

*The Communion Response

VENI EMMANUEL

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ, all creatures here below.*

*Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter,
One God Triune, whom we adore.*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel. Amen.

Departing to Respond to God's Love

*The Closing Hymn No. 114

Return My People
REPTON

*The Benediction

*The Postlude and Recessional

"Ring Out Ye Crystal Spheres" from Hodie
Ralph Vaughan Williams

(Following the Choir's recession, you may quietly follow or be seated until the conclusion of the postlude)



At Northminster, Everyone Is a Minister
Our Equipping Ministers

Senior Pastor: Rev. Jillian Hankamer **Director of Music:** Rev. Dr. Deborah Chandler

Organist/Musician in Residence: Rev. Dr. D.H. Clark **Music Associate:** Mr. Justin Havard

Choral Associate: Miss Naomi Kilpatrick **Admin. Assistant:** Ms. Renee Decker

In Memoriam Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy, Senior Pastor 1992-2016

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The Worship of God

December 14, 2025

The Third Sunday in Advent

The Sunday of Joy

Welcome to our service at Northminster Church. We believe that true worship is an active experience for each worshipper. Let us enter into the realization that this hour provides us with an opportunity to encounter the Holy. At this time, please silence all electronic devices.

Gathering for Worship

The Preludes *Versets on MAGNIFICAT – Johann Pachelbel* 10:45 a.m.

Silent Night – Franz Gruber, arr. Bill Wolaver
Christmas Day – Gustav Holst, Tr. James Mansfield

The Chiming of the Hour 11:00 a.m.

The Welcome and Opportunities Rev. Jillian Hankamer

The Lighting of the Advent Candle The Aro Family

One: In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of joy?

Many: We see glimmers of joy in birthday candles and homemade cards. We see joy in the laughter of children and the delight of grandparents. We see joy in meals around the table and in the singing of Christmas songs.

One: You are right. Even in a fearful world, joy is all around us. Today we light the candle of joy as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that.

Many: Thanks be to God for that good news!

*The Response to the Candle Lighting (See Insert)

Light the Advent Candle
ADVENT CANDLE SONG

The Processional *(Please rise in body or in spirit as the processional cross passes your row)*

*The Opening Hymn No. 110

Now Bless the God of Israel
FOREST GREEN

Listening for God in Word, Prayer, and Music

The Children's Message

Rev. Hankamer

I see the face of God in you; the love of Christ comes shining through, and I am blessed to be with you, beloved, holy child of God.

The Voluntary

Sing We Now of Christmas

Traditional French Melody
arr. Carol Tornquist

The Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 1:4-10

One: A reminder that God equips all of us to speak.
Many: Thanks be to God.

*The Hymn No. 109

With Joy Draw Water
ST. COLUMBA

The Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Hankamer

*The Gospel Acclamation

D. H. Clark

Good news from God! How great our joy! Joy! Joy! Joy! Glory be to you, O Christ.

*The Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:26-39

One: The Gospel of our Lord.
Many: Thanks be to God.

Choir: How great our joy! Joy! Joy! Joy! Praise be to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

Even in Our Fear, We Are Called Forward

Rev. Hankamer

The Anthem

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

Hugo Jüngst
arr. D. H. Clark

My soul gives glory to my God, my heart sings praises long and loud. How great my joy. Joy! Joy! Joy! God saw me in my meek estate and lifted me in marvelous ways. My God has done great things for me, holy God's name and great mercy. How great my joy! Joy! Joy! Joy! This is the dawn of peace for all, and justice rolls like a mighty waterfall. Love raises up the poor and meek and casts the mighty from their seat. God's time is here. Justice clear. Joy! Joy! Joy! Praise God whose love shall reign forever and forever more. Amen.

Text based on Mary's Song by D. H. Clark

Dedicating Gifts to God

The Offertory is a time of personal devotion and an opportunity to present silently before God what we can give of ourselves. Monetary gifts may be made privately in the offering plate located in the aisle at the back of the sanctuary or via PayPal by scanning the QR Code found on the insert.

Sharing Holy Communion

The Invitation to Communion

The Prayer of Jesus (Using "Father" or "God" and "trespasses")

The Words of Institution

The service of holy communion is a celebration of the presence of God and Christ among us and a feast of bounty for all. In this place, all are welcome to partake. You will be directed, row by row, to come forward. The server will place the bread in your open palms. Gluten-free wafers are available. You are invited to either partake of the common cup containing wine or you may choose to take one of the individual cups containing grape juice. If you wish to take communion using intinction (dipping the bread), please use the individual cups.

The Meditation

"O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion"
From *Messiah*

G. F. Handel

Naomi Kilpatrick, mezzo soprano

**Please rise, if able.*