

*seek, serve and embrace*

*1660 Kessler Boulevard, East Drive  
Indianapolis, IN 46220*

*317-251-9489 • www.northminster-indy.org*



*Northminster Presbyterian Church*

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Dec 4 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**

The desert...is a place of revelation and revolution. In the desert we wait, we weep, we learn to live.

Alan Jones

### **WELCOME**

Teri Thomas

**PRELUDE** "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

Johann Pachelbel (1653 – 1706)

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Teri Thomas

Comfort, comfort all my people.

**God invites us to return and reconciles us into  
God's heart.**

Comfort, comfort all my people.

**God hears our cries for justice and offers restora-  
tion of hope.**

Comfort, comfort all my people.

**God knows our troubled hearts and speaks peace,  
gently healing.**

Comfort, comfort all my people.

**God knows our uncertainties and offers a word  
that is steady and sure.**

We come together to worship God,

**our guide, our hope, our source of peace and com-  
fort.**

**\*HYMN NO. 3**      “Comfort, Comfort You My People”  
*(Children may come forward during final verse.)*

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

Michael Boris

**\*RESPONSE**

**"Oh, What a Wonderful Gift"**

Oh what a won-der - ful gift! \_\_\_ 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, \_\_\_

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. \_\_\_

*(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

God speaks tenderly to us and assures us that our debt has been paid.

**Our sins are forgiven, our paths are made straight!**

God's glory is waiting to burst into the midst of all who accept the good news.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

## \*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.**

*(Greet one another with words of Christ's peace.)*

**LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD**

**ANTHEM** (11 am)    “And the glory of the Lord”

Chancel Choir

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all  
flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord  
hath spoken it. *(Isaiah 40:4)*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Isaiah 40: 1 – 11

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Mark 1: 1 – 8

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**    “*The Gift of Comfort*”

Teri Thomas

**SILENCE FOR REFLECTION**

## RESPONDING TO GOD

**OFFERING** *(Sign the pew pad and pass it to your neighbor.)*

**OFFERTORY** “He Shall Feed His Flock”

Laura Thoreson, Mezzo Soprano; Rainelle Krause, Soprano

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

*(Isaiah 40: 11)*

Come unto him all ye that labor, ye that are heavy laden, and He will give you rest. Take His yoke upon you, and learn of Him, for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

*(Matthew 11:28 - 29)*

**\*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.**

# SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Teri Thomas

## THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

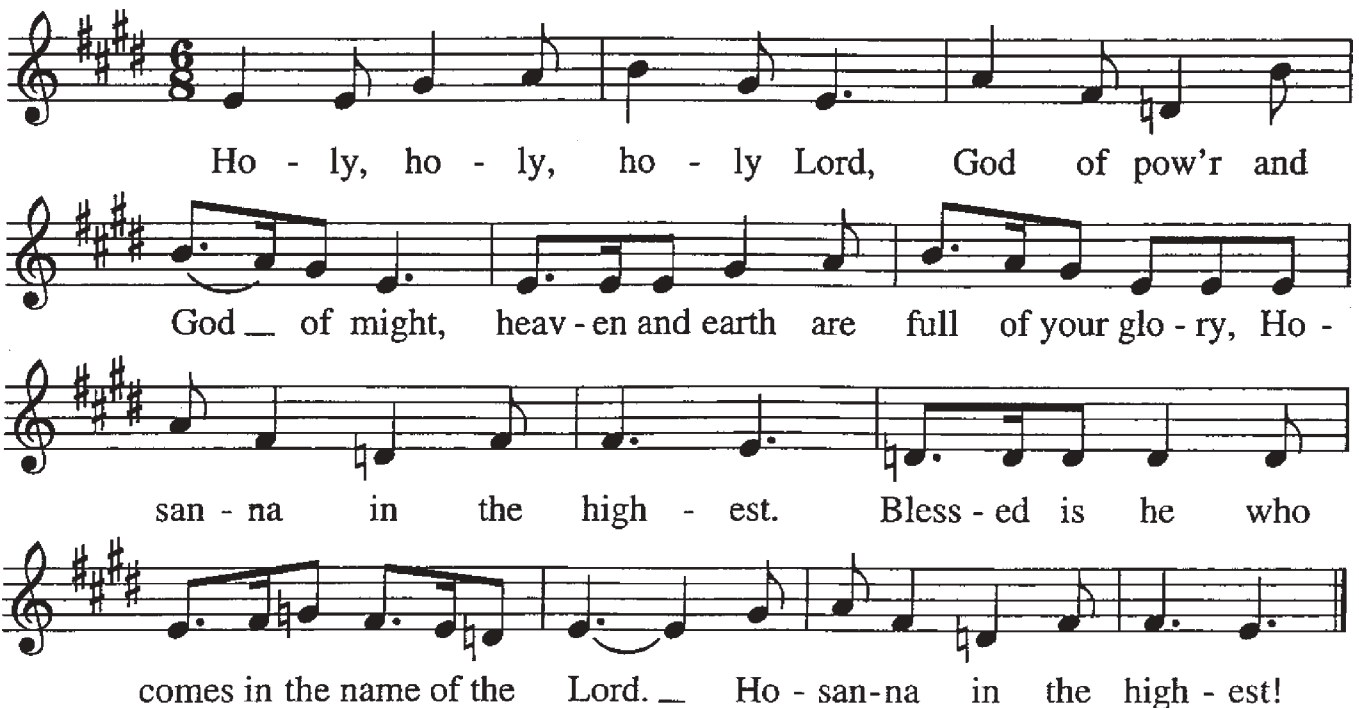
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise. . . .**

## SANCTUS

McDowell Fogle



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
God \_ of might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. \_ Ho - san-na in the high - est!

