

## 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

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you, bring the nations into your fold, pour out your Spirit upon all flesh, and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*Amen.*

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

*GLORIA*

\*The Benediction

Charles Poole

\*The Postlude

"Lift Up Your Heads"

Cherwien

*\*The congregation will please stand.*

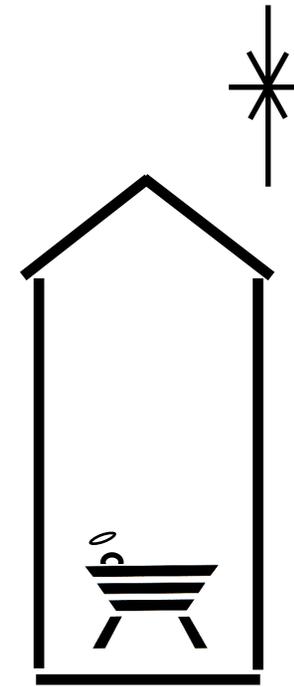
**The Lectionary passages for December 29 are found on the following pages in the Pew Bible:**

Isaiah 63:7-9 ~ page 605

Psalm 148 ~ page 508

Hebrews 2:10-18 ~ pages 971-972

Matthew 2:13-23 ~ page 784



## THE WORSHIP OF GOD

For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His shoulder.  
And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of His government and peace  
There will be no end,  
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,  
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice  
From that time forward, even forever.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

-Isaiah 9:6-7

**THE ACT OF WORSHIP**  
**The First Sunday of Christmastide**

December 29, 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

I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord, the praises of the Lord according to all that the Lord has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that God has granted them according to God's compassion, according to the abundance of the steadfast love of the Lord.

-Isaiah 63:7

The Prelude "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Burkhardt  
"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" Powell

The Spoken Call to Worship Charles Poole

\*The Processional Hymn No. 173: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" *ADESTE FIDELES*

\*The Christmas Banner Charlotte Poole

\*The Litany of Praise Mary Kathryn Allen

Leader: The Lord be with you;

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights;

**People: Praise the Lord, all angels; praise God, all hosts!**

Leader: Fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling the word of the Lord;

**People: Let them praise the name of the Lord!**

Leader: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

**People: Let them praise the name of the Lord!**

Leader: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth;

**People: Let them praise the name of the Lord!**

**All: Let them all praise the name of the Lord, for the Lord's name alone is exalted; the majesty of the Lord is above earth and heaven.**

-Psalm 148, adapted

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

\*The Prayer of Invocation Mary Kathryn Allen

The Greeting Major Treadway

The Lessons Psalm 148  
Hebrews 2:10-18

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE**

The Meditation of Confession

As my prayer became more attentive and inward  
I had less and less to say.  
I finally became completely silent.  
I started to listen  
– which is even further removed from speaking.  
I first thought that praying entailed speaking.  
I then learnt that praying is hearing,  
not merely being silent.  
This is how it is.  
To pray does not mean to listen to oneself speaking;  
Prayer involves becoming silent,  
And being silent,  
And waiting until God is heard.

-Søren Kierkegaard

The Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Pardon

The Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer Major Treadway

**INTERCESSION AND DEDICATION**

\*The Offertory Hymn No.162: "The First Noel, the Angel Did Say" *THE FIRST NOEL*

\*The Offertory Prayer Mary Kathryn Allen

The Offertory "Silent Night" Pethel

\*The Doxology *OLD HUNDREDTH*

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

The Gospel Matthew 2:13-23 Charles Poole

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem "O Holy Night" Adam  
Amanda Milam, *soprano*

The Sermon "The World Into Which Jesus Was Born" Charles Poole