



"Chosen Home " by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

1st Sunday of Christmas

December 26, 2021

SEEKING SANCTUARY (LOVE)

*God of wonder,
this world you shaped is marvelous,
from the ants to the Himalayas,
from supernovas to the wind that sculpts the earth.
Grant us the wonder and curiosity
to question everything, as Jesus did.
Don't let us settle for answers without truth.
Teach us to find you in all that is true
so that we may worship you in Spirit and in truth. Amen.*

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Still, Still, Still

CALL TO WORSHIP

Vince Leseney

Jesus said,
 "This is my Father's house."
So come into this space
 just as you are.
Come into this space
 speaking your truth.
Come into this space
 with your authentic self.
This is God's home.
 This is our home.
Let us worship God.

*SONG OF PRAISE

The First Nowell

Hymnal, No. 147

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Let us pray:
We could offer welcome,
 but we often choose judgment.
We could choose action,
 but we often choose silence.
We could choose advocacy,
 but we often choose comfort.
We could choose truth,
 but we often choose ignorance.
We could choose God,
 but we often choose ourselves.
Forgive us, gracious God, for the moments when we chose poorly.
 Open our hearts to choose you, to choose community, to choose love.
 Gratefully we pray, amen.

...Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

No matter how many times we walk away, God always welcomes us home. We are loved. We are forgiven. We are invited. Thanks be to God, amen.

***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 (refrain only)

Hymnal, No. 113

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE READING

Page No. 958

Colossians 3:12-17

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING

Page No. 833

Luke 2:41-52

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

The Give-Away

Vince Leseney

Book written and illustrated by Ray Buckley

***SONG OF FAITH**

Chosen Home

Bulletin p. 6

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe that God has entrusted the church
with the message of reconciliation
in and through Jesus Christ.**

**We believe that the church is called
to be the salt of the earth
and the light of the world.**

**We believe that the church is called blessed
because it is a peacemaker.**

**We believe that the church is witness
both by word and by deed
to the new heaven and the new earth
in which righteousness dwells.**

Adapted from the Confession of Belhar

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 35

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

In the Heavens Shone a Star

*DOXOLOGY

Doxology (Verse 4)

Hymnal, No. 143

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SENDING SONG

Joy to the World

Hymnal, No. 135

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*POSTLUDE

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

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

We are truly grateful for you joining us today, in person or via live streaming. This is new for us all, and we thank you for your patience with this new way. We will be adapting and changing as we work together to worship with devotion and safety protocols. If you have comments or suggestions, please let the pastor or a worship committee member know.

The Food & Shelter item of the month for **December is Peanut butter** Please place your donations in the box by the church information table

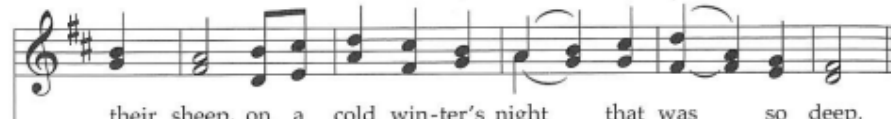
Hearing-assistance devices and **large print hymnals** are available from the head usher.



2 They look-ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth-le-



shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing
 east be-yond them far; and to the earth it gave
 came from coun-try far; to seek for a king was their
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop



their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.
 great light, and so it con-tin-ued both day and night.
 in-tent, and to fol-low the star wher-ev-er it went.
 and stay, right o-ver the place where Je-sus lay.

*Refrain*

Now-ell, Now-ell, Now-ell, Now-ell,



born is the King of Is-ra-el.



5 Then entered in those wise men three, 6 Then let us all with one accord
 full reverently upon their knee, sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
 and offered there in his presence that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
 their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. and with his blood our life hath bought.

*Refrain**Refrain*



Chosen Home

ADESTE FIDELES Irregular with refrain

Text: Anna Strickland (2021)

Music: John Francis Wade (1743)

As Je - sus' fam - ily tra - veled back to Naz - areth
In la - ter years he called his cho - sen fam - ily,
We may not find home where it is ex - pec - ted
May this — be a brave space for all peo - ple

He stayed and claimed a space in - side tem - ple walls
Fish - ers and tax col - lec - tors, wo - men and men
Some - times we have to leave to be who we are:
Where all are seen and loved a - mong fam - i - ly

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Seek - ing a place where he could show his true self
 Leav - ing his home to eat with saints and sin - ners A
 Whol - ly cre - at - ed and in God's ho - ly im - age
 Space to grow and fol - low in our call - ings

place that tru - ly sees us, a place that loves and frees us, like

ta - bles set by Je - sus is our cho - sen home

There's a Star in the East 135

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

1 There's a star in the east on Christ-mas morn. Rise up, shep-herd, and
 2 If you take good heed to the an - gel's words, rise up, shep-herd, and

fol - low. It will lead to the place where the Christ was born.
 fol - low. You'll for - get your flocks; you'll for - get your herds.

Refrain

Rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low. Fol - low, fol - low;
 rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low. Fol - low the star of
 Beth - le - hem. Rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low.