

Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

First Sunday of Advent - PEACE

December 2, 2018



GATHER

*Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming,
We wait filled with hope,
Knowing your light will shine in the darkness.
We wait anticipating your peace,
Believing that one day it will fill our world.
We wait embracing your love,
May we reach out to share it with our neighbors.
We wait with joy,
Bubbling up in expectation of your birth.
Lord we wait,
Come soon and fill us with your life.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

OPENING

...and in this moment, all is calm, all is bright.

(Singing)
Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

It was the night when Peace was born
And just as now the world was torn
But all was calm and all was bright
The star above gave out its light

Silent night, holy night

Dear people around the world
Let us unite and we will show
How Peace can change us,
How Peace can help us grow.

Silent night, holy night

...Is it possible to bring calm and bright to our own corners of this world?

So let your Peace shine in the night
And let your life burn warm and bright
This Peace we give the world is balm
And in this truth we find our calm

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Gladys Jangha, Solange Bobga and family

We enter this season of waiting, by lighting this first candle,
anticipating the light of the star that shone over Bethlehem for all to see.

Advent God,
we open ourselves to hear your call today
to become those who not only wait, but also work, for peace
in our lives, our families, our communities, and our world.

Fill us with your peace and light,
make the world so calm and bright.

*OPENING HYMN

O God of Every Nation

Hymnal, No. 756

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

O God,
the journey through this season can be exhausting,
stressful, and confusing.
At times hope eludes us,
peace is out of the question,
and joy seems impossible.
We confess our need for your coming, once again.
Open our eyes and ears
so that we might see the glory of the Lord
and hear the voices of angels.
Strengthen our hands and hearts
so that we might share your love,
for the sake of the world you seek to save,
through Jesus Christ.
(Time of silent reflection)

In the name of Christ, you 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

Gloria

Hymnal, No. 113

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Lucy Lanning

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 2:1-4

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Page No. 550

ANTHEM

Come! Set Thy People Free

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Page No. 555

MESSAGE

All is Calm, All is Bright

Tracy L. Evans

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Response:... Emmanuel, come; **O come and save us.**
The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 35

THE OFFERING
OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow Hymnal, No. 606

*DEDICATION PRAYER

SONG Christ be our Light Hymnal, No 314

COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

...And so we praise you, singing

Hymn 314, Refrain

**You are the Light. You are our God,
piercing the dark night.
Bless'd are the ones,
shining their lights, now in your name!**

...And so we offer ourselves in union with Christ's offering of salvation:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

...Thanks and praise be to the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer! Amen!

(singing)

Hymn 314, v3

**Longing for food, many are hungry.
longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.**

**Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts,
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.**

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee Hymnal, No.611

*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

Hymnal, No.378

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom

**We wait the peaceful kingdom, when wolf and lamb shall lie
in gentleness and friendship without a fear or sign,
when lion shall be grazing, when snake shall never strike;
a little child shall lead us both strong and weak alike.**

*POSTLUDE

*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 9: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6.

The **Food and Shelter** item of the month for December is **scarves and gloves**. Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.

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

Ushers for today's service are Trudy Beard and Jo Beth Bailey.

Communion servers for today's service are Melissa Gill, Mike Girdner, Lucy Lanning, Breanna Upton.

Mark your calendars for December 16. Following worship we will be having a potluck and pageant. The children and youth will be presenting **Don't Freak Out: A Christmas Pageant**.

Please return your pledge cards as soon as possible so that the session may plan the budget for next year. Questions? See Mike Cole or John Beck.

SUNDAY

December 2

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

WEDNESDAY

December 5

3:15 P.M. – Kids' Club
5:00 P.M. – Children's Choir
6:30 P.M. – Chancel Choir

SUNDAY

December 9

9:30 A.M. – Sunday School
10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments
10:55 A.M. – Worship Service