



Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

1st Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2014

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

God of hope,

*you call us home from the exile of selfish oppression to the freedom of justice,
the balm of healing, and the joy of sharing.*

Make us strong to join you in your holy work,

*as friends of strangers and victims, companions of those whom others shun,
and as the happiness of those whose hearts are broken.*

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Raymond Haan

BRINGING THE LIGHT

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

As we light our advent candle,

we thank you for the hope you give.

As we prepare for Christmas time,

light of the world, shine on us.

In this world of pain and darkness,

bring hope to our hearts.

To all the people who don't know you,

light of the world, shine through us.

Jesus, you are coming again,

help us to live in the hope you bring.

In our service here today,

light of the world, light the way.

SCRIPTURE AND SYMBOL OF HOPE

Isaiah 64:1-9

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Page No. 643

AN ADVENT READING *O, Come. O, Come, Emmanuel*

Coley Fisher

CALL TO PRAYER AND CONFESSION

Open our eyes, Lord,

**especially if they are half shut
because we are tired of looking,**

or half open

because we fear to see too much,

or bleared with tears

**because yesterday and today and tomorrow
are filled with the same pain,**

or contracted,

because we only look at what we want to see.

Open our eyes, Lord,

**to gently scan the life we lead,
the home we have,
the world we inhabit,
and so to find, among the gremlins and the greyness,
signs of hope we can fasten on and encourage.**

Give us, whose eyes are dimmed by familiarity,

**a bigger vision of what you can do
even with hopeless cases and lost causes
and people of limited ability.**

Show us the world as in your sight,

**riddled by debt, deceit and disbelief,
yet also shot through with possibility for recovery, renewal,
redemption.**

And lest we fail to distinguish vision from fantasy,
today, tomorrow, this week,
open our eyes to one person or one place,
**where we—being even for a moment prophetic—
might identify and wean a potential in the waiting.**

And with all this, open our eyes, in yearning, for Jesus.
**On the mountains,
in the cities,
through the corridors of power
and streets of despair,
to help, to heal,
to comfort, to convert,
O come, O come, Immanuel.**

HYMN 89

For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits

*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 OF PRAISE

Gloria in excelsis deo!

113 (refrain)

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Christian Education

Harry Wright

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 80

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Page No. 991

ANTHEM *Come, Emmanuel, Come*

MESSAGE *Living into Hope* Tracy L. Evans

*HYMN 82 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* HYFRYDOL

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Prayers of the People, concluding with:

**Give us ears to hear, O God,
and eyes to watch,
that we may know your presence in our midst
during this holy season of joy
as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Savior of the Nations, Come

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

*SENDING SONG

While We Are Waiting, Come

92

*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

CHORAL BENEDICTION

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

*POSTLUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Andrew Carter

*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 7: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8.

The Urban Mission item of the month for November is **crackers**. 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 Harry Wright and Donna Vint.

The participants in the "**Readers Theatre**" today are: Mike Girdner, Larry Upton, Holly Van Auken, Sam McCann, and Lisa Upton.

You are invited to the annual **Christmas Pageant** on Sunday, December 7. The evening will begin with a potluck supper at 5:30 P.M., to be followed by the pageant at about 6:30. There will be a sign-up sheet for the potluck; please have your item at the church by 5:15, so that the kids can eat early and prepare for the pageant. We hope everyone will plan to come to enjoy a meal together and experience the Christmas story as told by Memorial's children.

Kirk Forthman and Jessica Bender would like to invite their Memorial church family to their **wedding** on Saturday, December 13, at 1:00 P.M., here at the church. No RSVP is necessary.

As part of the **ecumenical prayer cycle**, we ask you to pray for a particular region of the world each week. This week we pray for Liberia and Sierra Leone. We give thanks for those who, despite hardships and temptations, retain faith, hope and love, and work for the betterment of all peoples in their nations; for those who work for reconciliation and healing; for the councils of churches working towards a renewed Christian witness; and for those who saved others at great risk to their own lives. We pray that children may be able to grow in love and peace instead of hatred and violence; for the fullness of human life for people of all tribes and ethnicities in Liberia and Sierra Leone; for refugees displaced by civil war and political instability in neighboring countries, and those

returning after years of exile; for all who have suffered the ravages of civil war; for the healing of those broken in body, mind and spirit by the brutality of war; for orphans, displaced children, malnourished children, and children who live in fear; for the renewal of the forests, wildlife habitats and rich biodiversity; and for functioning economies emerging from the wreckage of civil war.

SUNDAY

November 30

9:30 A.M. – Sunday School

10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments

10:55 A.M. – Worship Service

TUESDAY

December 2

7:00 P.M. – Fellowship & Hospitality Meeting

WEDNESDAY

December 3

3:15 P.M. – Kids' Club

5:00 P.M. – Children's Choir

THURSDAY

December 4

10:30 A.M. – Bible Study in Library

6:30 P.M. – Chancel Choir

SUNDAY

December 7

9:30 A.M. – Sunday School

10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments

10:55 A.M. – Worship Service–Communion

12:00 P.M. – Worship & Music Meeting

5:30 P.M. – Potluck and Christmas Pageant