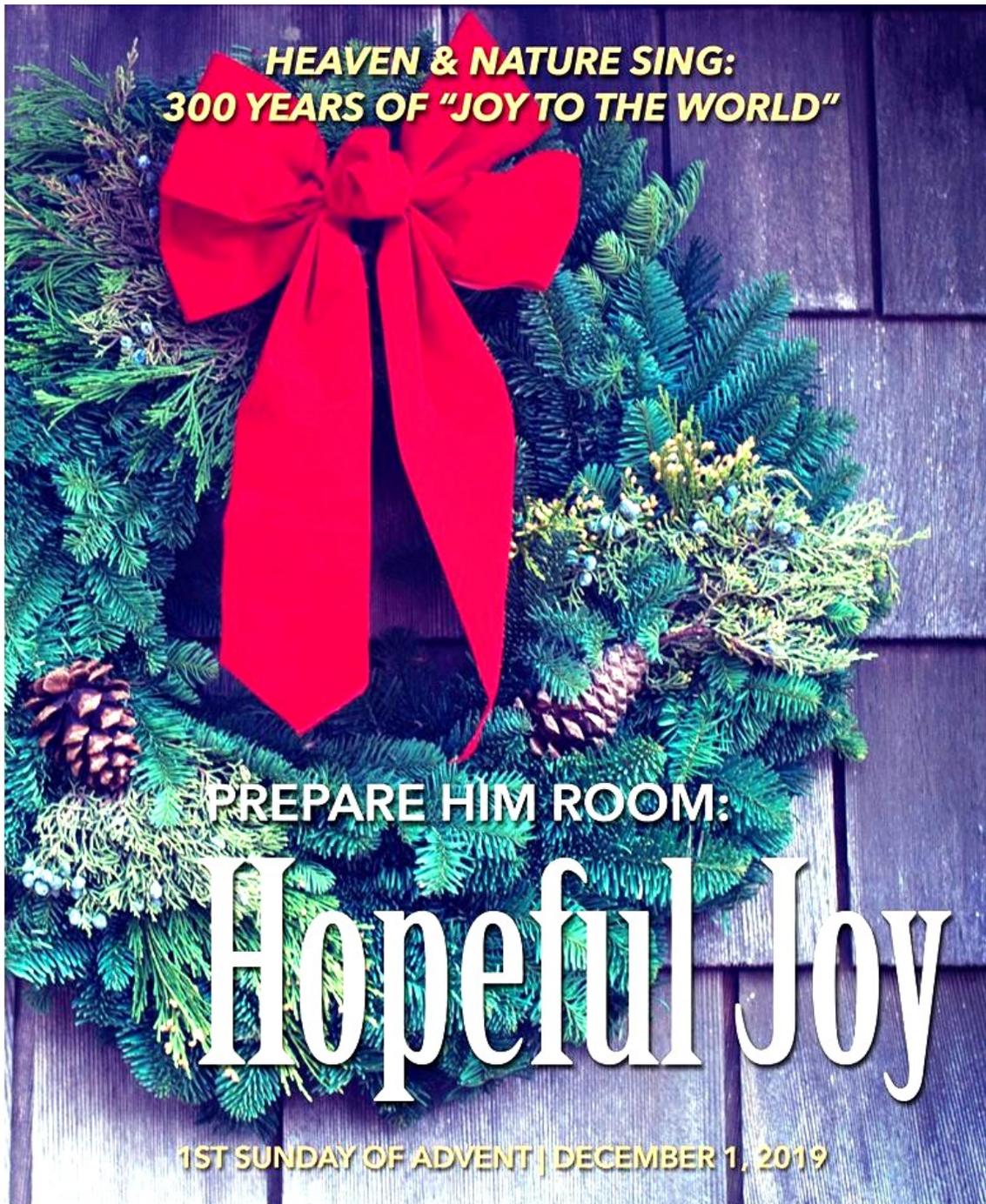


Memorial Presbyterian Church



**HEAVEN & NATURE SING:
300 YEARS OF "JOY TO THE WORLD"**

PREPARE HIM ROOM:

Hopeful Joy

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 1, 2019

PHOTO BY TIM MOSSHOLDER ON UNSPLASH

EXPANSION OF OUR HEARTS

We gather together to worship the One Who Is Joy and as we come together, our hearts are expanded. We remember that the heavens declare God's praise as the sun rises and light multiplies. And we witness that all of nature (including us) yearns to reach and expand toward the Light so that all might know joy.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Prelude on an Ancient Melody Russell Schulz Widmar

BRINGING THE LIGHT

FOCUSING ON HOPEFUL JOY Heaven and Nature Sing

**Sing a new song to the Lord
Lift your hearts with gratitude
Sing a new song to the Lord
Lift your hearts with gratitude
and Joy,
Hopeful Joy**

