion,

People: remind us of the failed opportunities we had to offer hope to those around us.

Leader: O Granter of mercy from generation to generation,

People: be gracious to us for not noticing the loneliness of a widower, the pressures faced by a single parent, the anguished heart of a teenager, the hunger of a homeless child.

Silence is kept for individual confession of sin.

Leader: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: O Beloved of the Lord, the One who came so long ago continues to draw near to us, offering forgiveness and healing to all.

People: O Healer, of all brokenness, we rejoice that your touch is gentle, your grace is healing, and your peace is forever. Amen.

Cathy Reid

Joys and Concerns

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Leader: Love is the wick that is central to the candle.

People: Love is the wick, given by God. The flame that burns continually.

Leader: Love is the wick, given by God that burns in the world.

People: Love is the wick given by God that burns in our hearts.
(The candle is lit.)

Leader: Let us pray:

People: Source of light, shine in our lives and in your world with your unending love. Through Jesus in whose name we pray, Amen.

Jim Griffin

First Reading

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

People: Thanks be to God

Second Reading

New Testament Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

People: Thanks be to God

Special Music

“Pastoral Symphony” from Messiah

G.F. HÄNDEL

Sermon

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

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Glory to God

Benediction

Closing Chorus

“Go Now in Peace”

BESIG

Postlude

Variations of
“Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People”

MANZ/BACH/ZACHAU

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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