



Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

1st Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2015

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Immanuel

*And God said, How can they understand,
their eyes blinded by blood, their ears
stunned with blasphemies?*

*Not even the psalmist's loveliest rhapsodies,
the fragrance of the forest, the statement of sunrise,
can speak my love through their loud guilt and fears.*

I will write my law of love in the dust of the earth

I will make it alive and yielding with my tears

I will knead it and form it gently in my hand

I will utter it in a poem of human birth

and He shall be borne of my spirit,

He shall be breath of my voice,

and all flesh shall see it and hear it

together, and know, and rejoice.

-William R. Mitchell

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Prelude on Veni Emmanuel

Hal Hopson

BRINGING THE LIGHT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The days are coming, says the Lord,

when the promise will be fulfilled.

Heaven and earth will pass away,

but God's word will stand forever.

Let us worship God.

*SONG OF PRAISE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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*CALL TO CONFESSION

*ADMITTING OUR BROKENNESS

**Lord, have mercy on us.
We are not ready for your coming.
We live in sin,
as though there were no justice.
We live in fear,
as though there were no grace.
Forgive us, Lord.
Show us your mercy and steadfast love.
Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths,
for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.**

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news:
In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

*THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

*SONG OF RESPONSE

He Came Down

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*He came down that we may have hope.
He came down that we may have hope.
He came down that we may have hope.
Hallelujah forevermore.
(sing twice)*

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

"The Amazing Story"

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

Lyne-Maris Sama & Mariolise Sama

On this first Sunday of Advent
We light this candle of hope.

**Hope is our assurance that God will finish all He has started.
Hope is our confidence that He will do all He has promised.**

All the promises of God are fulfilled in Jesus Christ.
He is our hope, today and forever! (2 Corinthians 1:20)

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift. (2 Cor. 9:15)

RESPONSE	<p>He Came Down</p> <p><i>He came down that we may have hope.</i></p> <p><i>He came down that we may have hope.</i></p> <p><i>He came down that we may have hope.</i></p> <p><i>Hallelujah forevermore.</i></p> <p><i>(sing twice)</i></p>	
MOMENT FOR MISSION	<p>PROCLAIMING THE WORD</p>	Kirk Forthman
PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING		
SCRIPTURE READING		
	<p>Jeremiah 33:14-16</p> <p>The Word of the Lord.</p> <p>Thanks be to God.</p>	Page No. 645
	<p>Luke 21:25-36</p> <p>The Word of the Lord.</p> <p>Thanks be to God.</p>	Page No. 856
ANTHEM	Come to Set Thy People Free	
MESSAGE	Choosing Hope	Tracy L. Evans
*SONG OF FAITH	The Days are Surely Coming	357
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	<p>We believe that God has entrusted the church</p> <p>with the message of reconciliation</p> <p>in and through Jesus Christ.</p> <p>We believe that the church is called</p> <p>to be the salt of the earth</p> <p>and the light of the world.</p> <p>We believe that the church is called blessed</p> <p>because it is a peacemaker.</p> <p>We believe that the church is witness</p> <p>both by word and by deed</p> <p>to the new heaven and the new earth</p> <p>in which righteousness dwells.</p> <p><i>Adapted from the Confession of Belhar</i></p>	

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Response ... Emmanuel, come; **O come and save us**

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 35

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY O Come, Thou Wisdom From on High

John Leavitt

*DOXOLOGY RESPONSE

In the Bleak Midwinter

144 vs. 4

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

*DEDICATION PRAYER

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

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*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

*POSTLUDE

Fantasy on Picardy

Stephen Wurst

*Those who are able may stand.

We invite anyone who wishes to consider membership in this church to contact the pastor or a member of the session. You may also indicate interest in membership by checking the appropriate column in the ritual of friendship booklet. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

Lectionary Readings for December 6: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6.

The **Urban Mission** item of the month for November is Soup. Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.

Hearing-assistance devices and **large print hymnals** are available from the ushers.

Ushers for today's service are Jessica and Will Farris.

On **Wednesday, December 2** Memorial will be ringing the Salvation Army Red Kettle bells. One more Bell Ringer is needed for the 6-7 time slot. The bell ringing will take place at Hobby Lobby on 24th and Main. If you want to ring a bell there are several time slots throughout the day with only one bell ringer, so if you want to keep another company contact Paul Phelps at pphelps1@cox.net or 405-310-3198

BSA Troop 245 is hosting a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on **Saturday, December 12th from 8am-11am** in Memorial's Fellowship Hall. The proceeds will go toward our parking lot project, so be on the lookout for the flyer.

If you need anything in the December Newsletter please email the information to mempres1@sbcglobal.net by **Monday November 30th by noon.**

WEDNESDAY

December 2

3:00 P.M. – Kids' Club

5:00 P.M. – Children's Choir

6:30 P.M. – Chancel Choir

THURSDAY

December 3

10:30 A.M. – Bible Study

SUNDAY

December 6

9:30 A.M. – Sunday School

10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments

10:55 A.M. – Worship Service with Communion

5:00 P.M. – M.Y. Group

As part of the **ecumenical prayer cycle**, we ask you to pray for a particular region of the world each week: **Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger**
Give thanks for: The freedom for Christians to worship in Mauritania even though it is an Islamic country. Christians who retain their faith and continue to serve Christ even though they are tiny minorities in some of these countries. Those who depend on semi-nomadic and nomadic ways of life and who continue to survive and retain their ethnic heritage. Those who plant trees to counter the spread of the desert. **Liberia, Sierra Leone**