



Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

4th Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2014

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*O God of Elizabeth and Mary,
you visited your servants
with news of the world's redemption
in the coming of the Savior.
Make our hearts leap with joy,
and fill our mouths with songs of praise,
that we may announce glad tidings of peace,
and welcome the Christ in our midst. Amen.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Creator of the Stars of Night

Flor Peeters

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

As we light our advent candle,
we thank you for the peace you give.

As we prepare for Christmas time,
light of the world, shine on us.

In our lives of confusion and stress,
bring peace to our hearts.

To all the people who don't know you,
light of the world, shine through us.

In this world of pain and darkness,
help us to share the peace you give.
In our service here today,
light of the world, light the way.

*HYMN 91

Come, Come Emmanuel

COME, COME EMMANUEL

SCRIPTURE AND SYMBOL OF PEACE

Luke 1:26-38

Page No. 887

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Mary Pays a Visit
Erica Phelps and Holly Forsyth

Iona Community

CALL TO PRAYER AND CONFESSION

**Merciful God,
in your gracious presence
we confess our sin and the sin of this world.
Although Christ is among us as our peace,
we are a people divided against ourselves
as we cling to the values of a broken world.
The profit and pleasures we pursue
lay waste the land and pollute the seas.
The fears and jealousies that we harbor
set neighbor against neighbor
and nation against nation.
We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom,
of intellect and reason,
and have turned them into bonds of oppression.
Lord, have mercy upon us;
heal and forgive us.
Set us free to serve you in the world
as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.**

HYMN 752

Dona Nobis Pacem
Sing three times

DONA NOBIS PACEM

*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.

*RESPONSE 84 (v. 4) *To God the Father, God the Son* CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

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.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

MOMENT FOR MISSION *Christmas Joy Offering* Ann Fayles

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 Page No. 514

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Luke 1:46b-55 Page No. 888

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *Grant Us Peace*
Chancel and Children's Choirs

MESSAGE *Mary's Yes* Tracy L. Evans

*HYMN 84 *Creator of the Stars of Night* CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Prayers of the People, concluding with:

...we pray together:

**God of promise,
you have given us a sign of your love
through the gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior,
who was promised from ages past.**

**We believe as Joseph did
the message of your presence
whispered by an angel,
and offer our prayers for your world,
confident of your care and mercy for all creation. Amen.**

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Der Tag, der is so freudenreich, BWV 605*
This Is the Day That Is So Joyous

J. S. Bach

*DOXOLOGY *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

VENI EMMANUEL

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

DEDICATION PRAYER

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 107 *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*
Verse 1 — choir
Verses 2-4 — all sing

REJOICE, REJOICE

*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING AND CHARGE *The Way Of Peace*

William R. Mitchell

CHORAL BENEDICTION *Soon and Very Soon*

*POSTLUDE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!

Alfred Fedak

*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 28: Isaiah 61:10–62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4–7; Luke 2:22–40.

The **Urban Mission** item of the month for December is **cereal**. 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 Carl and Julie Forthman.

M.Y. Group will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 5:00 P.M. today for a Christmas party. This year we will play "dirty Santa" a little differently. All youth are asked to bring a pair of Christmas socks, wrapped. That's all the clues you get. You'll just have to come participate to see what happens next.

Please join us at 7:00 P.M. on December 24 for a **Christmas Eve** service of lessons and carols based on the prophecy of Isaiah. The organ prelude will begin at 6:45. The service will conclude with the traditional candle-light singing of *Silent Night*.

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, 2015 to be included in this year's contribution statement.

Today's **offertory**, from Bach's *Orgelbüchlein*, is based on an anonymous German chorale (hymn). Here are the words of the first and third verses, together with English translation:

1. Der Tag, der ist so freudereich,
aller Creature,
denn Gottes Sohn vom Himmelreich
von einer Jungfrau ist geboren;
Maria, du bist auserkorn,
dass du Mutter wärest.
Was geschah so wunderbar?
Gottes Sohn vom Himmelreich,
der ist Mensch geboren.

1. This is the day that is so joyous
for all creatures,
for God's Son from Heaven
is born of a virgin.
Mary, you were chosen
to be the mother.
What wondrous thing has happened?
God's Son from heaven
has been born man.

3. Als wie die Sonn durchscheint
das Glas mit ihrem klaren Scheine
und doch nicht versehret das,
so merket allgemeine:
zu gleicher Weis geboren ward
von einer Jungfrau rein und zart
Gottes Sohn, der werthe.
In ein Kripp ward er geleit,
grosse Marter für uns leidet
hie auf dieser Erden.

3. Just as the sun shines brightly
through glass
and still does not damage it,
behold, all!
In the same way was born,
of a virgin pure and gentle,
God's worthy Son.
He was laid in a manger
and suffered a great ordeal for us
here on earth.

SUNDAY

December 21

9:30 A.M. – Sunday School
10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments
10:55 A.M. – Worship Service
12:00 P.M. – Deacons Meeting
5:00 P.M. – M.Y. Group

WEDNESDAY

December 24

7:00 P.M. – Christmas Eve Service

THURSDAY

December 25

Church Office Closed – Merry Christmas!

SUNDAY

December 28

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments
10:55 A.M. – Worship Service