

The Communion Anthem                      *Wexford Carol*                      12 c. Irish Melody  
Arr. D. H. Clark

\*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. 117                      *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates*  
TRURO

\*The Benediction

The Postlude and Recessional

*Trumpet Tune on BESANÇON ("People, Look East") – Jerry Westenkuehler*

(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 7, 2025

The Second Sunday in Advent

## The Sunday of Peace

*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                      *The Huron Carol* - arr. Phillip Keveren                      10:45 a.m.

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* - arr. Gwyneth Walker

*Fantasia on GREENSLEEVES* – Ralph Vaughan Williams, tr. D. H. Clark

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

The Welcome and Opportunities                      Rev. Jillian Hankamer

The Lighting of the Advent Candle                      The Cross Family

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

**Many: We see glimmers of peace in the quiet of early morning, when people shake hands, when loved ones say they're sorry, and when the church sings together.**

One: You are right. Even in a fearful world, peace is all around us. Today we light the candle of peace as a reminder of this good news.

**Many: May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, peace is present. We only have to look for it. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*\*Please rise, if able, in body or in spirit.*

The Response (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. 104

*We Hail You God's Anointed*  
ELLACOMBE

## 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 *Prelude on Mach höch die Tür (Lift High the Gate)*

Paul Kickstat

The Scripture Reading

Isaiah 43:19-21

One: Words filled with the anticipation of Advent.  
**Many: Thanks be to God.**

\*The Hymn (see insert)

*Come O Long Expected Jesus*  
HYFRYDOL

The Prayer of Confession

***On-the-move God, we have every reason to hold onto hope. We have every reason to believe that spring will come, that flowers will bloom, that the sun will rise. And yet, too often hope slips through our fingers. With anxious hearts we cry out to you, "Will change ever come? Will things ever get better? Will I ever make a difference?" Soothe our wandering hearts and show us the places where the sun is shining. Show us the places where you are on the move. With open hearts we pray, amen.***

The Assurance of Grace

One: Family of faith, in our honesty, we are heard. In our worries we are held. In our failings we are forgiven. In our fear we are not alone. Friends, this is the good news of the gospel!

**Many: When we're running out of hope, God is still at work. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

\*The Gospel Acclamation

D. H. Clark

*Blest be the God of Israel who lights the path to peace. Glory be to you, O Christ.*

\*The Gospel Lesson

Matthew 11:1-11

One: The Gospel of our Lord.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

Choir: *The dawning of the day of peace. Praise be to you, O Christ.*

The Sermon

***When We're Running Out of Hope, God Is At Work***

Rev. Hankamer

The Anthem

*E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*

Paul Manz

*Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shared his life that we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to our Lord. The Lord, Almighty God who was and is and is to come. Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below for Christ is coming soon! E'en so Lord Jesus quickly come, and night shall be no more; they need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All!*

-Adapted by Ruth Manz, from Revelation 22

## 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.*

*\*Please rise, if able.*