



# Memorial Presbyterian Church

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 22, 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

*Eternal God of power and grace,  
who comes to us in surprising ways—  
in angel appearances, in defeat of enemies,  
and in resurrection from the dead—  
show us the face of Immanuel in our time.  
Bring us from fear to awe, we pray;  
in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

David Cherwien

### BRINGING THE LIGHT

ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING

Charlotte Lovett; Elvira, Mariolise, Lyne-Maris & Blessing Sama

We have lit three candles – for hope, for peace, and for joy. Today we light the fourth candle – the candle of love. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love, because God loves us.

SONG

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

88, v. 5

**Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season. As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with**

**the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Magnify your love within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 80

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock!

**Restore us, O God; let your face shine,  
that we may be saved.**

Then we will never turn back from you;  
give us life, and we will call on your name.

**Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Let us worship God!

\*CAROL

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

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\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*ADMITTING OUR BROKENNESS

**You shower gifts on your people, O God, and forgive their faults. We keep accounts and settle old scores. You make peace, sending Christ as a sign of reconciliation and hope. We make war and call it peacekeeping. You give us a source of confidence as your Spirit is sent into our midst. We cause others to be restless, in our anxiety and self-concern. Have mercy upon us, forgive, and free us, that we may be renewed to serve your people with goodwill.**

\*DECLARATION 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

*Glory Be to the Father*

581

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Ann Fayles

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Page No. 591

Matthew 1:18-25

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Page No. 835

ANTHEM

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

Please join us on the third verse:

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

MESSAGE

*Emmanuel: God With Us*

Tracy L. Evans

CAROL

*That Boy-Child of Mary*

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v.1-choir  
v.2-congregation  
v.3-women  
v.4-congregation  
v.5-men  
v.6-congregation

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

...O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 35

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Love Has Come*

Alfred V. Fedak

\*DOXOLOGY      *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*  
DEDICATION PRAYER

606

**FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

\*CAROL      *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

123

\*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*BLESSING AND CHARGE

Depart in peace, and take with you the certain knowledge  
that God is always coming into the world.

**We will seek God, not in a long ago stable or ancient manger,  
but in the people we meet and depths of our own hearts.**

May the blessing of Christmas make you a blessing to others;  
may the peace of the season pervade all that you do.

**We will welcome the challenge of discipleship.**

**We will offer ourselves as God's ministers.**

**We will go forth in hope, peace, joy, and love.**

CHORAL BENEDICTION

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

\*POSTLUDE      *The Snow Lay on the Ground*

Alice Jordan

\*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 29: Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23.

**The Urban Mission item** of the month for December is **powdered milk**. 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 John and Susan Beck.

Please join us for our **Christmas Eve** service at 7:00 P.M. (organ prelude beginning at 6:45) on Tuesday. This service of nine lessons and carols will conclude with the traditional lighting of candles and singing of *Silent Night*. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors.

**End-of-year giving:** As the end of the year approaches, we would like to remind you that contributions are deductible in the year they are made. Checks must be received by the church or postmarked before January 1, 2014 to be included in this year's contribution statement.

**SUNDAY**

**December 22**

9:30 A.M. – Sunday School

10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments

10:55 A.M. – Worship Service

5:00 P.M. – Memorial Youth Group

**TUESDAY**

**December 24**

7:00 P.M. – Christmas Eve service

**WEDNESDAY**

**December 25**

Merry Christmas!

No activities – church office closed

**SUNDAY**

**December 29**

9:30 A.M. – No Children's Sunday School

10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments

10:55 A.M. – Worship Service