

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 take your own cup.

The Communion Anthem *In the Bleak Midwinter* Gustav Holst
arr. Gwyneth Walker

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan. Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone. Snow had fallen, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter long ago. Heaven cannot hold Him, nor can earth sustain. Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter, a stable warm sufficed. Our Lord God almighty, our Savior Jesus Christ. Angels and arch angels may have gathered there. Cherubim and seraphim thronged the evening air. But His mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshipped the beloved child with a tender kiss. What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb. If I were a wise one, I would do my part. But what can I give Him? I would give my heart. - Text: Christina Rossetti

*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 Congregational Carol Sing and Recessional (See Insert)

*The Benediction

The Postlude *Trumpet Tune on “People Look East”* Jerry Westenkuhler

***The floral offering is given to the
Glory of God
And in loving memory of
Bill Kight
By the Kight Family***



The Worship of God

December 15, 2024

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. As we become aware of the presence of those seated near us 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. Then, please sign and pass the attendance register on the inside aisle of each row so we can know of your presence with us.

Gathering for Worship

The Preludes Voluntary on WINCHESTER NEW (Opening Hymn) – C. S. Lang 10:45 a.m.
Interlude on NOËL NOUVELETTE – William S. Lloyd Webber
Sinfonia from *Christmas Oratorio* – J. S. Bach
Scherzo on IN DULCI JUBILO (In Sweet Joy) – Thomas Candlyn

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 weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

Many: Let us start small. Let us begin with what is right in front of us. Let us do the good that is ours to do, and let us do it with joy!

One: Yes, let us begin with joy. Today we light the candles of hope, peace, and joy.

Many: May these lights remind us of what could be. May these lights inspire action. May the warmth of these lights fill us with joy.

One: May it be so! Amen.

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. 115
(Stanzas 1, 2, 3, 6)

The Baptist Shouts on Jordan’s Shore
WINCHESTER NEW

The Children’s Message and Blessing

Rev. Hankamer

I see the face of God in you; The love of Christ comes

shin - ing through; and I am blessed to be with you, Be - lov - ed, ho - ly child of God.

Listening for God in Word and Prayer

The Voluntary

In Dulci Jubilo (In Sweet Joy)

J.S. Bach

The Scripture Reading

Isaiah 58:9-12

One: Words to inspire us in our darkest moments.
Many: Thanks be to God.

The Call to Confession

Rev. Hankamer

The Corporate Confession

Liberating God, there are days when the world can feel like it’s crumbling. There are days when we doubt that we can make a difference. We ask ourselves, *what could these two hands do? What could this one voice say?* Shake us free of our own paralysis and self-doubt. Remind us that we are not called to fix everything. We are simply called to do the good that is ours to do. With hope in our hearts and a fire in our bones, we pray. Amen.

The Words of Forgiveness

Pastor: Friends, no matter how many times we lose momentum, doubt our abilities, or tell ourselves that the problems of the world are simply too big, God sees what we cannot. God calls us by name, surrounds us with grace, and invites us to begin again. Trusting in this good news, join me in proclaiming these words of forgiveness:

All: We are loved. We are forgiven. We are invited to do the good that is ours to do. Thanks be to God for this new beginning.

*The Hymn (see insert)

Do the Good That’s Yours To Do
TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

*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 3:7-16

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

Do the Good That is Yours to Do

Rev. Hankamer

The Anthem

The First Noël

Traditional English Carol
arr. Dan Forrest

Dedicating Gifts to God

The Offertory is a time of personal devotion and reflection on the day’s teaching, and an opportunity to present silently before God what we can give of ourselves. Monetary gifts, which are an important part of our worship and commitment to our church, 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”)

*Please rise, if able.