



Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*We thank you, O God,
for all those in Scripture who have pointed to Christ:
for your prophets Elijah and Isaiah, for other prophets,
and for John.*

*We thank you, too,
for those in our lives who have pointed us to Christ:
pastors and teachers, strangers and friends.*

*Give us eyes to see him today
among those who are oppressed, imprisoned,
brokenhearted, or beaten down,
and we will give our testimony, too:
how Christ releases and sets free;
how he turns ashes into garlands;
how he repairs and builds up what was ruined.*

*We, too, will point others to Jesus,
the Light of the world. Amen.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

The Angel Gabriel

Stanley Westen

BRINGING THE LIGHT

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory.

Alleluia!

Song: Light one Candle to Watch for Messiah

#85, Verse 3

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus says: I am coming soon.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

God sends good news to the oppressed.

Let us worship God.

*SONG OF PRAISE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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*CALL TO CONFESSION

*ADMITTING OUR BROKENNESS

**God our Maker, we confess
that we are not ready to meet you.**

**You send your Spirit to release us,
yet we remain captivated by sin.**

**You stand among us in Christ Jesus,
yet we claim we do not know you.**

Forgive us, God of grace.

Make us holy; make us whole.

**Keep us safe and sound
until the day of your coming;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

(Time of silent reflection)

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

In the name of Jesus Christ, we 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

Gloria

Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son,

Glory to the Holy Spirit, Glory to the Three in One.

As it was in the beginning, now and evermore shall be,

World without end, amen. World without end, amen. Amen.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

MOMENT FOR MISSION

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Melissa Gill

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Page No. 603

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Lucy Lanning, Cantor

Psalm 126

Richard Proulx



The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy, we are filled with joy.

Text: Verses, *The Revised Grail Psalms*, © 2010, Conception Abbey and The Grail, admin. by GIA Publications, Inc.;
refrain, *Lectionary for Mass*, © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL. Music: Refrain, Richard Proulx, © 1975, GIA Publications, Inc.;
verses, Joseph Gelineau, SJ, © 1963, The Grail, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, and Michel Guimont, © 2011, GIA Publications, Inc.

ANTHEM

Canticle of Mary

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Page No. 862

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Bearing the Light

Tracy L. Evans

*SONG OF FAITH

Christ is Coming!

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*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus.

**His faith and obedience were the response
of the perfect child of God.**

**He was the fulfillment
of God's promise to Israel,
the beginning of the new creation,
and the pioneer of the new humanity.**

**He gave history its meaning and direction
and called the church to be his servant
for the reconciliation of the world.**

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.19

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Response:... Come quickly, Lord; **our hope is in you.**

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 35

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY Partita on "Hark The Glad Sound": Andante

Paul Bouman

*DOXOLOGY

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One
praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in one.

*DEDICATION PRAYER

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

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*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

CHORAL BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Allegro

Paul Bouman

*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 24: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20).

The **Urban Mission** item of the month for **December 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 head usher.

Ushers for today's service are Michael Yeager and Eileen Burke.

We will worship at our regular time on Christmas Eve Day. There will NOT be Sunday School.

Please join us for a special **Christmas Eve candlelight service, December 24th** at 7pm.

Please remember to turn in your **pledge cards for 2018**.

Reminder, **the office will be closed** December 25-26 and January 1st.

SUNDAY **December 17**

9:30 A.M. – Sunday School
10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments
10:55 A.M. – Worship Service

TUESDAY **December 19**

7:00 P.M. – Session Meeting

WEDNESDAY **December 20**

6:30 P.M. – Chancel Choir

SUNDAY **December 24**

10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments
10:55 A.M. – Worship Service
7:00 P.M. – Christmas Eve Service