

Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fourth Sunday of Advent - HOPE

December 23, 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

Noel IX- I

Louis-Claude Daquin

OPENING

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

(sung together)
Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous Star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born;
Christ the Savior is born.

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

Silent night, holy night

...How might this increase our hope for the future?

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

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Joan and Mike Cole

The season of waiting is almost over. We light the fourth candle,
anticipating the coming light of the star that shone over Bethlehem for all to see.

God of our future,
we open ourselves to hear your call today–
the call to keep hope alive no matter the troubles we face.
Help us to never lose hope and to offer hope to 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

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymnal, No. 121

*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 HOPE 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 9:6

Page No. 555

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Light and Life to All!

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-12

Page No. 783

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Wondrous Star, Lend Thy Light

Tracy L. Evans

*SONG OF FAITH

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Hymnal, No. 100

*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

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS - Alice and Judd Lanning
...Let us welcome Judd and Alice as they join with us
in the worship and mission of the church.

**With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you
to share with us in the ministry of Christ,
for we are all one in him.**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

Hymnal, p. 35

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Noel IX- III

Louis-Claude Daquin

*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 4
CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom

**That little child shall lead us to walk the chosen way,
to share the peaceful kingdom, to greet God's newborn day.
The child born in a stable is sent to break our chains,
to bring through word and table the day when justice reigns.**

*POSTLUDE Grand Dialogue Louis Marchand

*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 30 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 John and Susan Beck.

Christmas Eve service will be at 7:00p.m. Please join us and invite your family and friends, too.

There will be a **congregational meeting on Sunday, December 30** following worship. This will be out election of officers for the coming term. The slate of officers for Ruling Elder is : John Beck, Jessica Farris and Joan Cole, and for Deacon: Linda Eckel, Carl Forthman, and Gladys Jangha.

SUNDAY

December 23

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

MONDAY

December 24

7:00 P.M. – Christmas Eve Service

TUESDAY

December 25

OFFICE CLOSED

SUNDAY

December 30

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