



Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

1st Sunday in Advent

December 2, 2012

Let all who enter enjoy the fellowship of friends until the bells call us to worship. Let us then, in oneness of spirit, turn our reverent attention to the worship of God.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

God of grace, ever faithful to your promises, the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes, for he is Lord forever and ever.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE O Come, O Come, Emmanuel John Leavitt

THE MEANING OF THE SERVICE Lucy Lanning

SCRIPTURE READING Jeremiah 33:14-16 Page No. 683
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Vince Leseney

Jesus is coming, God's gift of hope for us.

**The promise of God is sure: "A righteous branch will spring up...
and he shall exercise justice and righteousness in the land."**

In this season of Advent, we celebrate the coming of Jesus to us in astonishing meekness, and we await his coming again in awesome majesty.

Until that day, we live as Jesus' disciples, witnessing to God's faithfulness and salvation in a world that is both stressed and distressed.

As we light the candle of hope, we welcome Jesus as God's gift of hope for the world's healing, when all sorrow and sin, hunger and pain, tears and death, will pass away.

We wait for that day and work toward it, with words of hope and deeds of love, in the power of Jesus.

Let us pray together...

Lord Jesus Christ, hope of the world, we celebrate your coming to us in the fragility of flesh and blood, and anticipate your coming again for the healing of the nations. Help us share the promises of hope with those facing despair, those enduring injustice, and those struggling to find direction. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE

He Came Down

Trad. Cameroon

He came down that we may have hope, (3x)
Hallelujah forevermore!

*CALL TO CONFESSION

The day of the Lord is coming soon. The signs have been fulfilled.

But who can abide the day of His coming, and who can stand when He appears?

Lest that day surprise us unawares, let us confess our sins to God our Father, imploring his forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ, who will soon come as Judge and King.

*ADMITTING OUR BROKENNESS

(silent meditation and self-examination)

Most merciful God,

We long for your coming. Yet we are often unprepared for you to come, because we have not always lived as your people. Many times in our lives we have disobeyed your will. We have not always done what we should have done. Sometimes we have done what we should not have done. We implore your forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ, and seek the power of your Holy Spirit to restore our faith.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

He who is coming has come: born among us to live our life, to die our death, and to guarantee our resurrection. For His sake I proclaim to you forgiveness of sin and transformation through Jesus Christ. The gifts of the Spirit are yours in great abundance.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

*ADVENT SONG *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* 2

LESSONS OF CHRISTMAS Charlotte Lovett

*SONG OF RESPONSE *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Hymn 31, v. 1

THE SANCTUARY EVERGREENS Tracy Evans

ANTHEM *Peace, Hope, Light, Love* John Purifoy

THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA Lucy Lanning

CHORAL RESPONSE *What Star Is This with Beams So Bright*

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING Michael Yeager

God, you have been faithful to us through the years. May your word teach us today how to continue to be faithful to you. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Page No. 1030

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Luke 21:25-36 Page No. 915

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PARAMETERS AND ADVENT COLORS		Charlotte Lovett
*ADVENT SONG	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	9
THE ADVENT CANDLES		Michael Yeager
*ADVENT SONG	<i>O Lord, How Shall I Meet You</i>	11, v. 1-2
THE NATIVITY		Lucy Lanning
*SONG OF RESPONSE	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	44, v. 1 & 3
THE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS		Vince Leseney
*SONG OF RESPONSE	<i>As with Gladness Men of Old</i>	63, v. 1 & 3
CHRISTMAS CAROLING		Tracy Evans
CAROLING SONG	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i> (feel free to sing with the carolers as you are able)	23, v.1-2
THE CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS		Tracy Evans
THE OFFERING		
OFFERTORY	<i>Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella</i>	Alfred Fedak
*DOXOLOGY	<i>Gloria in Excelsis Deo</i>	23 (refrain)
DEDICATION PRAYER		

SEALING THE WORD - CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION MUSIC

Creator of the Stars of Night

Flor Peeters

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Our ears have heard the words of your prophet, O God. Our spirits have responded to the call – “PREPARE!” And the roadwork has begun. A highway is being laid in our hearts! We accept these gifts of bread and wine as a sign of our commitment to preparing for you today. Our hearts are ready for you! Amen.

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG

Prepare the Way

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*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Hope Is a Star that Shines in the Night

*POSTLUDE

Prepare the Royal Highway

Emma Lou Diemer

*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 9: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36.

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

Your **contribution statements** are ready. Please help us save a stamp by picking up your statement in the narthex after the service.

Next Sunday, immediately following worship, we will have a brief **congregational meeting** to elect Elders and Deacons to the class of 2015.

You are invited to join the Kid's Club in **caroling** at Cedar Creek Nursing Facility on December 12, 3:30-4:30 P.M.

The annual **Christmas Pageant** will be Wednesday, December 19. Bring a dish to share for a potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. The pageant will begin when dinner has concluded. You won't want to miss this special event as we see our wonderful kids present their take on the Christmas Story.

SUNDAY**December 2**

9:30 A.M. – Sunday School

10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments

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

TUESDAY**December 4**

7:00 P.M. – Session meeting

WEDNESDAY**December 5**

3:30 P.M. – Kid's Club

5:00 P.M. – Children's Hand-Chime Choir

5:30 P.M. – Children's Choir

7:00 P.M. – Chancel Choir

THURSDAY**December 6**

10:00 A.M. – Serve at Food and Shelter, Inc.

SUNDAY**December 9**

9:30 A.M. – Sunday School

10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments

10:55 A.M. – Worship Service

12:00 P.M. – Congregational Meeting after Worship

12:15 P.M. – Worship & Music Committee