Hearing-assistance devices and **large print hymnals** are available from the ushers.

Ushers for today's service are Melissa Gill and Samuel McCann.

We will gather for a **Christmas Social Today**! It will be a potluck meal, we will sing Christmas carols, and there will be a pageant (though a new kind of pageant!)

Join Us!

Please join us on **December 24th**, at 7:00 pm for our **Christmas Eve Worship Service**.

Thanks to the volunteer Salvation Army Bell Ringers from Memorial Presbyterian Church who rang the Red Kettle bells at Dillard's east entrance on Dec. 2. Their efforts raised just shy of \$400 for the day. Bell ringers include: Holly VanAuken, Charlotte Lovett, Ann Forsyth and her High School class students, Doris Hinson, Eileen Burke, Charles Johnson, Jan Johnson, Joan Cole, Carolyn Montgomery, Harold Conner, Bill Taylor, Paul Phelps, Bart Ward, Carl Forthman, and Tamara Iske. Good Job everyone!

SUNDAY December 20

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School 10:30 a.m. – Fellowship and Refreshments 10:55 a.m. – Worship Service

WEDNESDAY December 23

5:00 p.m. – Children's Choir 6:30 p.m. – Chancel Choir

THURSDAY December 24

7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service

SUNDAY December 27

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School 10:30 a.m. – Fellowship and Refreshments

10.50 d.m. – renowsnip dna kenesinnem.

10:55 a.m. – Worship Service





Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

4th Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2015

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

God's Noel

Go down, angels, to the anguished earth—quiet the shepherds, startled by your wings, so quick to fear, hardened by sufferings—tell of this birth.

Speak joy to them—
tell of the sign that waits in Bethlehem
in a crude manger, swaddled in mere clay—
there every wildered mortal may
hear a carol sung
of heaven's making, rhymed in human tongue.

Comfort my people, coax them from their fear—
go sweetly sing,
"Sharing, assuaging humanhood
exults, exalts, the heavenly King!"
Sing, "Peace is come to men who love the good—
Be of good cheer!"
- William R. Mitchell

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Valet Will Ich Der Geben

Johann Sebastian Bach

BRINGING THE LIGHT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(LBO) Please rise in body or spirit for the Call to Worship. Let us magnify the Lord together!

Let us rejoice in God our Savior.

For a child will come from Bethlehem to redeem the people of God.

Let us worship God.

*SONG OF PRAISE Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus 83

*CALL TO CONFESSION
(LBO) Surely God is our salvation.
Have faith, and do not be afraid.
(Isaiah 12:2)
Trusting in God's grace,
let us confess our sin.

*ADMITTING OUR BROKENNESS

Eternal God, we confess
that we resist your holy realm.
You look with favor on the poor
while we treat the lowly with disdain.
You scatter the plans of the proud
while we aspire to power and privilege.
Forgive us, God of grace.
Teach us what you desire,
so that our hearts may leap with joy
at the coming of our Savior;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

(LBO) Friends, God is for us and not against us. For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world—not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*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.

(LBO) Let us share signs of Christ's peace with each other.

OFFERTORY Variations on Stuttgart Austin Lovelace

144 vs. 4

*DOXOLOGY RESPONSE In the Bleak Midwinter

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

*DEDICATION PRAYER

(LBO)

Gracious God, in gratitude for all that you have given us, we bring our tithes, offerings, and labor to help feed a world hungry for healing and hope; for the sake of Jesus Christ, Amen.

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG Savior of the Nations, Come 102

*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

CHORAL BENEDICTION Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

*POSTLUDE Fantasia on Two Carols (excerpt) Stephen Wurst

*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 27: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalms 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52.

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

*SONG OF RESPONSE

HE CAME DOWN

Hymn 137

He came down that we may have love. He came down that we may have love. He came down that we may have love. Hallelujah forevermore.

(sing twice)

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

"THE AMAZING STORY"

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

Mario and Lyne Sama

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, as we think about the coming of Jesus Christ, we light the candle of love.

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us! (1 John 3:1)

This is how God showed his love: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. (1 John 3:1)

A new command I give you: Love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
All will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.
(John 13:34-35)

RESPONSE

HE CAME DOWN (Sing Twice)

MOMENT FOR MISSION

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING (LBO) God of truth and wisdom, as we listen for your living Word, send your Spirit to teach us your way, and lead us in the path of your steadfast love and faithfulness. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 5:2-5a

Page No. 756

Page No. 831

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Luke 1:39-55

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM Arise, Arise and Shine!

MESSAGE Choose Love Tracy L. Evans

*SONG OF FAITH O Lord, How Shall I Meet You 104

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ.

We believe that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

We believe that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker.

We believe that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Adapted from the Confession of Belhar

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Response: ...Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 35

THE OFFERING

(LBO)

Let us bring to God our offerings,

with thanksgiving that God provides more than enough for all. Let us give, as each is able, for the benefit of Christ's church and God's world. *SONG OF RESPONSE

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