



# Memorial Presbyterian Church

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2014

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation.  
Make us ready for the message that prepares the way,  
that with uprightness of heart and holy joy  
we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*Joy to the World*

Jean Langlais

### BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

### ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

As we light our advent candle,  
**we thank you for the joy you give.**  
As we prepare for Christmas time,  
**light of the world, shine on us.**

In the midst of sorrow,  
**bring joy 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 find joy in serving you.**  
In our service here today,  
**light of the world, light the way.**

\*HYMN 89

For You, O Lord, My Soul In Stillness Waits



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

READING

*This Joy*

Coley Fisher

Readers: Bre Upton, Cassie Upton, Tim Thiessen & Jim Rodriguez

CALL TO PRAYER AND CONFESSION

...exuberantly share the Good News of God's love.

**God of Joy,**

**Forgive us for letting small stuff  
get in the way of experiencing you fully.**

**Restore to us the joy of our salvation,  
so that we become beacons of your love for all. Amen.**

\*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 113 (refrain)

*Gloria in excelsis deo!*

GLORIA

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

MOMENT FOR MISSION

*Christmas Joy Offering*

Dave Iske

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Page No. 641

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Page No. 1031

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM	<i>Listen to the Joyful Song</i>	
MESSAGE	<i>God's Joy and Love</i>	Tracy L. Evans
*HYMN 646	<i>Sing Out, My Soul</i> 1st time – choir 2nd time – all	MAGNIFICAT (Taizé)

## SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

*Prayers of the People, concluding with:  
...we pray together:*

**God of joy and exultation,  
you strengthen what is weak;  
you enrich the poor  
and give hope to those who live in fear.  
Look upon our needs this day.  
Make us grateful for the good news of salvation  
and keep us faithful in your service  
until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives forever and ever. Amen.**

### THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY	<i>Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates</i>	Quentin Thomas
*DOXOLOGY	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	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 106	<i>Prepare the Way, O Zion</i>	BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
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\*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*BLESSING AND CHARGE

CHORAL BENEDICTION

*In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*

\*POSTLUDE

Dance of Joy  
from *In dulci jubilo: Four Faces of a Folksong*

Eleanor Whitsett

\*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 21: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 98:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38.

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 Mike and Joan Cole.

**Unity of the Church in a Time of Diversity:** A presentation looking at the biblical, theological, and polity path of where the PC(USA) has been and where we are in light of the recent action of General Assembly (GA) on marriage. The Rev. Dr. Mark Achtemeier will be the presentation and conversation leader. Dr. Achtemeier has served the PC(USA) since 1984 as pastor, writer, and theologian. He taught theology and ethics for 15 years on the faculty of Dubuque Theological Seminary. He is an author; a member of the Peace, Unity and Purity GA Task Force; and an articulate voice on the marriage issue. This event will take place on Sunday, December 14 at 1:30 P.M. in the chapel at First Presbyterian Church of Oklahoma City, 1001 NW 25th St. This event is co-sponsored by Indian Nations Presbytery and the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Oklahoma City.

**Senior\* Adults:** You are invited to a potluck lunch with the pastor on Tuesday, December 16th at noon. We'll share in a meal and maybe some reindeer games. There will certainly be good conversation! Here are the details: We'll meet in Fellowship Hall, and the pastor will make sure everything is set up, and will provide beverages. We can make it a true potluck ... just bring something to share! If we have 10 desserts, or a dozen broccoli dishes, then so be it! If you can let Rev. Evans know you're coming, great; if not, there will be an extra seat. Bring a friend if you'd like, too!

\*Senior is defined as anyone who wants to claim that name of honor!

Join us at 7:00 P.M. on December 24 for a **Christmas Eve** service of lessons and carols drawing on the prophecy of Isaiah. The service will conclude with the traditional candle-light singing of *Silent Night*. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to this deeply meaningful service.

**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.

If you have not yet returned your **pledge card**, we ask that you do so as soon as possible, as we make some important decisions in regard to next year's budget.

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 Benin, Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), and Togo. We give thanks for pastors, priests and evangelists and other church workers for their mission endeavors; for those who search for ways to provide clean water; for the education ministry of churches; for coffee and cacao, palm groves and coconut, yams and peanuts; and for the indigenous woven cloth and work in bronze. We pray for peace, unity, and political and economic stability throughout the region; for unemployed young people; for the many people in these countries who live in desperate poverty, and for efforts to create better living conditions; for health care workers who provide medical help and education to those living with HIV and AIDS; and for children who are trafficked for cheap labor or otherwise exploited.

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>December 14</b>
9:30 A.M. – Sunday School	
10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments	
10:55 A.M. – Worship Service	
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>December 15</b>
6:00 P.M. – Personnel Meeting	
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>December 16</b>
7:00 P.M. – Session Meeting	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>December 17</b>
3:15 P.M. – Last Kids' Club of Fall Semester	
5:00 P.M. – Children's Choir	
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>December 18</b>
10:30 A.M. – Bible Study in Library	
6:30 P.M. – Chancel Choir	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>December 21</b>
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	