



Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2013

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Living God, on this holy night we gather—to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory; to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work; to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise; to sit with Mary, cradling your love. May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy: for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.

CHRISTMAS PRELUDE

<i>Adeste fideles</i>	Jeanne Demessieux
<i>Savior of the Nations, Come</i>	J. S. Bach
<i>From Heaven Above to Earth I Come</i>	Aaron David Miller
<i>God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen</i>	Michael Burkhardt
<i>La Nativité</i>	Jean Langlais

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING

Tim, Jona, Chelsea & Madison Thiessen, Jessica & Will Farris

Hope, peace, joy, and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in this one we light tonight: the Christ candle. In Christ we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows justice, the joy of self-fulfillment in community, and the love that encompasses us in all our diversity, empowering us to make our own unique contribution to this world. In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps.

We rejoice in God's steadfast presence in our lives, and in God's unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth—born of Mary, growing through childhood into an adult ministry, in all his life manifesting the peace, love, and justice of God; his voice undimmed by the centuries, his call and his promise as clear to us as it was to his disciples so long ago. Come to us, Lord Jesus, be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, our lives. May the light of your life be kindled in us, and lead us to the shining truth, of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen.

*CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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*OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 96

Sing to the Lord a new song;

Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Sing to the Lord and bless God's name;

Tell the good news of salvation from day to day.

Declare God's glory among the nations,

God's marvelous works among all the peoples.

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

the world, and those who live in it.

Let the whole creation sing for joy

at the presence of God, who is coming.

God is coming indeed,

to judge the earth with righteousness,

and the peoples with equity and truth.

Praise the Lord!

*CAROL

Once in Royal David's City

140

v. 1 – Lucy Lanning, soloist, v. 2 – women, v. 3 – men, v. 4 – ALL

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Lucy Lanning

*Adam and Eve disobey God's command
and disrupt the order and goodness of creation*

CAROL

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

Michael Yeager

*God promises that, through Abraham,
all the peoples of the world will be blessed*

CAROL

Of the Father's Love Begotten

108, v. 1-4

vv. 1, 2 – Michael Yeager, soloist; vv. 3, 4 – ALL

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Vince Leseney

*The people who walk in darkness
receive the promise of the Messiah*

CAROL	<i>The People Who Walked in Darkness</i> Vince Leseney, soloist	
FOURTH LESSON	Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9 <i>The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse to restore the peace of creation</i>	John Beck
*CAROL	<i>Blest Be the God of Israel</i>	109
FIFTH LESSON	Luke 1:26-35, 38 <i>An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child</i>	Kirk Forthman
CAROL	<i>No Wind at the Window</i> Kirk Forthman, soloist	
SIXTH LESSON	Luke 2:1-7 <i>Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child</i>	Charlotte Lovett
CAROL	<i>What Child Is This</i>	145
SEVENTH LESSON	Luke 2:8-16 <i>Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah</i>	Ross Robinson
*CAROL	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	113
EIGHTH LESSON	Matthew 2:1-11 <i>Magi from the East come seeking the Messiah and offer gifts to the baby Jesus</i>	Harry Wright
CAROL	<i>We Three Kings of Orient Are</i>	151, v. 1
NINTH LESSON	John 1:1-14 <i>The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us, full of grace and truth</i>	Lisa Upton
*CAROL	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	119
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE	The Lord's Prayer	Hymnal, p. 35

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Die Hirten an der Krippe
The Shepherds at the Manger

Franz Liszt

*DOXOLOGY

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Hymn 143, v. 4

DEDICATION PRAYER

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SHARING THE LIGHT

*CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night

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*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*POSTLUDE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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.