

Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

1st Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2019

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Glory to you, almighty God,
for you sent your only-begotten Son,
that we might have new life.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for you became flesh and lived among us
that we might become your people.
Glory to you, Holy Spirit,
for you direct and rule our lives.
Glory to you, almighty God,
and to your Son, Jesus Christ,
and to the Holy Spirit,
now and forever. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

While Shepherds Lately Knelt

Carl F. Schalk

BRINGING THE LIGHT

*LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS

The grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation to all.

Glory to God in the highest!

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.

Glory to God in the highest!

For a child has been born for us,
a Son has been given to us.

Glory to God in the highest!

He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Glory to God in the highest!

To us is born in the city of David
a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest!

And the Word became flesh
and lived among us.

Glory to God in the highest!

Christ is born! Give him glory!
Christ has come down from heaven! Receive him!
Christ is now on earth! Exalt him!
O earth, sing to the Lord!

O you nations, praise him in joy,
for he has been glorified! **Amen.**

*SONG OF PRAISE

He Came Down

Hymnal, No. 137

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

**Holy God, you are the Light of the World.
Yet, too often, we shroud your light with our indifference.
There is much we must confess:
When we turn a blind eye to suffering, forgive us.
When we are silent in the face of injustice, forgive us.
When we choose comfort over compassion, forgive us.
When we neglect to offer grace and love, forgive us.**

**Gracious God, you entered into our broken world
and made a home among the desperate and despairing.
Give us eyes to see you in the faces of those
whose vulnerability frightens us.
Give us the will to care for our neighbors in need.
Illumine the shadows of our lives with your light—
which the most persistent darkness cannot overcome—
and open our hearts to receive your grace.
(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

Hymnal, No. 113

***Gloria in excelsis Deo!*
*Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Lucy Lanning

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 63:7-9

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Page No. 605

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.

He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:13-23

Page No. 784

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

There He Made His Home

Tracy L. Evans

*SONG OF FAITH

In the Bleak Midwinter

Hymnal, No. 144

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**The one sufficient revelation of God
is Jesus Christ,
the Word of God incarnate,
to whom the Holy Spirit
bears unique and authoritative witness
through the Holy Scriptures,
which are received and obeyed
as the word of God written.**

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.27

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Response:... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 35

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY Who Would Think That What Was Needed

John H. Bell

*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

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

Hymnal, No. 135

*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*POSTLUDE

Jesus, The Light of the World

George D. Elderkin

*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 January 5: Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1: (1-9) 10-18.

The **Food & Shelter** item of the month for December is soup & crackers. 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 Charlotte Lovett & Lucy Lanning.

SUNDAY**December 29**

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

WEDNESDAY**January 1**

OFFICE CLOSED

FRIDAY**January 3**

6:30 P.M. – Officer Training

SUNDAY**January 5**

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
 Blair Lanning
 Judd Lanning
 Jayelle Martin
 Emily Ryther
 Gary Thraikill
 Jona Thiessen
 Devyn Upton
 Karen Upton
 Janann Yeager
 Melinda Clements
 Darrell Hinson (Karen Upton's father)
 Paul Gallagher (Karen Upton's biological father)
 Carole Jo Evans (Tracy Evans' mother)
 Jim Leseney (Vince Leseney's father)

Those who Experienced Recent Loss

Samuel McCann whose grandmother died December 11.

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

December 30– Haley Williams

Amanda Forthman

January 1– Kerri Autry

January 4– Cassie Eckel

Anniversaries

December 30– Carl & Julie Forthman

January 1– John & Susan Beck

Joe & Jan Garlett

Rob & Traci Cunningham

January 2– Will & Jessica Farris

As part of the **ecumenical prayer cycle**, we ask you to pray for a particular region of the world each week: **Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine**

We are **thankful** for:

- lands and monuments sacred in the origins of Judaism, Christianity and Islam
- those who unceasingly work for peace and reconciliation in the Holy Land
- the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel
- those who continue to welcome the multitudes of refugees in their lands.

We **pray** for:

- ending the violence racking this region, that the people might live together in peace, security and respect for each other
- those who have grown weary and disillusioned in searching for solutions
- an end to religious differences being exploited to perpetuate conflict and further displacement of people
- political leaders who will courageously bring about justice and reconciliation for the sake of all.