



# Memorial Presbyterian Church

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2013

*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 glory, we know that you are coming at an unexpected hour. Come to us now,  
in spirit and truth. Take us up into your presence, and make us ready for your reign of  
peace; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

John Jordan

### BRINGING THE LIGHT

ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING

Michael Yeager and Doris Hinson

The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language – the coming of Christ – because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ *is* coming. Christ is *always* coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so we light the first candle, the candle of hope, and dare to express our longing for peace, for healing, and the well-being of all creation. Let us pray together.

**Loving God, as we enter this Advent season,  
we open all the dark places in our lives and memories  
to the healing light of Christ.  
Show us the creative power of hope.  
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,  
that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

These are days of heavy clouds stifling sunlight,  
the world burdened by gray gloom.

**Open our eyes, Lord,  
to the coming of your light  
that lifts darkness from our lives.**

Chill seeps deep into bones.  
Hearts grow rigid with frost-hardness.  
Souls wrap up against the lonely cold.

**Open our souls, Lord,  
to the warmth of your coming.  
Melt the hardness that keeps us from you  
and from each other.**

With branches bared, trees sway against steel skies.  
Stems crumple under weight of frost.  
Old leaves decay under slippery foot.  
Nature depleted by winter's descent  
lies dormant, resting, awaiting rebirth.

**Open our world, Lord,  
Frozen by injustice.  
Clothe it with your renewing love.**

Gathering in this place where heaven and earth whisper greeting;  
In this house where the Monarch of Heaven comes to meet us;  
in the softness of this place, we wait like exiles of old for redemption,  
kindling lights of hope with prayers for Christ's coming.

\*SONG OF PRAISE

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

88, v. 1-2, 5-7

CALL TO PRAYER AND CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND CONFESSION

O Lord, we long for your coming into our world.

**We long for your justice.**

**We long for your peace.**

Creator, Redeemer, your people turn to you, for you alone have the power to heal. Mend the torn fabric of your church. (Lift prayers for the church aloud or in silence.)

(Sung)

**Creator of the stars of night,  
your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,  
we pray you, hear us when we call.**

84, v. 1

Peacemaker, Pain-bearer, restore the shalom of the earth burdened by the pollution of our sin, and guide all nations in the way of your wholeness. (Specific requests for creation's healing and petitions for places of political oppression and unrest around the world may be mentioned aloud or in silence.)

(Sung)

**Creator of the stars of night,  
your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,  
we pray You, hear us when we call.**

84, v. 1

Weaver of Compassion, restore those whose bodies, spirits, minds, and lives are broken by sickness, circumstance, or grief. (People may be named aloud or in silence before God. Please lift up those whose concerns are listed in the bulletin.)

(Sung)

**Creator of the stars of night,  
your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,  
we pray You, hear us when we call.**

84, v. 1

Healing God, we reach out to touch the hem of your grace, daring to pray for ourselves, for our own lives are broken, too. (In the silence, lift what's broken in your life to God in a prayer for healing, restoration, and resurrection.)

(Sung)

**Creator of the stars of night,  
your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,  
we pray You, hear us when we call. Amen.**

84, v. 1

Hear us, Redeemer Creator, for we ask all these things through and for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was broken that we might know life in all its wholeness.

**Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 60:2-5

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

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

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

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TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SONG

**Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly minded,  
for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
our full homage to demand.**

347, v. 1

SCRIPTURE READING

Revelation 22:1-5

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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ANTHEM

*Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*

MESSAGE

*Longing*

Tracy L. Evans

SONG

**King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
in the body and the blood,  
he will give to all the faithful  
his own self for heavenly food.**

347, v. 2

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*

Healey Willan

\*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

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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.**

...and forever sing to the glory of your holy name:

(Sung)

**Rank on rank the host of heaven  
spreads its vanguard on the way,  
as the Light of light descendeth  
from the realms of endless day,  
that the powers of hell may vanish  
as the shadows clear away.**

347, v .3

...You lead all who follow you with faith's song throughout the ages:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SONG

**At his feet the six-winged seraph,  
cherubim, with sleepless eye,  
veil their faces to the presence,  
as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord most high!"**

347, v .4

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION MUSIC

*Creator of the Stars of Night*

Flor Peeters

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

## FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

\*SENDING SONG

*Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*

97

\*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*BLESSING AND CHARGE

The night is far spent, the day is at hand, let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. You are the light of the world.

**God has called us to be light to the world,  
to fill our hearts with the light of Christ,  
that it may shine through all creation.**

As you go out into the world,  
may God's light go with you,  
may it shine through you,  
until every dark corner of the world  
is filled with the light of Christ,  
the Light of incarnation and of God's presence.

**The light of life send upon us;  
the joy of peace send upon us;  
the gladness of goodwill send upon us.**

May the glory of the Lord shine round about you,  
the light of Christ's presence glow within you.  
And the fire of the Holy Spirit lead you forth in comfort and joy.

**Amen.**

CHORAL BENEDICTION

*The People Who Walked in Darkness*

\*POSTLUDE

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Charles Ore

\*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.

Today's liturgy is adapted from the "Advent Longing for the Light of Healing" service from the PC(USA).

**Lectionary Readings** for December 8: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12.

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

**Ushers** for today's service are Ann Fayles and Loreen Upton.

**Communion servers** for today's service are Mike and Joan Cole, and Ann Fayles.

The **Angel Tree** will be set up on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, & 15<sup>th</sup>. Each child receives two gifts: one article of clothing, and one fun gift. Please wrap the gifts and attach the name tag you select. Gifts must be at the church no later than December 18. Contact Eileen Burke if you have any questions.

The annual children's **Christmas Pageant** is coming soon, on Wednesday, December 11. We will enjoy a potluck dinner at 6:00 P.M., followed by the pageant at 7:00. Please join us.

**SUNDAY**

**December 1**

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

**TUESDAY**

**December 3**

- 7:00 P.M. – Session meeting

**WEDNESDAY**

**December 4**

- 3:15 P.M. – Kids' Club
- 5:00 P.M. – Children's Choir
- 7:00 P.M. – Chancel Choir

**THURSDAY**

**December 5**

- 10:00 A.M. – Serve at Food for Friends
- 10:30 A.M. – Bible Study in Library

**SUNDAY**

**December 8**

- 9:30 A.M. – Sunday School
- 10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments
- 10:55 A.M. – Worship Service
- 12:00 P.M. – Worship & Music meeting
- 5:00 P.M. – Memorial Youth Group