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION



Dy - ing, you de - stroyed our death; ris - ing you re - stored our life,



Lord Je - sus, come in glo - ry. — come — in glo - ry!

## AMEN



A - men! — A - men! — A - men! — A - men!

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## THE COMMUNION

*(Our communion is open to all who trust in the Christ. Please hold the bread and we will all eat together. Drink the cup as you are served)*

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

(9 am)

“VENI EMMANUEL”

Kathy Hershberger, Viola

(11 am)

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

Chancel Choir

“Wait for the Lord” Traditional Taize

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, — take heart!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Wait for the Lord". It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." and "Wait for the Lord: be strong, — take heart!". The piano accompaniment features a steady, rhythmic pattern of chords and single notes.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

### GOING FORTH

\*HYMN NO. 10 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

**POSTLUDE (9 am) “DIVINUM MYSTERIUM”**

**CHORAL RESPONSE (11 am)**

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

Bel Canto

\*\*\*\*\*

## NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### **THE FLOWERS DECORATING THE CHANCEL**

this morning are given by Chris & Debbie Stuart, in loving memory of her father, Alistair J. Stuart; and by Jeff & Donna Schmahl, in honor of their 20th wedding anniversary on 11/30.

**NORTHMINSTER’S MUSIC MINISTRY PRESENTS *Christmas Lite* TODAY at 1 pm.** Hear our choirs perform secular songs of the season. Our special guest, from Atlanta, Georgia, is jazz musician, Max Wellman. The show is free and there may be a visit from someone in red. Before the show enjoy the all-church lunch at noon in Calvin Hall, PWNC Bake Sale and Alternative Gift Market in the Gathering Place.

### **ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET**

Shoppers should be prepared to **pay wth cash or a check**, no credit/debit cards accepted. Packets are available today for you to read about the organizations prior to Sun, 12/4.

## **ADULT BIBLE STUDY DURING ADVENT**

Adult Bible Study continues to meet in the Borad Room each Sunday at 10 am. Join our Pastors as they explore the scripture to be used in worship the following week.

## **J.O.Y. GRP. CHRISTMAS LUNCH, 12/8**

Tammany Harding will play the piano and lead us in Carols. Maureen Purcell will read a story she wrote entitled the “Stolen Christmas Tree”. **Bring a “White Reindeer” gift** (aka White Elephant gift) to share. RSVP to the church office by Noon on Tuesday, 12/6. Cost is \$7 payable at the door.

## **NEXT SUNDAY, 12/11, OUR CHANCEL CHOIR**

presents Italian composer Ottorino Respighi’s *Laud to the Nativity* at both 9 am & 11 am services. Joining the choir and chamber orchestra are soloists Arwen Myers, Soprano, as the Angel; Laura Thoreson, Mezzo-Soprano, as Mary; and Michael Porter, Tenor, as the Shepherd.

## **BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE, SUNDAY, 12/18**

Have you experienced a loss, depression, separation or anxiety and it's keeping you from enjoying or participating in the holidays? We invite you to join us for the Blue Christmas worship service to be held at 10 am in the Chapel. We will serve Communion and anoint for wholeness and healing. Give yourself time away from the expectations of Christmas to experience God's sacred presence in our lives.

## **CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING RECEIVED 12/24**

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

## **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS FOR SANCTUARY**

We'll decorate the sanctuary again this year with poinsettias & greenery. Plants are \$12 each and may be dedicated "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one. Dedications will be printed in the worship bulletin at Christmas. Pink order forms are located on Friendship Tables around church. Fill out the form & return it with payment to the church office no later than December 14!.

**THANKS TO ALL. . . . .**

who sent cards honoring my 90th birthday (11/29). I feel rather like George Burns when he said, “If I’d known I was going to live this long I would have taken better care of myself!” *Barbara Burk*

### **MUSIC IN WORSHIP**

Today’s Offertory, “He shall feed His flock,” is the 20<sup>th</sup> movement of George Frederic Handel’s 53 movement oratorio masterpiece *Messiah*. Handel experimented with this aria until he found that solution he liked best – the aria is first sung in F major by an alto (or mezzo-soprano), and then in B flat major by a soprano. We move from the Old Testament (Isaiah) to the New Testament (Matthew) and to a new key as well. We hear first of a shepherd who will carry the young lambs of his flock and lead their mothers gently and then we are invited to come to Him, and, by taking His yoke upon us, receive rest. The mood of the aria is gentle and pastoral. The first six notes provide a soothing familiarity of a comforting shepherd who picks up his lambs and nestles them “in his bosom.”