

COMMITMENT

Northminster is an open fellowship that wants to share its gift of life and ministry with others. During the Time of Response, this church extends to you an invitation to membership by your request for baptism, by letter from a sister church, or by statement of your Christian experience in another denomination. If you would like to unite with this covenant community, please express this desire by coming forward at this point of the service.

TIME OF RESPONSE

I need to worship because without worship I can forget that I have a big God beside me and live in fear. I need to worship because without worship I can forget God's calling and begin to live in a spirit of self-preoccupation. I need to worship because without worship I lose a sense of wonder and gratitude and plod through life with blinders on. I need worship because my natural tendency is toward self-reliance and stubborn independence.

-John Ortberg

*The Recessional Hymn No. 152: "Angels We Have Heard on High" *GLORIA*

*The Benediction Charles Poole

*The Postlude "Angels from the Realms of Glory" Burkhardt

**The congregation will please stand.*

The Lectionary passages for December 15 are found on the following pages in the Pew Bible:

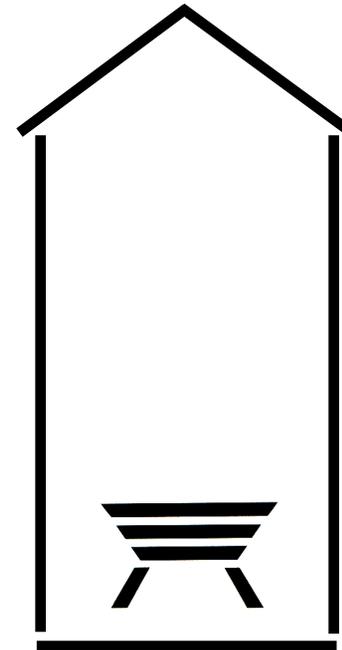
Isaiah 35:1-10 ~ page 578

Psalms 146:5-10 ~ page 507

Luke 1:46-55 ~ page 832

James 5:7-10 ~ page 982

Matthew 11:2-11 ~ page 792



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

I will send a messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.

Matthew 11:10

THE ACT OF WORSHIP
The Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2019

Ten-thirty o'clock

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

The worship of God begins this morning as you enter the Sanctuary. You are encouraged to use these moments for meditation, reflection and prayer. Following the service, greet our visitors and share your fellowship with those around you.

The Meditation of Preparation

The light of God surrounds us. The love of God enfolds us. The power of God protects us. The presence of God watches over us. Wherever we are, God is.

-James Dillet Freeman

The Prelude "How Brightly Shines the Morning Sun" Buxtehude
"Still, Still, Still" Manz

The Call to Worship "Advent Message" How

Come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord, quickly come!
The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness:
Prepare ye the way of the Lord;
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!
Come, Lord Jesus, O come quickly. *Amen.*

*The Processional Hymn No. 135: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" *HYFRYDOL*

*The Advent Banner Parkes Denton

*The Lighting of the Third Advent Candle: Joy Heed Burnham

*The Litany of Praise Kelsey Mayhan

Leader: The Lord be with you;

People: And also with you.

Leader: God is the maker of heaven and earth; the Lord remains faithful forever.

People: The Lord upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

Leader: The Lord sets prisoners free; the Lord gives sight to the blind,

People: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

Leader: The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but frustrates the ways of the wicked.

People: The Lord reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

All: Praise the Lord.

Psalm 146, *adapted*

*The Gloria Patri No. 807: "Glory Be to the Father" *MEINEKE*

*The Prayer of Invocation Kelsey Mayhan

The Greeting Lesley Ratcliff

The Lessons Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Meditation of Confession

Let us love the Lord who bought us,
pitied us when enemies,
called us by grace, and taught us,
gave us ears and gave us eyes:
has washed us with His blood,
and presents our souls to God.

-John Newton, *adapted*

The Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Pardon

The Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Major Treadway

INTERCESSION AND DEDICATION

*The Offertory Hymn No.150: "What Child Is This?" *GREENSLEEVES*

*The Offertory Prayer Kelsey Mayhan

The Offertory "He Is Born" Bish
Billy Trotter, *organ*

*The Doxology *OLD HUNDREDTH*

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Gospel Matthew 11:2-11 Charles Poole

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Anthem "The Dream Isaiah Saw" Rudolph

Lions and oxen will sleep in the hay,
leopards will join with the lambs as they play,
Wolves will be pastured with cows in the glade,
blood will not darken the earth that God made.

Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw: life redeemed from fang and claw.

Peace will pervade more than forest and field:
God will transfigure the violence concealed.

Deep in the heart and in systems of gain,
ripe for the judgment the Lord will ordain.

Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw: justice purifying law.

Nature reordered to match God's intent,
nations obeying the call to repent,
All of creation completely restored,
filled with the knowledge and love of the Lord.

Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw: knowledge, wisdom, worship, awe.

The Sermon "On Not Being Offended By Jesus" Charles Poole