Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 1, 2024

1st Sunday in Advent

WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING YOU ARE A BLESSING

You are a blessing. If you hear nothing else, if the wind howls, if your brain runs amok, if rebuttals and denials line up like little toy soldiers, then hear this you are a blessing.

I knew it the first moment I met you / heard your name / learned there are 7 billion of us on this planet. I knew it in my bones, the way my feet know the way home. You are a blessing.

For our creating God breathed life into your being. And there is simply no way that, along with that life, some of God's goodness didn't slip right in.

So tell the rebuttals to rest. Tell the toy soldiers to find another hill, because this one is reserved for joy and celebration. You are a blessing. Breathe it in. Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

PRELUDE

BRINGING THE LIGHT

Praeludium on Veni, Emmanuel

Marilyn Biery

*CALL	TO WORSHIP	Vince Leseney
	God says,	,
	"Do not be afraid."	
	God says,	
	"I have called you by name."	
	God says,	
	"I will be with you."	
	God says,	
	"You are precious and honored in my sight."	
	At the beginning of this season,	
	at the start of this week,	
	at the top of this hour,	
	may we wrap ourselves in these words.	
	May we begin again.	
	Let us worship our Holy God!	

*SONG OF PRAISE

My Lord, What a Morning

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Let us pray:

Affirming God, Your first words to creation were words of love. You looked at this earth and said, "It is acod." You spoke affirmations through the prophets. You spoke blessings over Mary. You spoke belonging through Christ. At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing, made in your image, held in your love. Forgive us for forgetting this truth. Forgive us for measuring our worth by society's measuring stick instead of yours. We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray, amen. (Time of silent reflection)

God says,

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine."

We are forgiven. We are loved. Let it leave you awestruck. Thanks be to God! May we believe it. Amen.

*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 Angels We Have Heard on High (Refrain) Hymnal, No.113 Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING		Larry Upton	
SCRIPTURE READING			
Isaiah 43:1-7		Page No. 585	
The Wo	ord of the Lord.		
	Thanks be to God.		
ANTHEM	A Peaceful Alleluia		

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:26-38

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE		You Are a Blessing	Tracy L. Evans		
*SONG OF F.	AITH	Steal Away	Hymnal, No. 358		
*AFFIRMATIC	We believe in a l who calls us Belo We believe that	byed. This blessing showed up stowed upon the hemory he doubting. d's blessing, e water, toward us. pe, this blessing, in love. un enough.	-		
Sharing of Joys and Concerns					

THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY	Creator of the Stars of Night (verse 4)	Hymnal, No. 84
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To God the Father, God the Son, And God the Spirit, Three in One, Praise, honor, might, and glory be, From age to age eternally. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SEALING THE WORD—CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal, p. 35

Please pray the Lord's Prayer in the language and wording most familiar to you.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG	In Case No One Ever Told You	Bulletin p. 7

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*POSTLUDE

Benedictus

Alec Rowley

*Please rise in body or spirit.

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 on the attendance sheet. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

Lectionary Readings for December 8: Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6.

The Food & Shelter items of the month for December are canned soup and crackers. **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.





In Case No One Ever Told You

LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8

Words by Anna Strickland, 2024

Music from the Praxis Pietatis Melica, 1668

