

seek, serve and embrace

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Northminster Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Dec 18, 2011

9 and 11 a.m.

APPROACHING GOD

** Those who are able please stand.*

Congregation responds in bold.

Please silence your cell phone before worship begins.

CENTERING THOUGHT

“If you believe God was somehow in Christ, it shouldn’t make much difference to you how he got there. If you don’t believe, it should make less difference still. In either case, life is complicated enough without confusing theology and gynecology... In one sense anyway, the doctrine of the virgin birth is demonstrably true. Whereas the villains of history can always be seen as the products of heredity and environment, the saints always seem to arrive under their own steam. Evil evolves. Holiness happens.” Frederick Buechner

WELCOME

Teri Thomas

PRELUDE

Improvised fughetta on “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Lord, by your presence, light up the past that we might learn from it with thankfulness.

Light up the present that we might live in it with love.

Light up the future that we might prepare for it in hope.

As we watch and wait and pray, may we be always ready to encounter the Lord who is already and always with us.

*** HYMN NO. 9**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” VENI EMMANUEL
(Children may come forward during final verse.)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

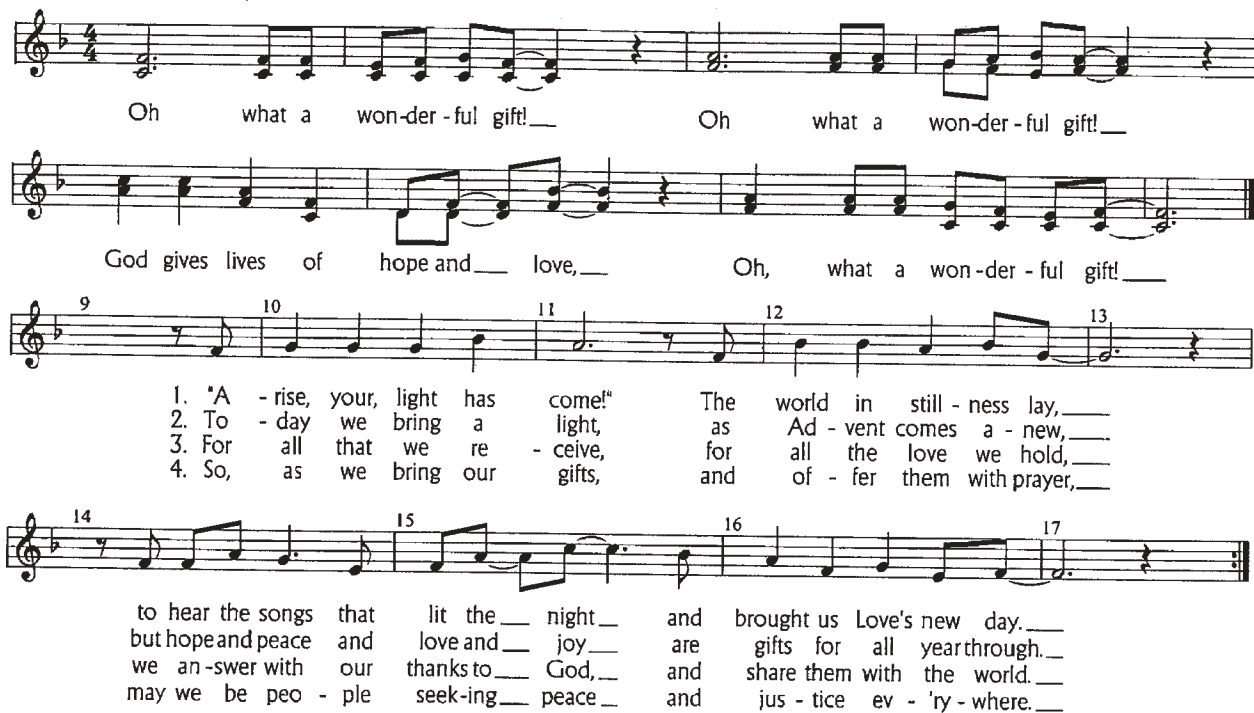
CHILDREN’S TIME

Mike Boris

* **RESPONSE**

“Oh, What a Wonderful Gift”

Linnea Good



Oh what a won-der-ful gift! God gives lives of hope and love, Oh, what a won-der-ful gift!

9 10 11 12 13

1. A - rise, your, light has come! The world in still - ness lay,
 2. To - day we bring a light, as Ad - vent comes a - new,
 3. For all that we re - ceive, for all the love we hold,
 4. So, as we bring our gifts, and of - fer them with prayer,

14 15 16 17

to hear the songs that lit the night and brought us Love's new day.
 but hope and peace and love and joy are gifts for all year through.
 we an - swer with our thanks to God, and share them with the world.
 may we be peo - ple seek - ing peace and jus - tice ev - 'ry - where.

(Children dismissed at this time for Children's Church.)

* **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Ruth Chadwick Moore

Lord God, we praise you for sending light into this world. We confess that we live as though the light never defeated darkness. We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent to be among us and to live in us. We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his coming each moment in our waiting hearts. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse

your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Help us rejoice in the light so that your grace can illuminate the darkened places of our hearts.