**Your steadfast love and faithfulness
Is ever present in our lives
Your steadfast love and faithfulness
Is ever present in our lives
with Joy,
Hopeful joy**

**We sing
We sing
Joy to the World
Heaven and nature sing
Joy to the World
Heaven and nature sing
With joy
Hopeful joy**

THE WREATH

*SONG OF JOY Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee Hymnal, No. 611

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

**God of the future,
you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.
We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,
for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.
We accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbors,
abuse the earth,
and refuse your justice and peace.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,
and to seek things that will endure
when Christ comes to judge the world.
(Time of silent reflection)**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we 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
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Hymnal, No. 113

RECEPTION OF GOD'S WORD

As we open to receive the Word and interpret its meaning for our lives, we connect to the depths of our being where the River of Joy is always flowing. We have only to dip into it for, we have the "joy, joy, joy, joy, down in our hearts."

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Jessica Farris

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Page No. 550

ANTHEM

A King Shall Come

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 13:11-14

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Page No. 923

MESSAGE

Hopeful Joy

Tracy L. Evans

***SONG OF FAITH**

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Hymnal, No. 82

TRANSFORMATION OF OUR LIVES

Connecting with our deepest selves, we are able to accept that all of life resides within joy's possibilities—not only the happy moments, but also the sorrows and difficulties of life. Like the work of our hearts, all that flows in can be given new life and pumped back out with renewed oxygen, giving us strength and courage for all circumstances.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 35

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Magnificat noni toni

Dietrich Buxtehude

*DOXOLOGY

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise
**Thankful hearts and voices raise;
tell everyone what God has done.
Let everyone who seeks the Lord
rejoice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your promises
and lead your people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving.
Alleluia, alleluia.**

Hymnal, No. 648

*DEDICATION PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

...Great is the mystery of faith:

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

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION MUSIC

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

COMPASSION FOR THE WORLD

Connecting to Joy can compel us to want this connection for all beings. We leave this place "with passion" (com-passion) for adding our love, peace, hope, and joy to the world.

*SENDING SONG

Keep Your Lamps

Hymnal, No. 350

*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**We sing
We sing
Joy to the World
Heaven and nature sing
Joy to the World
Heaven and nature sing
With joy
Hopeful joy**

*POSTLUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Wilbur Held

*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 8: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Mathew 3:1-12.

The **Food and Shelter** item of the month for December is **soup and crackers** and cheese. 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.

Mark your calendars for the **Christmas Potluck and Pageant** on Sunday, December 15 following worship.

This year we will be **providing Christmas gifts for the Women's Resource center**. Information is available on the hallway bulletin board.

SUNDAY

December 1

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

WEDNESDAY

December 4

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

SUNDAY

December 8

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

KNOWN JOYS & CONCERNS

Those who seek healing

Lola Carroll
Sandy Clarke
Jan Cunningham
Laura Eckel
Doug Forsyth
Karen Girdner
Blair Lanning
Judd Lanning
Jayelle Martin
Gary Thrailkill
Jona Thiessen
Devyn Upton
Karen Upton
Janann Yeager
Darrell Hinson (Karen Upton's father)
Paul Gallagher (Karen Upton's biological father)
Carole Jo Evans (Tracy Evans' mother)
Jim Leseney

Those who Experienced Recent Loss

Mike and Joan Cole whose brother Jim Cole died November 12.

Linda Eckel and family whose husband Jim Eckel died October 31.

Lisa Upton whose father Nolan Spaugy died on October 30.

Seminary Graduate

Samuel McCann, Pittsburgh Theo. Seminary

We lift up in prayer the country of Cameroon and pray for the unrest our brothers and sisters are experiencing there.

Birthdays

November 25– Josh Hudson

December 1– Gabe Benson

Bruce Bunce

Carl Forthman

Nick Lindley

Anniversaries

November 27– Jim & Linda Rodriguez

As part of the **ecumenical prayer cycle**, we ask you to pray for a particular region of the world each week: **Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore**

We **give thanks** for:

- Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox and evangelical churches and councils of churches in Malaysia and Singapore which have witnessed to the gospel and ministered to groups who are discriminated against and marginalized
- economic developments that have enhanced the standard of living for many
- policies and practices that seek to sustain the environment and its resources
- those who have sought to further ethnic and religious harmony.

We **pray** for:

- more just, participatory and democratic rule
- locally-determined economic development that lessens inequalities and protects natural resources
- greater ethnic and religious understanding and cooperation
- the forging of national identities and visions that genuinely include all the diverse people in these countries