



# Memorial Presbyterian Church

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

December 16, 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

*You put a glad song on our lips, O God of salvation, for in you we can trust and not be afraid. In Christ is announced our source of deliverance; through him the lame walk and the outcast are praised. Soon you will gather your people for a festival of salvation; we assemble now in Christ's name to rejoice and boast of your goodness.*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*Carol of the Bells*  
Chancel Ringers

arr. Wagner

### BRINGING THE LIGHT

### CALL TO WORSHIP

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

**The promise of God is sure: 'Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart... The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst.'**

In this season of Advent, we celebrate the coming of Jesus as God's joy among us. A day is coming when God will gather all; even the oppressed and the outcast will come home, and we shall rejoice.

**Until that day, we serve an aching world in the power of the Spirit, exchanging fear for gladness, and worry for prayer.**

As the candle of Joy is lit, set anxiety aside, rejoice in the Lord, pray with thanks, and make every need known to God.

**We pray for the day when God's salvation is fully come and the whole world rejoices.**

ADVENT SONG

*He Came Down*

*He came down that we may have joy (3x)  
Hallelujah, forevermore.*

PRAYER

**Lord Jesus Christ, your joy we already know and celebrate.  
But we long for our weary world to know the joy of a new  
beginning. Help us to share your joy with all who are hungry  
or weighed down by sorrow, both those we meet every day,  
and those around the globe we will never meet. Amen.**

\*SONG OF PRAISE

*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!*

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\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*ADMITTING OUR BROKENNESS

**Source of salvation, what shall we do? Our lives are unworthy  
of the goodness you offer. We complain of our condition  
when our wants go unnoticed. Contentment eludes us, since  
when we have plenty we still yearn for more. Millions face  
hunger, while we fret over abundance. Through Christ forgive  
us, yet grant us no peace until we share our bread with the  
hungry and our homes with those who lack shelter.**

\*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

Ann Forsyth

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 4:4-7

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The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Isaiah 12:2-6

*First Song of Isaiah*

Michael Yeager, Cantor

Refrain

Jack Noble White



The Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de-fense,  
and He will be my Sav - ior.

Luke 3:7-18

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The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

Children's Choir

MESSAGE

*Advent Joy*

Tracy L. Evans

SONG OF FAITH

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

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SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 16

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

John Jordan

\*DOXOLOGY                      *To God the Father, God the Son*  
DEDICATION PRAYER

Hymn 4, v. 4

## **FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

\*SENDING SONG              *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

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\*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION              *Joy Is a Song that Welcomes the Dawn*

\*POSTLUDE                      *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*              Michael Burkhardt

\*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 23: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45.

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

**Dwight Mission** continues to be grateful for all gifts to the Legacy Campaign, the capital campaign which will renovate the historic old schoolhouse building and construct a new lodge with hotel-quality rooms. We are pleased that the Walton Family Foundation will match dollar for dollar any funds raised through June 30, 2013. In this season of giving, please consider donating to Dwight Mission's Legacy Campaign in someone's honor. Checks may be made out to Dwight Mission Capital Campaign and mailed to 1720 S. Detroit, Tulsa, OK 74120. Or you can easily donate online at [www.dwightmission.org](http://www.dwightmission.org).

## Upcoming Events

Please plan to attend our annual **Christmas Pageant** this 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. Through a service of Lessons and Carols, we will 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 16**

- 9:30 A.M. – Sunday School
- 10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments
- 10:55 A.M. – Worship Service
- 7:00 P.M. – Stewardship Committee

### **WEDNESDAY**

**December 19**

- 3:30 P.M. – Kid's Club
- 5:30 P.M. – Children's Choir
- 6:00 P.M. – Potluck Dinner
- Christmas Pageant** following dinner

### **FRIDAY**

**December 21**

- Articles due for January Messenger

### **SUNDAY**

**December 23**

- 9:30 A.M. – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL  
for Children
- 10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments
- 10:55 A.M. – Worship Service