



# Memorial Presbyterian Church

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent

December 9, 2012

*Let all who enter enjoy the fellowship of friends until the bells call us to worship. Let us then, in oneness of spirit, turn our reverent attention to the worship of God.*

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*Gracious God, as we gather, we pray that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith, rooting us and grounding us in love. Show us, by your Spirit, what is the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of God. Lead us into the way of the peace of Christ that surpasses understanding, so that we may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

*To God who is able, by the power of the Holy Spirit at work within us, to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE                      *Comfort, Comfort You My People*      Johann Pachelbel

### BRINGING THE LIGHT

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus is coming, as God's peace for us.

**The promise of God is sure: "By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace."**

In this season of Advent, we celebrate the coming of Jesus to bring peace, and we wait for the day when the hostilities that haunt and hurt our world have ceased.

**Until that day, we follow the Prince of Peace, practicing the peace and forgiveness Jesus brings, in our family, community and fragmented world.**

As the candle of peace is lit, embrace Jesus as God's peacemaker, the One who redeems us from hatred and violence, and who will reign one day over a reconciled world.

**We long for that day and work toward peace, in the power of Jesus' name.**

ADVENT SONG

*He Came Down*

*He came down that we may have peace (3x)  
Hallelujah, forevermore!*

PRAYER

**Lord Jesus Christ, our peacemaker, as we celebrate your willingness to step into our tense and troubled world, help us to be instruments of your peace, bringing love where there is hatred, pardon where there is injury, and hope where there is despair. Amen.**

\*SONG OF PRAISE

*Comfort, Comfort You My People*

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\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*ADMITTING OUR BROKENNESS

**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.**

\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

\*SONG OF RESPONSE

*Gloria in excelsis Deo*

23 (refrain)

\*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.**

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE READING

Malachi 3:1-4

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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\*SONG OF FAITH

*Song of Zechariah*  
(Luke 1:68-79)

Hymn 602

Luke 3:1-6

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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ANTHEM

*Peace, Peace*

MESSAGE

*Getting Ourselves Prepared*

Tracy L. Evans

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 16

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

J. S. Bach

\*DOXOLOGY

*To God the Father, God the Son*

Hymn 4, v. 4

DEDICATION PRAYER

## FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

\*SENDING SONG    *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

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\*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION

*Peace Is a Ribbon that Circles the Earth*

\*POSTLUDE

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*    Quentin Thomas

\*Those who are able may stand.

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 16: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18.

**The Urban Mission** item of the month for December is **cereal**. Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.

We will have a brief **congregational meeting** immediately following worship, to elect new Elders and Deacons. The nominees are Donna Vint (Deacon, Class of 2014); Jan Johnson, Lucy Lanning, and Harry Wright (Session, Class of 2015); Linda Eckel, Charlotte Lovett, and Jim Rodriguez (Deacons, Class of 2015).

You are invited to join the Kid's Club in **caroling** at Cedar Creek Nursing Facility this Wednesday, December 12, 3:30-4:30 p.m. We will meet at the church and walk across the street to Cedar Creek, weather permitting.

The final meeting of **Parents Helping Parents'** fall speaker series will be Thursday, December 13 at 7 PM at the Education Center at NRH, 901 North Porter in Norman. For more information, call 278-1221 or go to [ParentsHelpingParents.info](http://ParentsHelpingParents.info).

Our annual **Christmas Pageant** will be Wednesday, December 19. Bring a dish to share for a potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. The pageant will begin when dinner has concluded. You won't want to miss this special event as we see our wonderful kids present their take on the Christmas Story.

Please join us for the candlelight **Christmas Eve** service at 7:00 p.m. on December 24, as we celebrate the entry into this world of Jesus, our Emmanuel, as a humble baby. Please share this invitation to worship with your family, friends and neighbors.

**SUNDAY                      December 9**

- 9:30 A.M. – Sunday School
- 10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments
- 10:55 A.M. – Worship Service
- 12:00 P.M. – Congregational meeting
- 12:15 P.M. – Worship & Music Committee

**MONDAY                      December 10**

- 7:00 P.M. – Chancel Choir

**TUESDAY                      December 11**

- 7:00 P.M. – Christian Education Committee

**WEDNESDAY                      December 12**

- 3:30 P.M. – Kid's Club
- 5:00 P.M. – Children's Hand-Chimes
- 5:30 P.M. – Children's Choir
- 6:00 P.M. – Chancel Ringers

**THURSDAY                      December 13**

- 7:00 P.M. – Building & Grounds Committee

**SUNDAY                      December 16**

- 9:30 A.M. – Sunday School
- 10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments
- 10:55 A.M. – Worship Service
- 5:30 p.m. – Stewardship Committee