

# Memorial Presbyterian Church

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Third Sunday of Advent - LOVE

December 16, 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

Carol

Craig Phillips

BRINGING THE LIGHT

OPENING

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

**(sung together)**  
**Silent night, holy night!**  
**Son of God, love's pure light**  
**radiant beams from thy holy face,**  
**with the dawn of redeeming grace,**  
**Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,**  
**Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

It was the night when Love 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 Love can change us,  
How Love can help us grow.

**Silent night, holy night**

...What would the world be like if "love's pure light" was at the center?

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

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Ann and Doug Forsyth

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

Uplifting God,  
we open ourselves to hear your call today  
to recognize your love all around us,  
and also see the potential to add to the love all around us—  
making our lives, our families, our communities, and our world a brighter place.

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

\*OPENING HYMN

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Hymnal, No. 377

\*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 LOVE of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

\*SONG OF RESPONSE

Gloria

Hymnal, No. 113

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

ANTHEM

Gentle Shepherd Kind and True

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Melissa Gill

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 98:4-9

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Page No. 480

ANTHEM

To Bethlehem

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:1-5, 14, 16-17

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Page No. 862

MESSAGE

Love's Pure Light

Tracy L. Evans

\*SONG OF FAITH

Love Has Come

Hymnal, No. 110

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus.  
His faith and obedience were the response  
of the perfect child of God.  
He was the fulfillment  
of God's promise to Israel,  
the beginning of the new creation,  
and the pioneer of the new humanity.  
He gave history its meaning and direction  
and called the church to be his servant  
for the reconciliation of the world.**

*Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.19*

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Response:... O Christ, our light, **hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 35

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Cradle Song

Malcolm Archer

\*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymnal, No. 606

\*DEDICATION PRAYER

**FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

\*SENDING SONG

Christ be our Light!

Hymnal, No. 314

\*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*BLESSING AND CHARGE

Hymnal, No. 378, verse 3

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom

**When wars of desolation and hate come to an end,  
when nation meets with nation and calls the other "friend,"  
still peace in all its fullness will only have begun:  
shalom for all creation begins with justice done.**

\*POSTLUDE

Improvisation

\*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.

**Scripture Readings** for Sunday, December 23 are Isaiah 9:6 and Matthew 2:1-12

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 Larry and Lisa Upton

**Today** 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 16**

- 9:30 A.M. – Sunday School
- 10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments
- 10:55 A.M. – Worship Service
- 12:00 P.M. – Christmas Potluck and Pageant
- 5:30 P.M. – Stewardship Meeting

**TUESDAY**

**December 18**

- 7:00 P.M. – Session Meeting

**SUNDAY**

**December 23**

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