

# Northminster Presbyterian Church

*Welcomes You to Worship*

December 19, 2021

4th Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m.

**Ministers: Everyone in the Congregation**  
The Reverend Dwight McCormick II, Pastor

**Prelude** "Of the Father's Love Begotten (Meditation)" arr. CALLAHAN

## Welcome and Opening Prayer

**\*Call to Worship** Diana Harrison

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

**People: With Mary, our spirits rejoice, and we sing God's praise.**

Leader: Let us honor God with our worship this fourth Sunday of Advent.

**Hymn (sung)** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Glory to God

**Call to Confession** Diana Harrison

## Unison Prayer of Confession

**Soon we will celebrate the Prince of Peace, but we are not a people at peace. We glorify violence and dismiss the pacifist as weak. We dominate and demean in our conversations and relationships. We wage war with our enemies and invest in self-defense without careful regard of the consequences or exhausting non-violent strategies. Lord, forgive us. Help us work towards your peaceable kin-dom, where swords will be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks.**

*Silence is kept for individual confession of sins*

Leader: Amen

**Assurance of Pardon** Diana Harrison

Leader: And he will stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord ...  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace.

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

## Gloria Patri (sung)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**Joys and Concerns** (Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer)

Diana Harrison

## Lighting of Fourth Advent Candle—Love

Terry Rigio and Lois Shroyer

Leader: Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light this candle in hope.

We light this candle for peace.

We light this candle in joy!

We light this candle with love.

Hear again the Word of the Lord drawn from Zephaniah 3:17: The LORD your God . . . will rejoice over you with gladness; God will quiet you with divine love like a child upon the breast. The Lord will exult over you with loud singing.

LITURGIST: Let us pray:

**All: God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, and God of love, teach us how to love one another as reflections of your light in the world. God of promise, God of love, into our darkness come.**

**All: He Came Down that we may have HOPE. He came down that we may have HOPE, he came down that we may have HOPE, hallelujah forevermore. He Came Down that we may have PEACE. He came down that we may have PEACE. He came down that we may have PEACE. Hallelujah forevermore. He Came Down that we may have JOY. He came down that we may have JOY. He came down that we may have JOY. Hallelujah forevermore. He Came Down that we may have LOVE. He came down that we may have LOVE. He came down that we may have LOVE. Hallelujah forevermore.**

## Pastoral Prayer and Prayer of Illumination

**Meditation** "Auf, Auf! Mein Herz, Mit Freuden" CRÜGER

**First Reading** Old Testament Lesson Micah 5:2-5a

Leader: Hear now what The Spirit is saying to The Church

**People: Thanks be to God**

**Second Reading** New Testament Lesson Luke 1:39-55

Leader: Hear now what The Spirit is saying to The Church

**People: Thanks be to God**

**Sermon** Rev. Dwight McCormick

## Responding to the Word

**Stewardship Reminder** (Offering plate is outside the sanctuary on the table by door)

**Doxology** (sung)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Affirmation of Faith** (From the Book of Common Worship)

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

**Hymn** (sung)                    “To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary”                    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

Today’s liturgy is provided by Teri McDowell Ott  
and The Presbyterian Outlook

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[www.northminsterspringfield.org](http://www.northminsterspringfield.org)

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