

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

*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