

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

Behold, the dwelling of God is with people. God will dwell with them, and they shall be God's people, and God will be with them, and be their God.

-Revelation 21:3

*The Recessional Hymn No. 171: "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" *MENDELSSOHN*

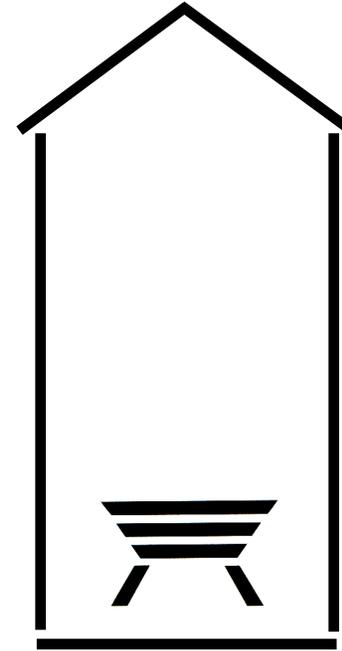
*The Benediction *Charles Poole*

*The Postlude "Swiss Noel" *Daquin*

**The congregation will please stand.*

The Lectionary passages for December 22 are found on the following pages in the Pew Bible:

Isaiah 7:10-16 ~ page 554
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 ~ pages 470-471
Romans 1:1-7 ~ pages 913-914
Matthew 1:18-25 ~ page 783



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

My soul doth magnify the Lord
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For the Lord hath regarded the lowliness of God's hand-maiden:
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
-Magnificat anima mea (Luke 1:46-48)

THE ACT OF WORSHIP
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 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

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. The Lord will not leave you or forsake you.

-Deuteronomy 31:6

The Prelude "O Hail This Brightest Day of Days" Bach

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. 161: "Once in Royal David's City" IRBY

*The Advent Banner Watts Everrett

*The Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle: Love Mary Elise Byrd

*The Litany of Praise Chris Champion

Leader: The Lord be with you;

People: And also with you.

Leader: Restore us, O God of hosts;

People: Let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Leader: Let your hand be on the one at your right hand,

People: The one whom you have made strong for yourself.

Leader: Then we shall not turn back from you;

People: Give us life, and we will call upon your name.

All: Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

-Psalm 80, adapted

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

*The Prayer of Invocation Chris Champion

The Greeting Major Treadway

The Lessons Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Meditation of Confession

O holy Father, help, we pray, all in need:

Strengthen those whose spirit fails,

Comfort those whom grief assails;

We pray for thy people here, for thy Holy Church so dear;

You are Lord for all thy servants, God of all people:

Grant us all the favour of thy gracious love;

Succour us, comfort us, we humbly implore thee.

Alleluia.

-*Magnificat*, Rutter

The Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Pardon

The Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Lesley Ratcliff

INTERCESSION AND DEDICATION

*The Offertory Hymn No.170: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" CAROL

*The Offertory Prayer Chris Champion

The Offertory "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" Manz

*The Doxology OLD HUNDREDETH

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Gospel Matthew 1:18-25 Charles Poole

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Anthem "Light Dawns on a Weary World" Wilberg

Light dawns on a weary world

when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.

Light dawns on a weary world:

the promised day of justice comes.

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands gush with springs;

the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!

We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,

as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

Love grows in a weary world

when hungry hearts find bread and children's dreams are fed.

Love grows in a weary world;

the promised feast of plenty comes.

Refrain

Hope blooms in a weary world

when creatures, once forlorn,

find wilderness reborn.

Hope blooms in a weary world:

the promised green of Eden comes.

Refrain

The Sermon "Reading Between the Lines" Charles Poole