

# Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 18, 2016

10:55 a.m.



# Memorial Presbyterian Church

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

4th Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2016

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Shepherd of Israel,  
may Jesus, Emmanuel and son of Mary,  
be more than just a dream in our hearts.  
With the apostles, prophets, and saints,  
save us, restore us,  
and lead us in the way of grace and peace,  
that we may bear your promise  
into the world. **Amen.**

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Once He Came in Blessing

Paul Manz

### BRINGING THE LIGHT

\*CANDLE LIGHTING

Isaiah 59 and 60

*The Advent wreath is a visible reminder of the Light that awaits us as we approach the miracle of Christmas. This circle of intertwined branches is a symbol of God's endless love and eternal grace. Each candle represents a pathway out of the darkness toward the light, and gives us time to reflect upon the true meaning of advent. The hope, peace, love and joy that we anticipate along the way are fulfilled by the birth of a child whose life touches the heart of every believer, and whose light will be the light of the world.*

We wait for the light, and lo! There is darkness; and for brightness, but we walk in gloom.

**Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**

For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples.

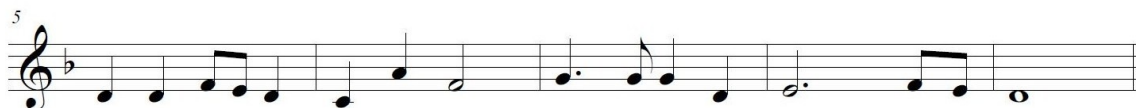
**But the Lord will arise upon you, and nations shall come to your light.**

The sun shall no longer be your light by day nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night.

**For the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.**



Ad - vent can - dles warm and bright, fill the world with ra - diant light.



Help us find the Prom - ised One; guide us to the child who will come.

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*ADMITTING OUR BROKENNESS

**Holy God, we confess  
that we do not walk in your light.  
We hurt and destroy one another  
and neglect the poor and hungry.  
We let evil grow among us  
and fail to bear good fruit.  
Forgive us, God of grace.  
Awaken us to your Word,  
so that we may be ready  
to welcome you with joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

(Time of silent reflection)

\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
**Thanks be to God.**

\*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      *Angels We Have Heard on High*(refrain)

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TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

MOMENT FOR MISSION– Christmas Joy Offering

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Page No. 554

Psalm 80

Hal H. Hopson

Hal H. Hopson

**Refrain**

*Advent:* Lord, come soon; come to and  
*Ordinary Time:* God of love, come and  
 save us. Lord, come soon.  
 help us. Lord, come hear our prayer.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18-25

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The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

When Emmanuel has Come

MESSAGE

The Good News of God With Us

Tracy L. Evans

\*SONG OF FAITH

Savior of the Nations, Come

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\*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: ...Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 35

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

The Promise of a Savior

Lani Smith

\*DOXOLOGY

*All Creation Join in Praising*

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All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king!

DEDICATION PRAYER

**FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

\*SENDING SONG

Christ Is Coming!

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\*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*BLESSING AND CHARGE  
CHORAL BENEDICTION

Walk in the light, walk in the light \_\_\_\_\_ with our faith to car-ry us on.

Walk in the light, walk in the light \_\_\_\_\_ it will lead us to God's Son.

\*POSTLUDE

Toccata on Savior of the Nations, Come

Stephen Wurst

\*Please rise in body or spirit.

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 25: Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalms 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2(1-7) 8-20.

The **Urban Mission** item of the month for December is Peanut butter. 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 Kirk and Jessica Forthman.

Please join us for a special **Christmas Eve candlelight service, December 24th** at 7pm.

**We will worship at our regular time on Christmas Day and New Years Day.** There will NOT be Sunday School.

Everyone is welcome to join the Chancel Choir for an evening **of Christmas caroling this Wednesday, December 21.** We will meet at the church at 5:30. Join us for an evening of fun, fellowship and song!

**SUNDAY**

**December 18**

- 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. – Fellowship and Refreshments
- 10:55 a.m. – Worship Service
- 5:30 p.m. – Christmas potluck and Pageant

**WEDNESDAY**

**December 21**

- 5:30 p.m. – Caroling

**SATURDAY**

**December 24**

- 7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service

**SUNDAY**

**December 25**

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