*** SILENT CONFESSION**

*** DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Sisters and brothers, put the uncertainty, the lack of trust behind you.

The past no longer holds us in its grip.

As trusted servants, God will support you and you will experience God's peace.

Thanks be to God!

*** GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST**



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to God's



peo - ple on earth

earth.

*** SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

(Worshippers may greet one another with words of Christ's peace.)

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Teri Thomas

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON 2 Samuel 7: 1 – 11, 16

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1: 26 – 38

(9 am) Monica Brase

(11 am) Debbie Everett

* "MY SOUL GIVES GLORY TO MY GOD"

(The Magnificat) (Luke 1: 47 – 55)



1. My soul gives glo - ry to my God, My
2. My God has done great things for me: Yes,
3. From age to age to all who fear, Such
4. Love casts the might - y from their thrones, Pro -
5. Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant Sup -



heart pours out its praise. God lift - ed up my
ho - ly is this Name. All peo - ple will de -
mer - cy love im - parts, Dis - pens - ing jus - tice
notes the in - se - cure, Leaves hun - gry spir - its
ports those in dis - tress, Re - mem - ber - ing past



low - li - ness In man - y mar - vel - ous ways.
clare me blessed, And bless - ings they shall claim.
far and near, Dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.
sat - is - fied; The rich seem sud - den - ly poor.
prom - is - es With pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

SERMON

“The Gift of Promise”

Ruth Chadwick Moore

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

RESPONDING TO GOD

ANTHEM “Justice in the Womb”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER Traditional
**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.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (9 am) “Savior of the Nations, Come,”

(11 am) “Regina Caeli” (*Queen of Heaven*)
Allen Miller, Trumpet

* DOXOLOGY

OLD 100TH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ,
all people here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

* HYMN NO. 8

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

* CHARGE AND BLESSING

Go out with joy.

We are ready to welcome the Promised One.

Go with peace.

We are ready to welcome the Prince of Peace.

Go with hope.

We know that from darkness, light will shine forth.

Above all, go with love.

**We know that God’s love in Christ is for us, and for
all humankind. Amen.**

CHORAL RESPONSE

(9 am) “The Lord Bless You & Keep You”

The Peace Choir

POSTLUDE (11 am) “Magnificat Quinti Toni”

NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

4 pm Intergenerational Service:

The children and youth share the Christmas Story in pageant and song. This service is designed for the whole family so be sure to join us!

7 pm Communion Service:

Through scripture and song we welcome the Christ Child!

10:30 pm Musical Prelude

11:00 pm Candlelight Service:

The Chancel Choir will lead us in worship and celebration!

HOSTS NEEDED ON CHRISTMAS EVE

We will need HOSTs at each Christmas Eve service (7pm, 10:30/11 pm) this year. You'll need to arrive 30 minutes before the service. Contact Dolly Craft at dollybike@aol.com or 317-502-2080, if you can help.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING RECEIVED 12/24

This offering provides assistance to Presbyterian church workers & their families, and to Presbyterian affiliated racially ethnic schools & colleges.

SHARE YOUR PHOTO CHRISTMAS CARD

Have a Christmas card with a family photo you'd like to share with the congregation? The health ministries bulletin board has been cleared, feel free to hang up your card.

FILL THE FOOD BARRELS

During this time of year there is more demand on local Food Pantries. When shopping, pick up an extra canned food item or two and leave them in our food barrels. Your much needed donations will be taken to Westminster Neighborhood Ministries. **Items needed: pasta, canned meat, canned vegetables and fruit, peanut butter, toilet paper and paper towels.**

PWCN GRACIOUSLY THANKS

all ladies who contributed to the Bake Shop. We received \$345.00 for our mission programs. **THANK YOU!**

NORTHSTARS TO BUTLER GAME

Everyone is invited to join Northstars on Friday, 1/13 at 7pm to see Butler basketball team take on Cleveland State at Hinkle Fieldhouse. Tickets are \$16 each, reservations and payment made to Bob Bowers. Contact Bob at 259-7366 or betbobbowers@att.net. For those interested, we will meet for dinner at Squealer's (5515 W. 86th St). Reservations for dinner should be in by January 8th. GO DAWGS!

MUSIC IN WORSHIP

Today's final hymn, No. 8 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates," was written in the early 1600's by Georg Weisell. Based on Psalm 24, this Advent hymn's first stanza speaks of the King coming in glory. The other stanzas exhort worshippers to "fling wide the portals of your heart," that it may be a temple of the King, and lists the results of Christ's coming to the believer's heart: inner presence, grace, and love. The tune TRURO was discovered in a collection of psalms edited by Thomas Williams in 1789, *Psalmodia Evangelica*. The harmonization found in most hymnals today is by the American hymn composer Lowell Mason (1792 – 1872). Mason is best known for his arrangement of the beloved Christmas hymn "Joy to the World," which we will be singing next